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Report on the Visiting Lecture

My visit took place at **Paisii Hilendarski University of Plovdiv**, Bulgaria, specifically at the Department of Ethnology and Sociology, between **9th and 11th of June** 2004, and was carefully organized by my partner **Meglena Zlatkova**.

Although not designed as such from the very beginning (I did prepare a lecture on a different topic), the visiting lecture proved to be a working meeting with the partner team. One of the reasons was that members of each team are very different as educational level and in what concerns their research topics and interests. So, the common topic (**anthropology of the park**) proved to be one of mutual interest in the highest degree.

The lecture began with the presentation of our own work, as well as the visual material available. Afterwards it continued with discussions and questions from the audience (members of the team and of the host department). After the preliminary questions, the meeting became a kind of mutual presentation of topics and projects. I was myself most interested in the work of the partner team and in their specific topic of analysis as sometimes different from ours.

Despite the fact that me and Meglena have collaborated throughout the entire project and have exchanged information on the progress of our work, in the end it seems like our final research reports stress quite different topics of the research. For instance, the partner team was obviously more interested in the nature-culture dichotomy in the construction of the park and designed a morphology of the place, as well as a more detailed research about inhabitants and subcultures in the park.

One of the reasons is that members of the team shared their responsibilities and focused each on its personal interest and then corroborated their findings and results. This definitely made work look like more fun and excitement and results more interesting, since the research covers more topics. Even though me and my team worked in a bit

different manner (stressing on doing things together for the sake of learning how to do it but surely taking into account my students' preferences and interests), I am certain that both ways proved successful, and discussing them together was even more helpful and interesting.

In fact, this is the most important thing I want to emphasize about my visiting lecture. This meeting was very helpful for several reasons. First, it gave us the opportunity to discuss our projects more directly with each other and with the partner team. (Putting our teams together and giving them the opportunity to talk about their work, if possible, would be a very good idea). Students were very excited to tell me about their project and also to find out about Cluj and our fieldwork. The fact that the discussion stressed a lot on comparison between the two fieldworks and results was extremely useful for our further development of the projects. That is why I am certain that our projects being a bit different is not a lack, but in fact a very good thing, since we can build on these differences to develop our work.

Second, we had the opportunity to discuss with each other our work as coordinators of teams, and to learn from each other's experiences. Third, this meeting gave us the chance to evaluate our one-year work and to corroborate results, and also to evaluate our collaboration, which I can say was a very good one.

And last but not least, Plovdiv is a beautiful town and Megy a great host, which permanently made sure that I had a wonderful time during my visit.