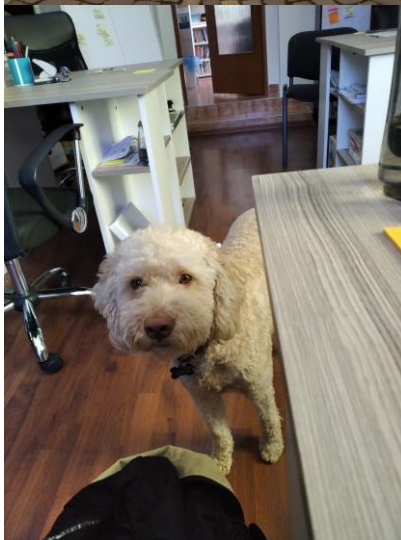
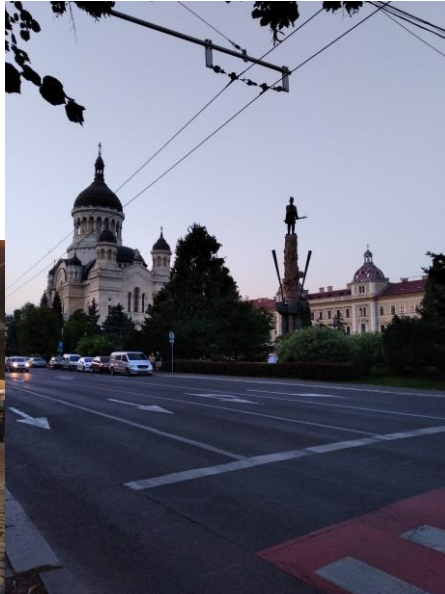




Please insert here at least one **PHOTO** of your traineeship stay abroad! Preferred motives are photos of your accommodation, of your work place, of being at work. Attention! Due to legal considerations we kindly ask you to send us only photos that have been taken by yourself!



STUDENT DETAILS

University department / faculty:	Human Sciences
Field of study:	Peace and Conflict Studies
Home university:	Otto-von-Guericke-Universität Magdeburg
Nationality:	Spanish
Duration of traineeship (<i>from ...to...</i>):	September 2020-March 2021

TRAINEESHIP INSTITUTION

Country:	Romania
Name of traineeship institution:	Peace Action Training and Research Institute
Web page:	https://patrir.ro/
Address:	Strada Ion Ghica 28, 400306, Cluj-Napoca
Contact person:	Kai Brand-Jacobsen
Telephone / E-Mail:	+40 (0) 264 420 298

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

1) Traineeship institution

Please give a brief description of your host traineeship institution.

The Peace Action Training and Research Institute (PATRIR) is a peacebuilding organization that works in the area of peace research and peace education. PATRIR is organized as a Non-Governmental Organization that coordinates several pan-European projects. The projects cover a diverse range of topics. I was mostly involved in the Do One Brave Thing Project (BRAVE). The BRAVE project is a consortium of NGOs from Romania, Hungary, Poland and Italy that work together to develop workshops for youth in order to encourage them to develop counternarratives in response to hate speech, fake news and radicalization in Europe. We developed several workshops in Romania in order to tackle the aspects of bullying, gender equality, mental health and fake news. At the same time, we worked closely with schools in order to facilitate sessions about the same topics with younger generations. The main goal of the BRAVE project is to encourage youth to be upstanders in society and to stand up for democracy, human rights and diversity.

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?

I was interested in getting to know the Romanian culture because of the close links the country has with Spain. Therefore I started an independent research in Google identifying the peacebuilding organizations that work in Romania. It might be helpful also to check the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO), that include a list of peacebuilding organizations in Europe (<http://eplo.org/>)

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 started the internship online in June 2020 and then on the country in September 2020. It was really helpful to start the onboarding process online in order to slowly get familiar with the projects and the people working at the NGO. I also read blogs of experiences of people doing Erasmus in Cluj through Erasmusu

(https://erasmusu.com/en/erasmus-student-housing?gclid=CjwKCAjwm7mEBhBsEiwA_of-TCDTE_3DmZBFebtKxEu7RjzSN4szbAlwXj8lFBMLc6YLy2S3BGkbBoCRIMQAvD_BwE). I also used OLS before moving to the country in order to learn the basics of the language.

4) Accommodation

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

Finding accommodation one of the greatest challenges for my internship. In Cluj-Napoca there are many student residences, however you can only live in those if you are an Erasmus University students and it is not contemplated the Erasmus internship students. I think more agreements should be signed between the universities and the residences in order to consider erasmus internship students also as eligible to apply for the student dormitories. The students dormitores cost around 80 euros per month, whereas the apartments costs around 250 euros a month, therefore there is a big difference. Due to the difficulties to find accommodation, I decided to restore a consultant company that connects students with available flats. Real Estate Agency Company: Edil.ro and I got an agent who spoke English and helped me to find a flat in exchange for a commission fee (half of the first rent). It was indeed money spent, but I think it was a good investment to get security for the contract, contacts, neighbourhood and translation services. It could be great to receive from the Erasmus traineeship apart from the 14 euros a day, a one off allowance as a settlement allowance to contribute to the first expenditures such as real estate commission, towels, plates... and other aspects that can help students with the kick off of our experience, I could suggest a one off amount of 150 euros (depending on the country region).

