Placement Report

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Placement provider: Vertretung der Freien Hansestadt Bremen

Sending Institution: University of Groningen

Duration: 01.09.-24.12.2016
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1. Personal Motivation: Why I choose the Regional Representation of Bremen to the EU in Brussels?

The motivation as well as the decision to apply for the internship at the Regional Representation of Bremen (RRB) to the EU is multilayered and can be observed on different levels or stages. First of all my choice was motivated by my desire to work in Brussels, at least once in my life. Since I study the Euroculture programme and consider myself as a European and pro-European Union, I always wanted to experience the "hub" of the EU, which is Brussels. Second, I had learned about the existence of the Regional Representations of each European Region already in my Bachelors. Since then I knew that also my hometown, Bremen, as it is a city state/region, had a representation in Brussels. When I read more about the idea of regional representation and also on the concept of a federal Europe, I thought, despite the institution being small, it is important for a deeper integrated Europe. On top of that I was very much interested in the work of interest representation or "lobbying", which is essentially what the regional representations in Brussels are doing. Based on that knowledge, and reinforced by a small dose of regional patriotism, I knew the city in which I wanted to work in and I also knew about an institution I wanted to work for. In that sense, the decision to apply for this specific institution was not very hard since I was interested early on.

2. Approach and Preparation for the Internship:

2.1. Preparation for the application:

Before I could start with the application process I had to check if the institution was actually willing and able to take me as an intern. In other words, if there was an intern position available,
which is not always the case even though it is possible to apply on your own initiative and ask for an internship. Therefore, a quick consultation of the website was enough. There it said that the institution was currently looking for interns in Brussels.

The first step for me was to bring my application documents in order. This included producing a up-to-date version of my CV and a cover letter, scan all necessary documents to prove my qualifications, and take new application pictures. These were all the fundamental documents someone needs to apply for an internship. For my internship at the RRB, in particular, I needed a CV and a cover letter. I also asked friends to peer review my documents in order to find errors and make them coherent. Before I send the actual application I tried to gain as much knowledge about the institution as possible. I especially wanted to know the essential requirements that would qualify someone to work for the RRB. The idea behind this was that I wanted to custom size my application and cover the requirements the institution had. After this was done, I also thought about in which field I wanted to work in within the institution. I wanted to have a concrete idea for which position I was applying, since I believe that this shows to your future employee that you are well informed and determined. In order to do so I downloaded the organigram of the institution and familiarized myself with the structure of the institution. Furthermore, I remembered the names of the supervisors of the different departments and googled them in order to find out more about them and to gain an advantage in a possible internship interview. After all this was done I finally send my application.

2.2. Preparation for the Interview:

After I got an invitation to an interview I consulted people I knew, who already had job interviews, and asked them about their experiences to prepare myself. Furthermore, I wrote a short introduction of myself and also a paragraph, of about 400 words, about why I wanted to work in this institution. Also I wrote down my strengths and weaknesses (since this is apparently a question frequently asked at job interviews, so in mine.) I had the text files open on my laptop while I was having the interview. So when I was asked why I applied for an internship at this institution I could check on my text or read it out loud.

I personally think that these preparations have helped me to make a good impression in the interview and ultimately helped me to get the desired internship.
2.3. Preparation for the Internship:

The successful interview was followed by the offer of the RRB to work for them as an intern, a week later. I knew already before the interview that I would take the position if it would be offered to me. As this was the case I started to prepare myself for the internship and the life in Brussels. First of all I refreshed my knowledge of the European Institutions, especially the Committee of the Region, also with the governmental structures in Bremen and how the departments are organized and how they are connected to the Representation in Brussels. With this I wanted to get a head start in my new internship and also show that I am motivated and interested in the subject matter.

2.4. Preparation for my stay in Brussels and search for Housing

Besides work preparation I also started to look for an apartment or a room in a flat. The RRB sends information documents to all the new interns, through which I found the website “Brussels Destination”. The website has specialized on interns or short term employees that only stay in Brussels for a couple of month. Thus it is only possible for people with a job contract to rent an apartment or room through this website.

