

Job Shadowing experience in Manila, The Philippines

Project Title: Steps 4 Local Engagement and Democracy - STEPs4LEAD

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Sending Organisation: Europe House Slavonski Brod (Croatia)

Hosting Organisation: Bridging the Caps (The Philippines)

Coordinating Organisation: INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES FOR COOPERATION (Bulgaria)

In the middle of December 2019, Iva from Europe House Slavonski Brod calls me to agree on some details about the site that we did for her, so casually, as if talking about the market, she asks me: "Hey, do you want to go to the Philippines for 3 weeks for a great job?" shadowing? You just have to leave in the 12th month because that's the rule of the project." I think I agreed faster than she managed to complete the information. However, the journey was delayed for a few days, and the journey began on January 4, 2020.

I have an "ajvar" stain on my visa photo. What kind of king am I?

As my visa appointment is scheduled for December 20th, the night before I was at a party, so at the last moment I remember that I don't have a photo for the visa, and that we are leaving for Zagreb at 5 in the morning, where I was supposed to submit the documents, with the company we see a little Advent and go to the @ElementalBend concert. I fly out of fame, I run to the photo studio, I say that I need a photo for a visa, a white background, click, click, a bag with pictures in my pocket, thank you very much, goodbye.

The next day, come on, we're an hour and a half late to the consulate, so the clerk is waiting for us to come, come on, and the fact that I sent the wrong one

the form, which I was filling out in the car, when I took the photos out of that bag, I saw that I had a red spot from "ajvar" on my face and that such a photo would appear on the visa. Luckily, the visa in the passport doesn't have a photo, it's probably somewhere in their archive, because if it was in my passport, in addition to the Covid tests, I believe they would ask for some additional ones at the border, because what the photo looks like is a mess.

The positive thing about all this is that Peđa and Ida made (read, ordered) a great Chinese table that evening, and Elemental, as always, tore up the concert!

How far is it to the Philippines? So about 4 days of riding...

January 4, 5 in the morning, train to Belgrade, then bus to Zagreb, I arrive in the afternoon, again Peđa and Ida save the day, they leave me the keys to the apartment while they are on vacation, and instead of sleeping, I watch Netflix, thinking how I will I want to have 9 hours between flights and sleep in a hotel that, as a rule, Qatar Airways follows me for free... What a mess.

Five and a half hours of flight, trifles, bleja, movies, internet on the plane, I'm getting tired, but it doesn't matter, I'll soon find Doha and some 26-star hotel. We land, in the direction of the Hotel desk, full of enthusiasm, which after 15 seconds was killed by the clerk, with the sentence "Well, you have no right to the hotel, because in between there is another flight to Manila (which is my next destination), but

you can go to the Quiet room or the Lounge." LOUNGE! THAT! Finally, all the account maintenance premiums that I pay every month will be paid off. I go to the Lounge, the crowd seems to be for nothing, only one place to sit, and the only positive thing is excellent free wine in unlimited quantities and sandwiches. And so my 8 hours pass without sleep, hoping to sleep on the plane...

The flight from Doha to Manila takes about 9 hours. Of course I didn't sleep and of course I continued to watch movies and series. I'm looking at the maps like this, where I'm changing everything, tiredness has long since overtaken me. I'm thinking of going to the lounge again when I get to Manila, because I certainly don't have a free hotel there. 9 hours later – MANILA. I get off the plane, still in a sweatshirt and pants, heat stroke. Okay, I forgot about that detail. I was already tired, that at one point I lost my mind, forgot the procedure that I have gone through at least a hundred times, I don't know where the luggage is taken, where I should go. I walk up and down the corridor like that, trying to compose myself. Then I sit in the middle of the corridor, drink water and reset myself. I have to wait 5 hours at the airport for the next flight to CEBU. By the time I finished all the procedures and passport ups and downs, I had just enough time left to eat something and transfer to another plane. Now it's getting a bit chaotic, because the time difference is big, so I'm 7 hours ahead of Serbia.