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?

I would highly recommend people to do a longer than three months internship because in my case I could fill the progressive development within tasks given and responsibilities. I started doing reporting for the Do One Brave Thing Project. Almost all European NGOs get their fundings from the European Commission, thus they are usually structured into grant agreements that are composed by different work packages. As part of these work packages, there are a lot of reportings that need to be done regarding the activities and development of the project. Therefore, my firsts tasks were related to the reporting of the project, which also helped to familiarize myself with the different activities and partners involved. Slowly, I got myself involve in the project more actively and I was in charge of supporting the leading coordination of bootcamps with youth. We organized 3 on-site bootcamps and 4 online bootcamps around the topics of gender equality, bullying, mental health, fake news and diversity. For the preparation of those, I had to search for materials, toolkits and guides on the topic and come up with a suggested agenda for the bootcamps. Once the agenda was approved in the team, we had to prepare the logistics of the bootcamps in terms of looking for a place, arranging food, stationaries and in COVID-19 times, arrange also safety measures like masks, distance and hand sanitizers. After each bootcamp, we also had to report on the experiences by participants. On the other hand, I also was involved in the development of school sessions for primary and secondary level. I developed the promotional material and suggested ideas for the agenda and the sessions at schools. As the sessions were in Romania in those cases I played more of a supportive role in the preparation of the sessions. As part of the Do One Brave Thing Project, I was also involved in the preparation of the Shaping the Future of Europe Youth Summit. This was one of my core tasks, in which I needed to coordinate a group of more than 20 youth for the realization of a summit full of workshops and in collaboration with different European partners. Even after my internship was ended, I participated in such a summit with the introductory speech as one of the original co-founders of the initiative. The result can be seen here: https://www.facebook.com/events/844449249473174/?active_tab=discussion

The NGO has different departments, I was involved in the European Peace Department and the Department of Peace Operations. The national activities carried out in Romania like bootcamps and school sessions are

part of the European Peace Department. I also involved myself in the Department of Peace Operations. For this department, I contributed to the elaboration of a toolkit for peacebuilders in Darfur. I researched about natural resource conflicts in the Sahel and different lessons learned that can be useful for youth peacebuilders in the area. The toolkit will be published at the end of the year. Furthermore, as part of this department I also organized the International Conference about Women in the Informal Economies in conflict and post-conflict areas. For this conference, I was in charged of choosing the speakers, contacting them, making the promotion and moderating the session. The conference can be seen here: <https://patrir.ro/women-informal-economies-international-webinar/>

In a transversal way, I was also involved in the implementation of a gender sensitive lens into the PATRIR structure. In that sense, I participated in the development of the 16 Days Campaign against all forms of violence against Women. For this global campaign, I was specially involved in the #16Stories initiative, in which we developed videos with the stories of 16 powerful women across the globe: <https://patrir.ro/16stories-initiative/>. For this initiative, I edited the videos, add subtitles, and promote them via social media.

As I decided that I wanted to be involved in many projects because I wanted to seize my experience, there were some moments in which it was stressful and a lot of overhours working. However, the managerial staff will never force you to work that much, but rather they encourage you to get as much involved as possible, always keeping a healthy balance. In general, my experience at PATRIR was really good and I will always be grateful for all the projects I could take part of, as well as the encouragement to develop my own ideas within the NGO.

6) Acquired qualifications

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

I learned a lot about European funding, as well as project management skills and reporting. Additionally, I learned a lot about social media and video editing. I learned how to use CANVA and kapwing for the development of videos. I also acquired facilitation skills, learning how to moderate a session and how to create a safe space for participants. I improve my knowledge about the peacebuilding field in Europe. Also as part of PATRIR, I was able to take part in many training courses for free, such as the Training on Core Skills for Teaching Peace, Conflict Resolution Education and Social Emotional Learning in the Classroom by the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC).

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?

As in any other European country, if you are staying longer than three months, you need to register in the immigration office as a resident in the country. It can be easily done through the submission of the necessary documents to the Immigration Bureau of the County Cluj: <http://igi.mai.gov.ro/en/contact/biroul-pentru-imigr%C4%83ri-al-jude%C8%9Bului-cluj>

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?

-

9) Other

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

-

10) Conclusion

What is the conclusion drawn after your traineeship experience abroad?

The Erasmus internship in Romania was my third Erasmus experience and I will recommend everyone to do it. However, there is a sad reality that the Erasmus programme do not openly talk about. The monthly allowance receive for the Erasmus internship is unrealistic and not enough to cover all the costs that might emerge from doing an internship abroad like finding accommodation, flights, insurance, household settlements, among others. If someone wants to do an internship abroad, apart from the Erasmus grant, one should look in advance other forms of funding to be able to live outside the edge. Disregarding financial matters, I would say that my experience in Romania was incredibly fruitful for my professional and personal development. Thanks to this internship I found a job in Germany in the same field I was working in Romania so it was the door opener for my future. As well, the friends and people I met in Romania is something priceless.

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.).

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