Simultaneously to my search for accommodation I assured the finances of my stay in Brussels. Since the RRB did not pay me I had to rely on my parents and the Erasmus+ grant. Without either I would not have been able to sustain a life in Brussels. The monthly rent was 375 Euros, which is cheap for Brussels standards. In addition I approximately needed around 200 Euros for food, personal hygiene items and sports. In total
that is roughly an amount of 600 Euros a month, excluding expenses for travels, cultural and evening activities.

Before I left Germany to move to Brussels I also bought a city map and searched for a climbing gym in Brussels since I also wanted to follow my hobby despite moving into a new city.

In retro-perspective, I am very happy I put so much efforts into preparing myself for my time in Brussels. I think that at the end every part of my preparation, from the initial application process over the preparation for the interview and until the search for a room, has been worth it and has contributed to the great experiences I could gather in Brussels.

3. Goals and skills I expected to acquire/train during my internship

When I started my internship at the RRB, I had very diverse expectations and goals about the skills I would like to acquire and the experiences I would like to make. On a bigger scale I would like to divide my expectations related to acquiring working skills and making contacts and create future carrier opportunities.

3.1. Skills:

When it comes to expectations related to skills, I first of all wanted to put my already learned knowledge about the European Union and its institutions to the test. In other words, I wanted to finally apply all the theoretical concepts and facts I had learned from books and lectures in a practical manner. In that sense, I did not just want to refresh my general understanding of the EU institutions but deepen in and add a layer of practical application to it. Furthermore, I wanted to understand the working processes of the regional representation and the way in which they are related to the European institutions. In other words, how and why the city of Bremen, in that sense the RRB in Brussels, influences the policy-making processes in at the European level.

3.2. Goals:

The biggest goal, in relation to creating career opportunities, was to create a network of contacts in Brussels through which it would be possible for me to increase the chances of finding a traineeship or job after I finish my studies. To a certain degree, I think I have achieved this goal. Thanks to my internship at the RRB in Brussels I got to know that the “EuropaPunktBremen”\(^1\), which is a kind of

\(^1\) http://www.europa.bremen.de/epb
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public information center about the role of Bremen in the EU and vice-versa, is looking for working students. During my time in Brussels I already made contact with the head of the EuropaPunkt and expressed to him that I would be very interested to work for him. I also talked to my supervisor and the head of the RRB in Brussels who greatly supported my application for the position at the EuropaPunkt. After I came back in December from Brussels I was invited to an interview at the EuropaPunkt and will most likely start my work in the beginning of February. Also without being part of my agenda or expected goals and skills, which I wanted to acquire during my time in Brussels, I have developed a concrete interests in being politically active for a more federal Europe. This has lead me to become involved with the Young European Federalists (YEF) a youth organization that has close ties to the European Movement, which is a pro-European Organization.


In general, the RRB is located within the EU-Department of the administration of the City of Bremen. Thus it is part of the cities governance and administrative structure. The head of the EU-department is also part of the senate of the City, which makes it a political and not mere administrative position. This has a trickle-down effect as certain parts of the work in the RRB are politicized.

4.1. Organizational Structure:

In order to understand the structure of this department it is best to refer to it as a triangle that connects Bremen, Berlin and Brussels. To represent the interests of Bremen there are offices in Berlin as well as Brussels. In Berlin the office represents Bremen in the federal state of Germany and thus tries to influence the EU member state of Germany towards its position. In other words, the city of Bremen wants the state of Germany to adopt a EU policy that suits the interests of
Bremen. In Brussels the RRB represents Bremen to the European Union and is working for the same goals as in Berlin just from a different position and with different actors. It tries to influence member states, the other European Regions and the organizations, think tanks and networks that are situated in Brussels. In that structure the RRB has the function of a kind of interface or hinge that transmits stimuli from the actors, mentioned in the previous sentence, towards Bremen and vice-versa back to Brussels. With the example of a triangle it is easy to see that the RRB, for which I worked, is part of a bigger administrative structure that covers the regional, national and European level.

