

# UACES Scholarship Report

## Time and place of field work

Brussels and Luxembourg, 30th March - 19th of April 2017

## Purpose of the trip

The purpose of my field work was to carry out interviews with officials at the European Commission in order to complement my PhD project on the role of bureaucracy in health security cooperation at EU-level. The project consists of a compilation thesis composed by 5 papers, out of which three are co-authored.

Before my trip, my material consisted mainly of official documents, secondary literature, expert publications as well as interviews carried out at the EU agency for disease prevention and control, located in Stockholm. To complement my empirics with interviews at the level of the European Commission was therefore considered crucial for my project. The main units of interest for this purpose fall under DG Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) which is located partly in Brussels, partly in Luxembourg. A limited number of officials working within other DGs were also considered of potential interest.

## Outcome of the trip

During my trip, I carried out interviews at DG SANTE, DG DEVCO, DG HOME and the Commission's spokesperson's service between the 30 March and 19th of April 2017. In total, I carried out 11 interviews and an additional number of informal conversations both inside and outside the Commission premises. The interviewees included high level officials (Deputy Director General and Director level in DG SANTE) as well as head of unit and desk officer level in Directorate C of DG SANTE. The interviewees in DEVCO and HOME were at desk officer level. The interviews ranged from 40 minutes to 1,5 hours and were semi-structured in nature. Thanks to the interviews, I was also referred to additional officials with whom I could follow up by phone later when back in Sweden. The interviewees also directed me to new textual sources including official and internal documents such as PowerPoint presentations and work plans.

The interviews will be drawn on directly as well as indirectly to support textual analysis for the five papers part of my compilation thesis PhD. Paper 1 has already been accepted for a special issue of *West European Politics: "Securitization Across Borders: the case of 'health security' cooperation in the European Union"*. The interviews turned out crucial in particular for Paper 2, which addresses the role of bureaucracy in resisting securitization of migrant health. An abstract for this paper has been submitted for presentation at the ISA in San Francisco in 2018, and the plan for publication is to submit my draft to a journal called *International Political Sociology*. The material collected as part of my trip will also be used for three additional papers, two of which are co-authored with my supervisors Professor Mark Rhinard and Dr. Stefan Borg at Stockholm University. The journals targeted for these papers are *Security Dialogue* and *European Security* respectively.

## Expenses

The funding received from UACES was used to cover my return flight Stockholm-Brussels as well as accommodation at Aparthotel Adagio in Brussels and Best Western in Luxembourg. The funding was also used to cover train tickets to Luxembourg, local transport, airport transfer and extra costs incurred by working from abroad.

#### Final words and follow up

I would like to extend my gratitude to UACES for helping to finance the trip, which has been crucial for my process both directly in terms of the interviews carried out as well as indirectly in terms of the many contacts, new textual sources and ideas gained. I would be happy to participate in any kind of follow-up activities for sharing my work with the UACES community, online or in other ways.