

# Report

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Partner University: Lund University

City/Country: Sweden

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Title of research project: Discussion and Design of a European National Framework Impact Survey in the field of Public Private Partnership in Transport

## 1. Preparation (planning, organisation and application at the partner university)

From the variety of international contacts provided by the KC@W at Bauhaus-Universität Weimar through international research projects and teaching cooperations I chose to spend my time abroad in Sweden because of my personal favour for Scandinavian countries, the good reputation of Lund University as well as the research topic in Public Private Partnerships.

Regarding the organisational process it can be said, that Björn Wündsich from the KC@W got in touch with Prof. Kristian Widén from Lund University. He gathered information about the current field of research at the department of Construction Management (Byggproduktion) at Lund University. After that, we discussed possible research topics and guiding questions for my paper. Based on that, I wrote a research proposal and we sent it to Lund together with my CV and a letter of motivation. After receiving a positive answer, the only thing to organise was the journey and the place to live (see below).

## 2. Journey (organisation, costs)

I started organising my stay just a few months before I actually went to Lund. I stayed in Lund for six weeks from the end of August to the beginning of October. At Lund University, the summer holidays are from the beginning of June to the mid of August, which means it is advisable to come to Lund when holidays are over and everybody is back in town. During the first weeks of the winter term there are lots of introductory events for students you might want to attend to meet other (new/foreign) students.

The fastest way to reach Lund in Sweden is by flying to Copenhagen Kastrup in Denmark and then taking the train (Öresundståg) to Lund central station. However, that might not be the cheapest way. Some of those cheap airlines are going to smaller airports in Sweden such as Gothenburg or Småland/Växjö. When travelling by train (<http://www.sj.se>) and if you are between 20-25 years old, you can get a youth discount, just choose "ungdom"

instead of adults ("vuxen"). The Scandinavian airline SAS provides youth/student discounts, too.

### 3. Accommodation (costs, kind of accommodation, etc.)

During my time in Lund I stayed in the "Anhörighetell" of the Lund University hospital. This is made for relatives of patients of the hospital as well as guests and short-term researchers at Lund University. A stay there is easy to organise, but unfortunately quite expensive. The rate for a month was 6160 SEK (~700 €) and the rate for a week 2340 SEK (265 €) in 2011. However, the "Anhörighetell" looks like student housing with a number of rooms on each floor and one common pantry kitchen. It also comes with a common living room on the basement and cloth washing facilities. Unfortunately, there is not internet/WiFi access in the whole building.

Alternatively, you can find student housing, private and shared apartments on web portals such as BoPoolen (<http://bopoolen.nu>) or AF Bostäder (<http://www.afb.se>).

### 4. Partner University

#### a. Studying (courses, projects, schedule)

I did not take any courses or participated in any projects. Nonetheless, I got the chance to accompany Prof. Kristian Widén to some of his lectures in construction management and excursions to new construction project sites. Especially, the field trip to the construction site for the new shopping centre in Malmö Hyllie I really enjoyed, as those excursions are rare in Germany.

With the purpose of writing a research paper helping Prof. Kristian Widén at his current state of research, I was supposed to offer him a comprehensive overview over the given topic. Thus, my daily schedule consisted of researching, reading and writing. Office hours at the department are from around 8.30 am to around 5.00 pm.

#### b. Support of the Partner University (international office and faculty/chair)

Prof. Kristian Widén himself and his research team were very committed to help me with all the organisation and administrative stuff. He took me to all the necessary offices for becoming registered at Lund University, getting a student/researcher ID, a library card, internet access and access to all online databases. There is a small library at the basement of V-Huset. The librarians there are very helpful when you need to get some books ordered from another library in Lund or even another city.

I got my own office on the hallway of the department of construction management, which was really nice. I enjoyed the view from the 5th floor over the campus a lot.

The whole department meets every morning for a common breakfast ("frukost") and exchange. Most of the professors, PhD-researchers and administrative staff speak English very fluent and as there are guest researchers from foreign countries quite frequently, English tends to be a common language.

### c. Language courses at the Partner University

I did not take any language courses at Lund University, as those are designed for ERASMUS students staying the whole winter term. However, I can definitely recommend visiting the "Café Multilingua" at the SOL (Språk- och Literaturcentrum). Once a week, they offer some kind of open café for foreign and Swedish students who want to learn and practise different languages. This is also a very good place to meet other students.

### d. University facilities (library, computer labs, etc.)

In Lund, each faculty has its own library located in the faculty building. In addition, there is a very old and nice main library building you should definitely visit once, if you ever wish to change your research environment from the office to a more inspirational place.

I am not sure about computer labs, but as you might get your own office or at least a desk in a shared office at the department, you might not need that. However, you definitely need to bring your own notebook to work on.

Most of the campus buildings also have a small café or a cafeteria where they offer coffee, sandwiches and salads. Some of them sell soups and whole meals around lunch time. It is common that you can take tap water and bread with butter for free in addition.

## 5. Living (city/country, culture, food, communicating, jobs, etc.)

The Scandinavian culture is quite close to the German culture in terms of life style, eating, working and housing. Swedish people are very friendly and helpful and nearly everyone, even older generations, is fluent in English. And most of them even have learnt a bit of German at some point, which they always enjoy to tell you. However, it is advisable to at least understand a bit of Swedish to get along in daily life.

## 6. Summary (best and/or worst experience, final words or advices to your fellow students)

Travelling is as expensive as everything else in Sweden and Scandinavia. But, do not miss to take the Öresundståg to Malmö and across the Öresund bridge to Copenhagen. Both of them are very lively, rich in cultural quality and variety.

I would also recommend borrowing or buying a bike (and selling it later). Biking is very popular with Lund's students and it is a good way to find your way around Lund, to the university, the city centre and even to the beach in Lomma. Also, a lot of other small towns in Skåne are worth a visit (to be reached by train or bus). In Ystad you can follow Karl Wallander's footsteps, in Glimmingehus you can visit one of the best preserved medieval castles of the North and in and around Kivik you can enjoy the traditional apple markets and in autumn also apple picking festivals.