The organizational set up of the RRB in Brussels mirrors the way in which the senate in Bremen in structured. Each house of the senate has one representative within the RRB in Brussels working in the same subjects as the chamber in Bremen. For example I worked in the subjects science, culture and research, which mirrors the house of senator Eva Quante-Brandt, who is responsible for the subject science. In total there are 8 senates, which are all mirrored by the employees of the RRB in Brussels.

4.2. Nature and Aims:

The organizational set up goes hand in hand with the nature and aims of the institution I worked for. With help of the RRB the senate of Bremen has its eyes and ears not just in Berlin but also in Brussels. Since each employee in Brussels represents a house of the senate of Bremen. The aim of the employees and of the RRB in general is it to recognize, observe, assess, monitor and if possible influence political decision making processes and legislative processes and proposals which are of relevance or affect Bremen in any way. These processes are supposed to be recognized and assessed in time and then reported to Bremen. If some of these processes are seen relevant for Bremen by one of the houses of the senate, the RRB will try to influence this process. As mentioned earlier, Bremen is a rather small region in Europe, such is its Representation in Brussels. Nevertheless, by being active in multiple interests networks, close contacts to political decision makers, forming alliances with interests groups and other regions and most of all through its representation in the EU institution, the Committee of the Region, the RRB is able to influence policy making processes to a certain degree. In that sense, the nature of the RRB is clearly the nature of an interest representation or lobby organization. Instead of doing lobby work for a product or a brand the RRB tries to represent the stance of Bremen on the European level.
5. Analysis and evaluation of the project I have undertaken during my internship

5.1. Research Question:

To what extent, would an increased European cooperation in the field of defence research, in the form of a EU funded Defence Research Program from 2021 to 2027, conflict or increase the pressure on the “Zivilklausel” or civil clause of German universities?

5.2. Context and Functioning of the field in which the Project is situated:

The research I have undertaken during my internship at the RRB was settled in the broader framework of European research and science politics. As briefly mentioned above, it was part of the RRB to observe and monitor the policy-making processes at the European level. In this capacity, me and my supervisor Ms Dr. Hilger followed the developments of plans for a European Defence Research Program (EDRP). It must be said that the EDRP topic is a topic followed by a broad audience, based on the various, highly politicized fields, that the EDRP touches upon. Therefore, it is neither a secret nor a surprise that the RRB is not the only European region with concrete interests and concerns. My research was completed in cooperation and also partly commissioned by the “Workgroup Research” (WG Research). The WG Research consisted out of employees from all the other German regional representation. Under the so called “Kieler Verträge”, the German regions are obliged to work with each other and share information. Judging by my on experiences and thus own opinion, the German regions work very close, on a rather collegial, basis together. Based on the fact that my research was supported by the WG Research the results were also used by the WG. The envisaged outcome of my research was to produce a report that would cover the EDRP topic and put the results in an assessable form so that it could be handed out to the participants of the annual German EU-Research Consultant meeting in addition to a presentation covering the same topic. In other words, the research I undertook during

2 In the course of the annual German EU-Research Consultant meeting, EU-research consultants, who work for the regional governments in Germany, come to Brussels for a two day workshop. During this workshop their Brussels based counterparts that working in the regional representations, inform them about the European issues that are most important for the German regions in the area of research.
my internship at the RRB was designed to contribute to the work of the RRB by producing a report that helped to inform the administration in the German regions, including Bremen. The original version of the report, including the collection of literature consulted in the research process, is attached to this report.

