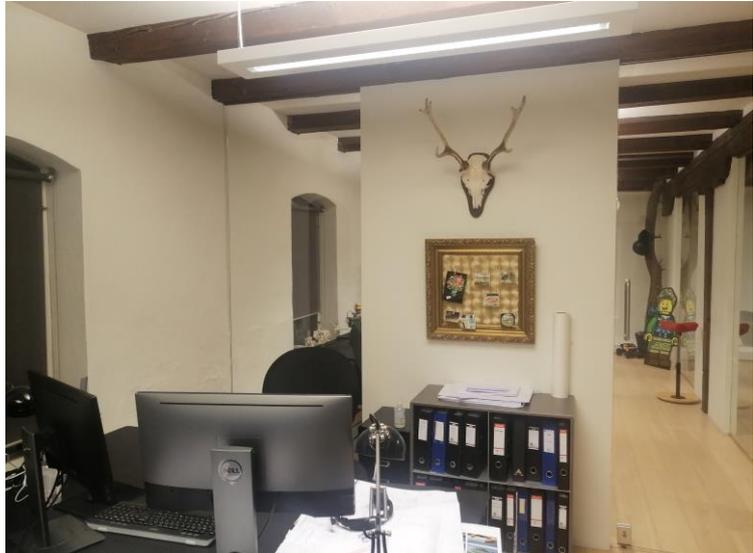
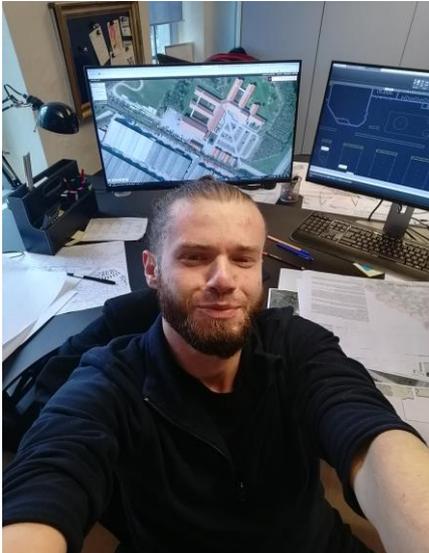




Please insert here at least one **PHOTO** of your traineeship stay abroad! Preferred motives are photos of your accommodation, of your work place, of being at work. Attention! Due to legal considerations we kindly ask you to send us only photos that have been taken by yourself!



## STUDENT DETAILS

University department / faculty: **Agriculture, Ecotrophology, and Landscape Development**  
Field of study: **Landscape Architecture**  
Home university: **Hochschule Anhalt**  
Nationality: **MDA Moldova (Republic of)**  
Duration of traineeship (from ...to...): **from 21.09.2020 to 06.02.2021**

## TRAINEESHIP INSTITUTION

Country: **Denmark**  
Name of traineeship institution: **By-Munch by og landskabsdesign**  
Web page: **[www.bymunch.dk](http://www.bymunch.dk)**  
Address: **Møllegade 32, st. tv, 8000 Aarhus C**  
Contact person: **Anita Munch Jensen**  
Telephone / E-Mail: **+45 60886668 \* [info@bymunch.dk](mailto:info@bymunch.dk)**

## **EXPERIENCE REPORT** (approx. 3 pages + more photos if applicable)

### **1) Traineeship institution**

*Please give a brief description of your host traineeship institution.*

ByMunch is a Danish Landscape Architecture office, with the emphasis on the Urban public spaces design and improvement. Most often the customer is the commune, which means that in the most cases the finances for the design, improvement and further construction are granted by the government and country itself. However ByMunch is an architectural office, it is not usually involved in construction process and contains no builders, but landscape architects. Usually to get the architectural object to design it requires some tender or competition to win. The office is working with rather large architectural objects of big urban significance, not only in Aarhus, where the office is located, but all over the Denmark.

During my internship it contained 6 workers, including me. Anita is the leader and the head of the office. She organises the work process and gives tasks. As the head of the office she spends more time on a different meetings and conferences with the customers, engineers or other architects. She also participates in different architectural events in Aarhus and in the Aarhus Architecture School.

