

REPORT on SverkerÅström Foundation Scholarship

September – December 2014

Dmitry Nechiporuk, Author of the book

'Divided Territory, Shared Water: a Survey of EU-Russia Cross-Border Environmental Cooperation to Protect Ecosystem of the Baltic Sea'

(St.Petersburg, Norma press 2014)

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When I won SverkerÅströmFoundation Fellowship, I chose Sodertorn University as the place where I would have liked to stay as a guest researcher. Initially, I wrote Dr. Bjorn Hassler since I had read a lot of his works. He advised me to write to Centre for Baltic and East European Studies (CBEES) staff because this Centre is always open to new scholars and probably Centre would have been glad to give me affiliation for the whole period of my fellowship. Indeed, I experienced very warm welcome at CBEES and established several contacts with the researchers aiming at further collaboration.

CBEES as an important part of Sodertorn University is renowned for its tradition of Baltic studies. I think a distinctive feature of CBEES is multidisciplinary approach and inconceivable diversity of scholarly interests among staff members. I like it very much, I use this approach in my research and it has helped me establish new ties.

I did enjoy the intellectual environment at CBEES. Everybody was friendly and polite to me, although I was a guest, I felt like it had been my habitual environment for a very long time. And I appreciated it very much. Moreover, several times I visited public lectures and research seminars at the other departments of the University, which contributed much to my research experience. I can't but express my heartily gratitude to Dr. Rebecka Letteval and academic office manager Helena Strömstedt as well as Dr. Irina Kotkina, Dr. Irina Sandomirsakaja, Dr. Helene Carlbäck, Dr. Charlotte Bydler, and Dr. Monica Hammer for collaboration and positive response to my research interests.

As a result, I worked quite hard during my stay at CBEES. I have completed my book «Divided Territory, Shared Water: a Survey of EU-Russia Cross-Border Environmental Cooperation to Protect Ecosystem of the Baltic Sea»(published in November 2014), and have finished the first draft of the article about urban planning in the Soviet Pskov. Besides, I have made two speeches at Sodertorn University. Firstly, it was Higher seminar at CBEES on 24 November where I presented my book. Then I participated in the annual conference organized by CBEES "A new generation on the move". This conference was very suggestive and lively event. I have visited many panels and my special focus is on an excellent lecture of Dr.Andrzej Nowak (Poland).

When I came back in Russia I immediately applied for Visby Programme (September 2015-February 2016) to resume my new contacts and enjoy the intellectual atmosphere of CBEES once again.

The essential part of my staying in Sweden was a suggestive conversation with the members of SverkerÅströmFoundation's board. I met these people several times at various formal-dinner parties and I enjoyed very much an atmosphere of these gatherings. I would like to say thank DisaHåstad for a hearty welcome and a unique opportunity to visit Sweden during three months.

– Dmitry Nechiporuk