5.3. Introduction to the Project:

The title of the report is “European Defence Research – Current Position and Future Perspectives”. Its main research question is, as mentioned above:

*To what extent, would an increased European cooperation in the field of defence research, in the form of a EU funded Defence Research Programme from 2021 to 2027, conflict or increase the pressure on the “Zivilklausel” or civil clause of German universities?*

In the course of the report three sub-questions should be investigated:

1. How high would the financial support of the EU for a European Defence Research be?
2. Should European Defence Research be placed within a new EU Framework Programme 2021-2027 or is another solution necessary?
3. How should Universities, which do have a Civil Clause, position themselves?

In order to answer the main research question and the sub-questions the report is based on extensive literature studies, which include administrative documents from EU institutions, Research Reports from think tanks and interests groups, EU Law texts and treaties. In addition to that, I followed debates on the topic in the European Parliament, experts discussion rounds and events in person. I also utilized and applied my knowledge about the European institutions, European Integration and European law to analyses the topic.

The report was divided in three sections:

**Section 1:** The first section, dealt with developments between 2001-2013 that caused the urge of EU Member States (MS) to integrate further in matters of defence research and it deals with developments that reflect deeper integration towards the goal of a EU funded Defence Research.

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3. The term „Civil Clause“, in German „Zivil Klausel“, is a self-commitment of Universities to solely produce research for peaceful use.
Programme 2021-2027. Basically there are three main developments that had a major impact on the MS and their defence research policies. The first one is the decrease in defence spending by the EU MS. Despite an overall growth in GDPs in the EU MS, the overall defence expenditure has decreased by 15% between 2006-2013. In the same time have the defence expenditures of non-European states like Russia, China and Saudi Arabia increased. Also the European defence cooperation and thus the European defence research lacks efficiency and necessary synergies. An argument, by many proponents of a deeper integrated European defence, is that it could approximately safe up to 100 Billion Euros if MS would cooperate and have joint procurement projects. The second development is the international security climate that has become more threatening towards the EU, with Russia following a new and assertive foreign policy and a terrorist threat coming from Islamic fundamental terrorist organizations like the Islamic State. Finally the seemingly dwindling willingness of the US and its President elect to further provide security to Europe to an extent it had done in the past century.

As an reflection of these developments, and in order to provide proper security to its citizens, the EU has already anchored security research in its seventh Research Framework Program (RFP) (2007-2013). However, security research in the seventh RFP is under the obligation of a civil clause to be only of civilian and non-military nature. The same is the case in the eighth RFP, called Horizon 2020, which also allows security research but solely for civilian purpose. As already state in the research question, the natural contradiction of a civil clause and defence research and the following implications are a major part of this report.

Section 2: The second section of the report analyzed the current state of play of the EU institutions from 2013 until early December 2016. One paragraph of the second sections also briefly analyzes the position of Germany with regards to the issue of European defence research. In regard of the developments described and analyzed in the first section of the report, since 2013 EU institutions began to explore the possibilities how these developments could be counteracted. In other words, how and to what extent a European defence research could be funded from 2021 onward. In order to do so the European Parliament (EP) suggested 2013 the mechanism of a “Preparatory Action” (PA). As a forerunner for the PA the EP suggested a three “Pilot Projects” (PP) in 2014. The PP are

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4 ... from 2021 onward,” because the current RFP Horizon 2020 will last until 2020 and its successor will run from 2021-2027.

5 The three CALLs for Pilot Projects from the European Defence Agency are: 1. Unmanned Heterogeneous Swarm of Sensor Platforms, 2. Inside Building Awareness and Navigation for Urban Warfare and 3. Standardization of
supposed to assess and test certain processes and structures for the later implementation of the PA. In total the three PP have a budget of 1.4 Mil. Euros. Successful execution of the PP would open the way for the implementation of the PA. The goal of the PA is, in a short time spam, to deliver results on the possibility of implementing a full blown EU funded Defence Research Program (EDRP) in 2021-2027. Following the European Defence Action Plan, published by the European Commission 30.11.2016, which includes a European Defence Fund, the EU is willing to invest 90 Million Euros until 2020 and 3.5 Billion Euros between 2020-2027 in European defence research. Therewith the Commission wants to establish a EDRP within the next Multi-annual Financial Framework.