Most work is usually done on the computer, however sometimes it is necessary to visit the territory to collect the information about the space for further design. The important thing for our speciality is that in Denmark all the Geographic Information Systems data are in the free public access, so usually there is no need to visit the space for further development and improvement - all the geographical data including topography, dendrology etc. could be easily downloaded from the web. The main language in the office is Danish, but Danes usually are good in English, and it made no problem for them to switch while speaking to me during the work flow or breaks. The office is constantly developing and growing, depending on the quantity of architectural competitions they won.

### **2) Searching for a traineeship**

*How did you find your traineeship? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?*

It wasn't easy to find an internship that year (2020) due to the corona crisis. Our professors strongly recommended us to start searching since the beginning of spring, but most offices were closed that time. I came to visit my mother in Norway in the end of February, then suddenly the Corona crisis came, and I found myself locked down in Norway, because the planes stopped flying and for other reasons related to the pandemic. As I had some basics of the Norwegian language I was thinking about the Internship in the Scandinavian countries but I wasn't sure about this. I also had to reorganise my portfolio and to add some new projects from my study course before the application. In the end I started the internship application only in the beginning of June.

I was looking for the offices on the web and in the popular architecture magazines.

I sent around 80 applications in summary, 40 to German offices, 15 to Norwegian, 15 to Swedish and 15 to Danish. From this 80 applications I received only 3 invitations for the interview. 1st was in Dusseldorf and it was rather bad interview experience. Second was the interview with my office in Denmark, and the third one was in Cologne. Actually the third interview was also good and friendly and they invited me, and the conditions were even better than in Denmark office in case of salary. But I was thinking that while staying in Denmark I could travel to my mother to Norway at least once in a month (it is really close to Norway, it requires only a boat trip), so my mother could provide me with some supplies etc.) So I started to think about having my practise in Denmark. Christian Lippold from our University International office told me that I can gain the Erasmus Stipendium from Leonardo Office, if I would decide to have my internship abroad, and I made a decision.

### 3) Preparation

*How did you prepare for your traineeship in terms of language, intercultural, professional and organisational aspects? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?*

I wasn't preparing somehow specially for my practise. I was acquainted a little with the Norwegian mentality and expected Danes to be similar. My language skills were developing while staying in Norway. I can't say I forced myself with it, I was practising with people in my close surroundings, in supermarkets, with small talks etc. For that time for me it made no difference between Northern languages because I knew that they would understand me no matter where actually I will occur. And they did. But I was totally unprepared for Danish pronunciation:) Of course I could read and understand Danish texts and documents and for example softwares on office computers, but it was almost impossible for me to understand Danes while listening them speaking. Their pronunciation is very special. When I got the OLS language test for the first time I passed the Danish language test for B1 even though it was the first time I saw the language (with some Norwegian language of course) But I got very low or almost zero grade for listening:) Well, the understanding came after some time I spent in Denmark, but still we have been speaking English in the office, very rare I was trying to practise actually to speak Danish, but when I was - they understood me well.

### 4) Accommodation

*How did you find your accommodation? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?*

I was using the local websites to find the accommodation in Aarhus. Boligportal.dk and Lejebolig.dk. They are not free, but it is possible to pay for a kind of trial period. I was setting the financial limit and I knew that if I will get the room far from the city center where my office is located I would most probably have to pay for the transport every day. In the end I was lucky to rent a room in the city center for a nice price. And my landlord gave me a bicycle to use, so I was free from using public transport and that helped me to save some money. In general accommodation in Denmark is expensive, but depending on your luck and negotiations you can find something proper.

### 5) Traineeship

*Please describe the tasks and / or the projects carried out during your traineeship. In which way were you mentored and integrated? How were the working conditions? Did you have especially positive or negative experiences?*

During my practise I was carrying a normal, usual tasks for my speciality. In general it is design drawings for the urban spaces to improve. Normally my tasks were:

1) Collecting Geographical and other data for the spaces we would have to design and to improve. Danes use a special source called kortforsyningen.dk, from where you can directly download selected data for territory or space in the Danish borders in different file formats including dwg. As a landscape architects we usually use the topography data and cadastre data for the exact contours of buildings. The source also contains high quality pictures and photos to grab from the exact territory, much better quality in comparison to for example google data.

2) Design and drawing AutoCAD drawings with existing and proposed landscape situation. It is also very usual landscape task. I was surprised my office supervisor and the head of the office Anita trusted me enough to deliver me a task for creating a main conceptual shape and form for one of their big objects (Design and Landscape Improvement of Ellekonebaken living area in Viborg) Once again the background for further design is taken from their free public access GIS. After that all the employers are adding their working layers on the file.

