

Final report

Name of intern: Anna Rudyk

Home University/Country: Saint Petersburg State University/ Russia

Subject: biology

Guest University/Country: Ernst-Moritz-Arndt-Universität Greifswald/ Germany

Name of supervisor: Kristina Kuprina

Part 1. General information about

1.1 your application (motivation)

My home University supervisor informed me about BARI. It was very interesting for me, because I wanted to have some studying or working experience abroad. I could find many internships in different areas of biology, but I have found one, which excited me much more, than the others. The object of research was a plant and it was different from an object at my home zoology department, but methods of research were similar, that is why I wanted to have this challenge and also improve my skills.

1.2 your preparation

It took a lot of time to prepare for the internship due to coronavirus. I was informed about my successful apply after 1 month after sending my documents. Then, it was very heavy to wait, because of closed borders nobody knew would this internship start or not. At first, I did not get any scholarship and it also questioned the implementation of my travel to Germany. However, after a while, the deadline of internship was prolonged and the problem with a scholarship was solved.

1.3 your travel

My travel to Germany was not easy and short. There were no direct flights from Russia to Germany in September that is why I had a 12 hours transit in Turkey. I travelled with my travel Schengen VISA, which added problems to me. Frontier guards had many questions to me in every border. It was especially difficult to leave Russia, because they did not even want to give me a seat on registration.

1.4 your accommodation

My accommodation was very comfortable. Supervisor at Greifswald has found a nice apartment for me just in 5 minutes from University. I lived alone and could scrupulously concentrate on my research task there.

1.5 your life in the host country

I enjoyed my life in Germany. Greifswald is not a big town, and I could get all the benefits of this. In the very first days, colleagues from research group found a bicycle for me. It was

possible to visit every part of the town riding a bicycle. The town was very clean and it was a pleasure for me to see how many greens are there. There were all the necessary amenities, but I was surprised, that home WiFi and washing machine are not so common at houses. Garbage separation also amazed me. I could feel the attentiveness of Germans to environmental issues. After this internship, I changed my mind on many things.

Part 2 Information about the project and your tasks

2.1 Information about the research project (short description of the project and your tasks)

I was an intern of Paludi-PRIMA project. In this project researchers investigate Reed and Cattail as native plant species that are adapted to water-saturated soils, enable peat conservation and have a high-value creation potential based on the material use of the biomass. My task was to analyse the population genetic diversity of common reed (*Phragmites australis*). We sampled reeds in the field, where a location of different clones was originally known. I genotyped this clones and draw a map with their new location. Having this results, we were able to make any conclusions about the dominance of certain clones, about the influence of various environmental factors on their success.

2.2 your colleagues

A research group was very international. My colleagues were almost from all over the world. It was very exciting to observe how people with different cultures are enthusiastically engaged in the same research. Everyone was very friendly, and it was easy and interesting to communicate. We spent time together not only at the university, but also in informal conditions. Thanks to colleagues, even in the conditions of the coronavirus, I was able to travel a little - we went to small towns on weekends. Most of the work was explained to me by my supervisor, but I could also seek advice from other colleagues.

2.3 the research institution

My internship took place at the botany department of Greifswald University. The building was rather large, comparing it to the building of the same department of my university. It was very convenient, that all laboratories were located close to each other. The level of equipment was high. It was my first time to see DNA-extraction robot! This technology saved me a lot of time.

2.4 your experience working within the project

The more I learned about the project, the more interesting it became to me. At first, I was interested only in methods, but later I began to think more about the practical significance of this research. I improved my skills in molecular biology, practiced my English every day and knew more how to work with plants. If I had the opportunity, I would like to repeat this experience! Colleagues also gave me the opportunity to participate in a conference where I will present my work and the conclusions I came to. This means that before the conference in March, I will still be mentally involved in this project.

The logo for BARI, featuring the word "BARI" in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on a teal square background.

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