Furthermore, the second part of the second section briefly analyzes the legal context in which a EDRP without a civil clause could be established. First of all its has to be said that there cannot be a second RFP parallel to Horizon 2020 that would fund defence research with a non-civilian direction. Second, the EP has, in the 10.11.2016 session of the sub committee on Security and Defence, pointed out that a EU funded defence research is in general not prohibited by the EU treaties. Thus it is possible to anchor a EDRP within the existing Treaties. The legal basis would most likely be the Lisbon Treaties. On this basis a future EDRP could be anchored under Title XI (Art. 179) Treaty on the Function of the European Union (TFEU) without a civil clause. However, an alternative, which is currently being tested, would be to base a future EDRP on Art.181 or Art. 185/187. Another approach would base the EDRP on Title V TFEU, thus not in the area of science but of the Common Security and Defence Policy. In which way a EDRP will be anchored within the legal frameworks, for example independently or in the broader framework of the 9th RFP, is yet unclear. However, it is most likely that there will be a EU funded EDRP 2021-2017.

Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) Detect and Avoid (DAA).
Section 3: The final section of the report focused on the implications of a future EDRP for Universities with a civil clause in their University or research Charter. Since this was a report produced within and commissioned by the German regions the focus was on German Universities and since I was working for the RRB it focused on the Universities of Bremen. Furthermore, it has to be said that the topic of the civil clause is a very politicized topic especially in Bremen since the city host a large defence industry. Defence research at Universities and research institutes so close to the industry has thus always been an issue in Bremen and among the students of the Bremen Universities. The University of Bremen has since 1986 a civil clause that binds researchers to research that cannot be used in a military sense. The consequences of a violation of the civil clause at the University of Bremen are never the less still blurry. This can be explained by the German “Grund Gesetz” (Basic Law), which in Art. 5 (3) ensures the freedom of science. In other words, a researcher can essentially not be obliged to not research a certain topic. Nevertheless, the University of Bremen is still able to take measures to stop or hinder non-civilian research by cutting funding and the ability to work in their facilities.

In conclusion, it is most likely that Universities with a civil clause would no longer be able to fully benefit from the RFP. As Universities with a civil clause are not allowed to take funding for projects that have a non-civilian character. With an EDRP in the RFP 2021-2027 that allows non-civilian research, the pressure on the civil clause of German Universities, in regards to the external-funding of research, will most likely increase.

Literature:

As already mentioned above, the sources that I used for the report include administrative documents from EU institutions, Research Reports from think tanks and interests groups, EU Law texts and treaties. In addition to that I followed debates on the topic in the European Parliament, experts discussion rounds and events in person.

A list of the entire literature I consulted and used to write this report is attached to this report. The literature in the list is already rehashed and in a chronological order. Furthermore, the list is divided in eight different groups, depending on the publishing institution of the literature material and accordingly marked. Also the important information, which were relevant for the report, are quoted in the literature list with the page number. This makes the list easy assessable and

6 The following companies of the defence industries have their headquarters or parts of their industry based on Bremen: Airbus Defence, Atlas Electronics, Rheinmetall Defence, OHB, Lürsen-Boatyard.
manageable for the reader.

5.4. Challenges I encountered in the course of the Project:

In general, I can say that in the course of the project no major challenges arose. One of the minor challenges was to meet the deadline. As I have already explained above, the report was supposed to be distributed along with a presentation at a two days workshop in Brussels. Since this workshop started on the first of December, and the report had to be peer reviewed, there was a fixed deadline. A fixed deadline as such is not so much of a problem because it is of course the amount of time before the deadline. Since I worked full time and I had many other tasks as an intern, than working on this project, I had to make some after hours in the weeks leading up to the deadline. Besides the time issue I enjoyed great support from my supervisor and the WG Research in the course of writing this report.