3) 3D drawings. I am quite experienced and fast with 3d modelling in SketchUp, and my colleagues were happy to use my skills in our work routine. Among other elements I was drawing different types of swings, wooden elements, flagstocks, pergolas etc.

4) Photoshop masterplan and viewpoints renderings. It is also one of my favorite and preferable tasks. The idea is to colour normally boring AutoCAD file to 3d-rendered, nice looking colourfull and detailed plan. In general I was mentored and intergrated in a very mild way. I can proudly say that my office supervisor fully trusted me to carry work routine tasks, so I was working in flow. Maybe I feel that confident due to my previous work experience, but of course the organisation of work process is different from office to office and this time I learned a lot from it. My work experience was especially positive.

## 6) Acquired qualifications

*Which qualifications and skills could you acquire or improve during your traineeship?*

The main aim for me during this practise was to gain the experience from the scandinavian approach for landscape architecture, which in my opinion is very special due to their climate and nature conditions and also their own understanding of comfort and environment and humans place in it. So i gained a lot of experience and knowledge about how they appreciate the design process, what is of main importance for them, what is secondary and not of main importance in design process. Of course I gained a lot of information how they structure their work process, how they handle basic daily tasks, how they solve special professional problems, which software they use etc.

And of course I gained the language skills, and especially a professional vocabulary, while discussing working details and while using different professional software which were in Danish. At the end of my practise I passed the OLS language test on B2, maybe that's not that objective and real picture, but even in comparison to my first OLS test and relying on my personal feelings I can say I gained and improved a lot.

## 7) Country-specific features

*Are there any specific traineeship regulations in the target country that affected you as an Erasmus trainee (e.g. France: housing allowance, convention de stage)? If yes, which ones? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?*

I haven't discovered any country specific features during my practise. According to my experience I was surprised Danes ask for their Danish residence permit, which I thought I would be free from. The employees of Danish international and imigrational office are not necessary aware about the Erasmus program, but maybe it happened to me because I had my practise not in the capital, where the immigration office employees should be more experienced, however Aarhus is the second biggest city in Denmark. So I would rather refer any delays in my danish residence permit obtaining to general northern conservatism. Maybe when they found my Moldavian passport they had suspected me in illegal imigration or whatever:))))))Also maybe some delays happened due to corona times. In general I recommend to apply for Danish residence permit from Germany and in advance to avoid misunderstandings and delays.

## 8) Visa, residence and work permit (only for international students)

*Which prearrangements had to be made in terms of visa, residence and work permit? Are there any recommendable links or other helpful tips you would like to share?*

I would like to repeat to recommend to apply for Danish residence permit from Germany and in advance to avoid misunderstandings and delays. As for me I was waiting for residence permit for 3 month, while normally you have to wait for a one month.

To apply for a residence permit normally you can use the information from the [www.nyidanmark.dk](http://www.nyidanmark.dk) However, the topic for Erasmus internship is not mentioned between the cases for application. That's why I decide to apply directly from the immigration office in Aarhus.

## 9) Other

*Is there anything else you want to let other students know?*

Nothing special. Know your rights and dont be afraid. In general Denmark is friendly and nice country. Feel like home but dont forget you are a guest :)

## 10) Conclusion

*What is the conclusion drawn after your traineeship experience abroad?*

Well, as for me I realised that wherever I will go, my profession will stay the same, I mean general traits and work conditions are the same, that of course add me self-confidence and open a new fresh view on my professional skills and abilities. Now I know that I can work abroad and thats really a lot! Of course there are a lot of sufficient differences, but with the help of the language and any previous experince and general open-mindedness and readiness to learn something new you can handle any task wherever you will go. I dont know what kind of conclusion to write here, but as for me, I achieved the aim I set for this internship, and I am happy that I had this opportunity and thanks a lot for the Leonardo Office, for Christian Lippold, for my Danish office and for all those who helped me to go and to carry this practise.

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### Declaration of consent

I hereby agree to the publication of this report on the website of the Leonardo Office Saxony-Anhalt.

I assure that the photos used in this report do not violate the rights of other persons or companies (personal rights, copyrights etc.).

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Please send this report by email to [angela.wittkamp@ovgu.de](mailto:angela.wittkamp@ovgu.de)!  
Acceptable file formats: [.doc], [.docx], [.rtf], [.odt].