

ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT SOMMERSPRACHKURSE IN BAYERN 2014

Herkunftsland:	Serbien
Hochschule im Herkunftsland:	Universität Belgrad
Studiengang:	Computerwissenschaft und Informatik
Sprachkurs in Bayern:	von 14.07.2014. bis 08.8.2014.
Bezeichnung des Sprachkurses:	KU Summer School (Track II)
Kursort in Bayern:	Eichstätt
Sprachkursniveau:	B1

When I realized that I should write a report on my stay in Germany I intended to write this report in German. After the course, it seemed totally natural to me and I was truly happy that I would have one more chance to learn more German during writing it. Still, I decided to write this report in English only for one simple reason. When I was preparing to come to the International Summer Course I also looked up this reports on internet. I remember me looking only reports in English because it seemed much easier to me, back then I was still "afraid" of German language. I guessed that lot of people do that, because they are not so comfortable with German language. So, though a little bit disappointed, I decided that I also want to talk to those people and tell everybody how great was my stay in one of the most beautiful countries in the world.

I was very excited many days before my trip and was checking information, that they had sent us many times so that I don't forget anything. I was a little bit afraid, but on the other hand I had this clear feeling that this is going to be a life-changing experience for me.

When I arrived there, people started talking to me in German. It was funny and so interesting for me at the beginning just listening to these people. Soon, I met our tutors who turned out to be fabulous, and also other participants from all over the world. The accommodation was very good, but even better was that almost all participants were placed together. We had a lot of time to hang out together, talk and get to know each other outside of lectures. That was pretty amazing. I was open to everyone, without prejudices. I got to know different people, their cultures and I reached a lot of very good friends. I was very happy that other people accepted me the way I am. I liked my roommate a lot who was from Hungary. And since we are neighbor countries, we had a lot to talk about. So we immediately became very close.

Now I would like to say something about the course itself. We had two types of lectures. First were mainly grammar lessons, and second were strictly conversation lessons. Considering grammar lessons we were tested on the beginning so that we could learn German on suitable level. I find that very useful because everybody learned with people with similar level of German

knowledge, so nobody felt discouraged or bored. On the other hand, nobody was limited only on people in their group, because in the conversational course people were divided into groups depending on the topic of the class that they had previously chosen. Hence, people from different level of knowledge worked together, and we could learn from each other a lot. I really liked the conversational lessons, because they were relaxing and funny and in no time we started feeling good speaking German, without even noticing it. We also had some projects to work on but it wasn't stressful at all. It was fun actually because our teachers were supporting us a lot and they were not judging us. I really have to stress that our teachers were very understandable, and that is why we were able to speak without any pressure. They didn't try to teach us what is the best way to express what is on your mind, but what is the easiest and for us most comfortable way to say something and that it can be acceptable and understandable in German language. It was a very good motivation.

I also need to congratulate BAYHOST on such a wonderful hospitality. They even organized us a dinner where we met and hung out with other alumni members of BAYHOST. I have found out a lot of useful information talking to these people, who are with similar stories and wishes as I am. I would also like to emphasize that all the organization before and during course was perfect. In every moment I knew everything what I needed to know, so there were no stress at all.

Apart from the lectures we had organized excursions to near cities, mostly on weekends. There were a lot of them, but I would like to say something about one that made an unforgettable impression on me. In Ingolstadt, city near Eichstätt, is located the central factory of Audi Company. When I first heard that there is a chance that we could visit Audi Company I was so excited. Still, I couldn't imagine that it would turn out to be that good. We spent almost a whole day there. First, they showed us the museum, which was really wonderful. We saw their whole history from the first car until today. It lasted for 2 hours, but the curator was talking such great stories that in the end I was interested to find out even more, and I am not fond of cars at all. And that was just the beginning. They conducted us through whole process of making one car. We saw machines and people working. And it was amazing to have chance to see all of that. Time, effort and respect that they showed to us, made me realize that this language course is really important, and I felt honored to have a chance to be there.

As I am writing, more and more stories just pop up into my mind and I feel a little bit overwhelmed. In addition, I would like to say that we spent some of our free time near the wonderful Altmühl river, which flows through Eichstätt. It was so relaxing and peaceful there and we spent some great time just sitting and enjoying ourselves. We also visited some concerts there in the evening since there was a festival happening during our stay.

I would only like to say something more about my personal development. From the first to the last day I felt like I am constantly progressing. I broke all my obstacles and it wasn't so difficult at all because I was surrounded by such great people and every mistake was taken with smile and understanding. People would think probably that the most significant for me from this whole great experience was that now I am able to speak German fluently. But I think that also important is the fact that I am now more than ever looking forward to learning more of it, and that is fantastic. Now, I don't see German as a set of grammar rules and unknown words. But, I think about the fact, that what I am saying here somebody across me should be able to understand.

Once you realize that, learning is not more simply learning, but also it becomes social skill. And that is much more fun.

Also, I want to emphasize that these experience means a lot to my professional career. Since, I would like to do my master thesis abroad and maybe live there some day. Nevertheless, it showed me that I can do it and gave me necessary starting point for my future plans.

I would like to conclude with a sentence which I tell people here in Serbia when they enthusiastically ask me how it was in the "rich country". I say them one word – experience. I don't even use words amazing and wonderful, how somebody may expect. It is beyond that. Wonderful it is when you go to the sea, or you visit some foreign city and got amazed. This was a whole new level of meeting one country, one culture, one nation. That powerful collision of me and Germany taught me a lot and made me fall in love with it forever.