5.5. Analysis and Interpretation of my own Assignments in relation to the Project

The benchmarks for the project were set out by my supervisor. She preset the topic and the form, in which I had to produce the project. Furthermore, I was given a rather free hand on the execution of the project. I could decide when and how much time I was to work on the project, as long as I would make the deadlines and could cope with the rest of the day to day workload, and I could also choose the angle under which I wanted to analyze the given topic. I also had the opportunity to introduce new ideas and conducted the literature studies and the writing myself. Thus, I would say that I covered a great part of the workload that lead to the completion of the project. Nevertheless, my supervisor and I developed a structure and time-frame for the realization of the project in close cooperation. With the structure for example we agreed to divide the report in three sections and the sub-parts. My supervisor also suggested me literature, peer reviewed the first draft of the report and gave support by going to events, such as sessions of the EP's subcommittee on security and defence, with me.

6. Relation of the Internship with the topics and the framework of the Euroculture Masters programme:

I general I would say that the Euroculture Masters programme has contributed much to the successful internship I had in Brussels. Through the topics of the programme I already had a basis of knowledge and knew about the essential ideas and structures of the EU. This knowledge I could
apply on a daily basis during the time as an intern in Brussels. Courses such as Cultural or Legal Construction of Europe helped me many times to grasp and conceptualize issues I had to work with during my internship. Especially when it came to writing reports for the administration of Bremen about the events or developments in Brussels it was good to be able to conceptualize issues in order to explain them thoroughly. Last but not least I perceive the mandatory mobility in the second semester of the Euroculture programme as a great asset that helped me during my internship. Besides the fact that I picked up the basics of the Italian language, which was also useful, I think that the ability and the experiences that one gets by adapting to a different environment are of great values in a future career. They can help in ones personal as well as ones carrier development.

6.1. To what extent did the practical activities related to my own theoretical knowledge acquired during the Euroculture programme help me during my internship?

The work at the RRB could roughly be divided in two parts. The first part is basically taking place in the office, where it is a big part of your work to take all the information you have and make it assessable, in form of a reports that are send to the administration of Bremen. While handling such tasks my academic writing skills that I had also further developed during the Euroculture programme were of great help. When working for the project, which I described above, the concepts of European Integration and the knowledge about the European institutions helped me to understand and analyze the topic of European science politics in relation to defence research.

7. Conclusion:

All in all, I would say that I am very satisfied with my choice of the internship institution, the learning outcomes I acquired during the internship and with the time in general spend in Brussels. To a large extent the collegial and friendly working climate at the RRB accounts for this. My colleges, my supervisor and the entire team has contributed to a great extent and made the internship in Brussels into a very educational, interesting and pleasant experience.

During the time at the RRB in Brussels I would say that I have acquired a great amount of confidence when it comes to making contact with people in a working environment. In other words, the ability to network is one of the great outcomes that I have acquired and which I think is a very
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useful if not inevitable tool for a future working career. Besides that I think that I have enriched my writing skills not just by practicing academic writing but also by adding to my repertoire the ability to write reports and texts for an administrative purpose. When I now look back to the expectations I had at the start of my internship, I must say that the internship has met my expectations if not surmounted them. The difficulties I pictured at the start of the internship did thankfully not materialize. I do not think that I had substantial difficulties at any point of my internship. The only difficulty worth mentioning would be the lack of time that occurred when I had to prepare my portfolio for my M.A. and work full time at the RRB. I think that the workload of the portfolio in such case is too big, as I worked 8-10 hours a day for the RRB, and hand barely time to work on my portfolio. If it comes to the question of what or where I will work in the future, the internship has not given me the ultimate idea. Nevertheless, it has provided me with more opportunities and has allowed me to network and make contacts, which maybe later in life will be helpful in the job market. In addition, the internship has allowed me to experience the work of a regional representation in Brussels, which by all means is a job that I would seriously consider when I will start my professional career.