The flight from Manila to Cebu was short, maybe an hour and a half, the plane was small, so I didn't even manage to sleep, so I arrived in Cebu around 6 am local time, where I had to wait 6 hours for the ferry, yes the ferry, to Tagbilaran, a city on the island of Bohol which is normally my destination. I leave the airport, it's sunny and hot outside, I'm dragging those suitcases, I'm thinking about whether I should change in the toilets, whether I should go to the ferry immediately or not, I sit again and wait... I don't even know if I'm tired anymore, if I feel like I'm sleeping, I'm trying to close my eyes, it's not working at all. I think about where I started in the first place and what did I need in my life?! So while I'm waiting, I discover the GRAB application on the Internet, which amazes me. Be sure to try it, at least to see what the combined version of Uber, CarGo, Donesi and all other applications is. Grab drives me to the port, where I board the ferry, which is the opposite of what I imagined, in a positive sense. Super cool seats, air conditioning, rocking and 2 hours later, I arrive in Bohol, local time, Tuesday, around 2 pm. 4 days, if I had ridden, I would have arrived faster...

- Excuse me, where is the bathroom? - Right there, right next to your room. – Okaaaaay :O

After 4 days of travel, I arrive in Bohol and I am in desperate need of a shower. I would give my soul for a shower. I would also give all the gadgets. I am located in a villa of 400 square meters, on the coast, next to the ocean. I have my own room, I can use everything I want, a servant who is there for everything I need, a small adorable Beagle who reminds me of my Luna, an idyll. I enter the bathroom, and there is a toilet bowl, a sink, a pallet, a bucket and pots. Okay. This is a bit strange, they were probably cleaning something, now I'm going to ask where the shower is. Yes, you guessed it right, the shower is a bucket and a pot. It is a Filipino tradition and hardly anyone on the island has a shower, only extremely rich residents, although they also use the old traditional technique, and the shower is mainly intended for guests who are not used to these local methods...

There's nothing wrong with sleeping, because in a few hours I have dinner with local people and if I go to bed now, I won't wake up for 4 days.

Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday dear Goran, happy birthday to youuuuuuuu

Yes, birthday. Well, today is January 7. A car arrives to pick me up and I meet Dalareich, who is my mentor, aka the "Chocolate Princess", but more on that later. At dinner I also meet Junalyn and Duke, local entrepreneurs, like Dalareich. This dinner, apart from bringing back good memories, a great birthday surprise, was the most important moment of my job shadowing experience. At this dinner, I decided to deviate from the plan and program and instead of visiting the offices, I would spend a week at Dalareich's chocolate house, at the organic shampoo factory at Junalyn's, and finally at Duke's coffee plantation for a week. The following days could not have been better. The only thing I didn't count on was two small problems - jet lag and that little Beagle puppy, who has been barking since 4 in the morning, just when I think I can fall asleep...

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MSN2B7oBDU95ZowY68qsbP2CN5jcM1J6/viewv>

What's the Philippines like?

What came as a shock to me is that the Philippines consists of 7,600 islands and has over 100 million inhabitants! :OH GAD DEM DOBRILA!

The island of Bohol is otherwise known for its untouched nature, it has about 1.3 million inhabitants, and what particularly surprised me was their concern for the environment. Smoking is prohibited on the entire island, and the organization "Plastic free Bohol" does great things like cleaning the ocean and making various things from recycled plastic. In the first few days, it somehow seemed dirty, until I went to throw out the trash and realized that I couldn't find a container anywhere, that there was no paper anywhere, and that all that dirt was actually dust from the renovation of the streets and that everything was unrealistically clean.

What particularly delighted me was how the traffic works. There are no signs, Tagbilaran, a city of over 100,000 inhabitants has a couple of traffic lights, and everyone somehow negotiates on the fly. The main mode of transportation is a tricycle, which will take you around the city for 30-40 dinars, and renting a scooter is also very cheap.