

Final internship report

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Introduction

As part of my master's degree, I did a five-month internship at the international secretariat of the European Association of Development Research and Training Institutes (EADI) in Bonn, Germany from 1 February to 30 June 2017.

EADI (www.eadi.org) is an International Non-Governmental Organization with a participatory status to the Council of Europe. Founded in 1975 as the professional umbrella organization for development research and training in Europe, EADI today has an actual membership of 150 development research and training institutes, development policy think tanks and 150 individual members in 28 countries of Europe.

Supervision

My supervisor was Susanne Von Itter, the executive director of EADI. Susanne gave me tasks with a timeline to adhere to. Her leadership qualities are admirable since she gives her subordinates the opportunity to be creative and push their limits to their boundaries. She is the perfect example of a perfect boss, the one who expect perfection without intimidating her subordinates. Apart from Susanne, I interacted a lot with Dominik Biergans, a colleague at EADI who is responsible for the Bonn Sustainability Portal. Dominik offered guidance on the articles that I wrote for the portal and the interviews that I conducted with stakeholders. He was kind and patient. Without his assistance, I would have found my stay at EADI difficult. The rest of my colleagues (Thomas Hollekamp, Julia Schöneberg, Matthias Barutowicz and Roberto Hannemann) were also very warm. They were always willing to offer assistance when I needed it.

Tasks/Duties

- Assisting in updating the EADI Website (www.eadi.org) and compiling information for the EADI eNewsletter and weekly Publication Digest. Compiling and tagging research publications with a special focus on development and sustainability research and training from EADI member institutes for our different databases, website and newsletters.
- Publishing five editions of the EADI eNewsletter as editor in charge.
- A mapping of projects and publications on the Sustainable Development Goals by EADI members, and including the information on a dedicated website.

Conducting a survey among EADI members and integrating the results on the website (<https://www.eadi.org/sdg/>

- Conducting interviews with researchers for the website www.bonnsustainabilityportal.de.
 - Compiling a list of relevant literature on the nature of development studies for a thematic dossier on the EADI website (www.eadi.org/devstudies).
 - Responsible for the EADI facebook page
 - Identifying and compiling a list of important think tanks located in Africa
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Links to interviews I conducted:

- Interlinkages between climate change and migration

<https://bonnsustainabilityportal.de/en/2017/03/dr-robert-oakes-about-interlinkages-between-climate-change-and-migration/>

- Why culture matters in the middle of global challenges

<https://bonnsustainabilityportal.de/en/2017/05/christine-m-merkel-on-why-culture-matters-in-the-middle-of-global-challenges/>

- How technology plays a vital role in conflict and crisis-affected settings

<https://bonnsustainabilityportal.de/en/2017/06/how-technology-plays-a-vital-role-in-conflict-and-crisis-affected-settings-dr-charles-martin-shields-from-die-offers-insights/>

- Finding a balance between economic growth and environmental protection

<https://bonnsustainabilityportal.de/en/2017/05/javier-miranda-arana-finding-a-balance-between-economic-growth-and-environmental-protection/>

- Dr. Barbara Rohregger explores correlation between social protection and health

<https://bonnsustainabilityportal.de/en/2017/06/dr-barbara-rohregger-explores-correlation-between-social-protection-and-health/>

Links to articles I wrote about development issues:

Panel discussion on drought resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa held in Bonn

<https://bonnsustainabilityportal.de/en/2017/06/panel-discussion-on-drought-resilience-in-sub-saharan-africa-held-in-bonn/>

Young people spearhead panel discussion to commemorate 'World Day to Combat Desertification'

<https://bonnsustainabilityportal.de/en/2017/06/young-people-spearhead-panel-discussion-to-commemorate-world-day-to-combat-desertification/>

"Sustainable Development Goals and Human Rights" conference held in Bonn

<https://bonnsustainabilityportal.de/en/2017/06/sustainable-development-goals-and-human-rights-conference-held-in-bonn/>

This year's first Bonner Impulse event on European Development Policies

<https://bonnsustainabilityportal.de/en/2017/04/eadi-this-years-first-bonner-impulse-event/>

Bonn hosts first 'Global Festival of Ideas for Sustainable Development'

<https://bonnsustainabilityportal.de/en/2017/03/bsp-bonn-hosts-first-global-festival-of-ideas-for-sustainable-development/>

Conferences attended

Another part of my work was being part of the organising team for the annual meeting of Directors. I facilitated a working group session. I also attended conferences on behalf of EADI and contributed reports of these meetings for the website. These included:

- G20 Engagement Groups panel discussion 2017
 - 'The Global Festival of Ideas for Sustainable Development' conference 2017
 - Sustainable Development Goals and Human Rights conference 2017
 - The G20 and the future of global trading system
 - Bonner Impulse event: "European Development Policies and Aid Effectiveness in light of the Sustainable Development Goals: Do we need a shared impact and evaluation agenda?"
 - Sustainability Camp 2017
 - World Day to Combat Desertification panel discussion 2017
 - 'Improving drought resilience of Sub-Saharan agriculture: opportunities and challenges in irrigation and water governance' panel discussion
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Skills acquired

Interview skills

Writing skills

Analyzing research papers on development

Facilitating workshops and conferences

Mapping

Using social networks to communicate important issues

Ability to read faster

Communication skills in general

Internship evaluation

Before i started an internship with EADI, my knowledge concerning development issues was limited. As one of the biggest research institutes in the world, EADI was the best place to learn about development issues at large. What i found fascinating was having to decide which publication went into our eNewsletter as the editor. The experience taught me to always be analytical when it comes to research papers on development, not every research paper is a good research paper. Attending the many conferences on different development topics enabled me to interact with policymakers and researchers in the development field.

The friendly team was a big advantage because i was able to perform my tasks at ease. My supervisor and colleagues made sure that i was well taken care of and were always on standby to offer assistance. Another advantage was the city of Bonn itself. The city is a hub of many international organisations including the United Nations. There were always important conferences held at these organisations and as stated and EADI offered me the opportunity to attend them. The best part about my work was perhaps the freedom i was given by my supervisor and colleagues to be creative and come up with ideas. Overall, my five months at EADI was the best and i can confidently say my knowledge concerning development issues has broadened.