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## ERFAHRUNGSBERICHT SOMMERSPRACHKURSE IN BAYERN 2016

Herkunftsland:	Mazedonien
Heimathochschule:	Philologische Fakultät Blazhe Koneski Skopje
Studiengang:	Englische Sprache und Literatur
Sprachkurs in Bayern:	01.08.2016 bis 27.08.2016
Bezeichnung des Sprachkurses:	Sprache und Gesellschaft im heutigen Deutschland
Kursort in Bayern:	Bayreuth
Sprachkursniveau des besuchten Kurses:	B2.2.

It's been exactly three months since I received an e-mail from BAYHOST saying that I was awarded with a scholarship for a German language course in Bayreuth. Now, back home, after a rewarding month spent in Bayreuth, writing this report makes me reminisce my time spent there even more.

The language course I took in Bayreuth was of B2.2 level. However, I am writing this report in English for two reasons: I remember when I was browsing through the BAYHOST website, not confident enough in my German language knowledge, the reports I read first were those in English. What's more, most of the people I met in Bayreuth, including my two roommates, spoke only a basic German. That's the reason why I decided to write this report in English: so it may help anyone who's reading it – both beginners and "not confident enough" German language learners.

Since I received the e-mail from BAYHOST everything ran smoothly: I was contacted by the organizers of the course, I took the online placement test and every time I had a question, regardless was it about the course itself, the accommodation and even about catching the right bus, it was answered.

Going to Bayreuth was easier than I had thought. I took the plane to Nürnberg and then the train to Bayreuth. To get to the train station from the airport, I had to (for the first time in my life!) use the U-Bahn or the tube. If anyone finds themselves in the same situation as me – all you have to do is ASK. In English, in broken German or in any other language (in my case it worked with Spanish) – everyone is very polite and willing to help.

At Bayreuth there was a shuttle service organized by the University. I was taken to the University and there I was given the course curriculum, the scholarship money and I was taken to my room. The next day, we had an opening ceremony and then I got to know my group and teacher. In

Bayreuth I took two courses. My morning course was "Language and Society in today's Germany" (Sprache und Gesellschaft im heutigen Deutschland). In this course what we mostly did were discussions. Our lectures included reading a text and then discussing it in small groups, learning about typical German things and then comparing them to our homelands. Our teacher was very good and he used different methods of teaching. Most importantly, he was very friendly and full of understanding. The one thing that, according to me, lacked was grammar. Grammar is a very important part of the language and during the whole course we only did three grammatical exercises. I feel I improved my spoken German a lot; I enriched my vocabulary and now can express my opinion more fluently. Unfortunately, I don't feel like I improved my grammar knowledge.

My afternoon course was "Preparation for Test DaF" (Prüfungsvorbereitung Test DaF). I found this very helpful. Test DaF itself consists of more parts and it is one of the obligatory tests for those wishing to study in Germany, since it measures the level of language knowledge. We exercised all the parts of the test, especially the part of oral expression (mündlicher Ausdruck). Furthermore, we received a lot of tips of achieving more points and professional advice. I would recommend this course to anyone planning or preparing to take the Test DaF.

Apart from the courses we had a cultural program. Every Saturday there were excursions to different cities: Bamberg, Munich and Dresden. During the week there were opportunities to visit important places in Bayreuth and the surrounding area. One had to pay extra for this (1 – 7 Euros) but they were not obligatory. During movie nights German movies were shown and sport activities were also part of the cultural program and they were free of charge. All in all, one could never be bored in Bayreuth despite its size. This leads me to say a few words about the city of Bayreuth and its living costs. Bayreuth is a small city, meaning almost everything can be reached on foot. A twenty minute walk separates the University from the city center. My scholarship covered all the costs and I used the pocket money for food. As students of the Summer University we could use the Mensa, the Cafeteria and the "Frischraum" (Fresh-room). I have to say that there was a great variety of food and if eventually nothing is according to your taste you can always lean on French fries.

Last but not least, I met really wonderful people in Bayreuth: from Russia, Italy, Ukraine, Spain, England, China ... It was very easy befriending everyone. Besides German, I got the chance to speak Spanish and English with native speakers, an opportunity that doesn't happen every day. Therefore, I want to thank BAYHOST for providing me with the best summer in my life. Thanks to University of Bayreuth and all the organizers of the course for their hospitality. To all the people I've met, thank you for being part of it – without you it wouldn't have been so great.