

Final Report

to PADE Visiting Fellowship

Dr. Ladislav Cabada, PADE Visiting Fellow at Andrásy Universität Budapest, February – July 2020

My teaching and research visit at Andrásy Universität Budapest (AUB) supported by the Pallas Athéné Domus Educationis foundation was carried out from February – July 2020. Among the set of duties agreed upon in my project application I stress two public lectures, active participation at the Summer school of the AUB, execution of the Ph.D.-Seminar, and preparation of original research material focusing on the theme *Anti-modern and anti-liberal narratives as the source of the contemporary nativist and conservative populist agenda in Central Europe*.

All of these plans became quite uncertain because of the COVID19-crisis that affected (Central) Europe after mid-March 2020. Indeed, based on consultations with AUB leadership, primarily Vice-Rector Prof. Ellen Bos and the main executive for research, Krisztina Slachta, we were able to find a – hopefully – reasonable scheme to fulfil and attain the maximum of the agreed upon goals. As regards the summer schools, I am looking forward to joining the AUB Summer School in July 2021, and to following up on my active attendance from 2019.

All teaching and lecture activities were conducted in remote form, i.e. as online lectures and seminars. On 14 May 2020, I offered the public online lecture in German for AUB's Master and Doctoral students with the title *Zentraleuropa zwischen West- und Osteuropa: selbständiges Region, Brücke, Buffer Zone oder „ewige“ Semi-Peripherie?* (Central Europe between the Western and Eastern Europe: an Independent Region, the Bridge, Buffer Zone or the “eternal” Periphery?). In the lecture I accentuated the development of the European macro-regional structure with a specific focus on the Central European Region and its semi-peripheral Position in the European architecture. Furthermore, I discussed the modalities of Central European composition and features in the important mental conceptions, as well as the geopolitical determination and development trajectories and dilemmas of the region.

After the lecture and general discussion we continued the debate with the five doctoral students within the Ph.D. seminar entitled *Visegrád-Gruppe und die neuen/alternativen Formate der zentraleuropäischen Zusammenarbeit* (the Visegrad Group and the new/alternative formats of the Central European Cooperation). The seminar focused above all on the issue of regional cooperation in Central Europe in the last decade before the year of the miracle 1989 (Central Europe as the dissent concept and "Habsburg Redux," *Civilta Mitteleuropea*, Alps-Adriatic Working Community; Quadrangone-Hexagone) and the development of this cooperation after the democratic transition. The Visegrad Group was presented as the most important cooperation-format, including the specific "V4+" format. The development of the Group's priorities and coordinated policies was discussed in juxtaposition with the concurrent / parallel formats such as the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA), Regional/Strategic Cooperation, the Slavkov/Austerlitz Triangle, and the Three-Seas-Initiative. The role of external actors and great powers (the European Union, Russia, the United States, the People's Republic of China) was also discussed.

Three students decided to present their seminar essays within the Doctoral Seminar, namely:

- Rafal Fabianowicz, essay title: Status Quo oder die Zusammenarbeit der V4-Länder an der Klimawende?
- Edmond Jäger, essay title: Die Chinapolitik Ungarns – Pragmatismus, Ideologie oder ein Fall von State Capture?
- Stefan Lehrner, essay title: Der Brexit und die Auswirkungen auf die Position der V4 in der EU.

All essays were presented, discussed, and evaluated during June and July 2020, and their overall quality was excellent. I also found the debate during the seminar to be open and the doctoral students both sophisticated and portraying a deep interest in the issue.

Last but not least, as the final research outcome of the fellowship, I presented the paper entitled *Nativist and Anti-Liberal Narratives in Conservative Populist Agenda in Central Europe*. The material, much longer than allotted 20 pages shows how nativism, as a relatively peripheral issue in the first 10–15 years after the democratic transition, became stronger in the next period characterized by a set of crises, or permanent crisis, respectively. The analysis

demonstrates how the mainstream right-wing parties in Central Europe adopted the nativist and conservative populist agenda and implemented it into mainstream politics. As the cases the V4-nations, Slovenia, and Austria were included. The paper was sent into the review-process in scientific review placed in the Web of Science database.

To sum up, despite the obstacles caused by the COVID19-crisis, together with all of my colleagues at AUB – the university management, students, as well as my co-fellow Dr. András Hettyey – we have found a fully convenient way to conduct all of the basic duties previously agreed upon. After previous different kinds of cooperation with AUB (public lectures, participation at the Summer School, lectures within the Doctoral School, cooperation within the joint projects supported by the International Visegrad Fund) the PADE Fellowship offered me another method of cooperation. As in the previous cases, this was an exciting and fully satisfactory experience for me – and hopefully also for my colleagues at Andrásy Universität Budapest.

Bublava/Schwaderbach, Czechia, 12 August 2020

Dr. Ladislav Cabada