



Przemyslaw Macholak

Thanks to Perry World House' generosity I was able to intern at the Treasury Department of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister of Poland In May and June this year. It was an incredible opportunity to gain an understanding of public policy works with an economics focus. I have always been passionate about this, and the internship seemed to be a natural extension of my former work at Perry World House as a student fellow focusing on state engagement in economics (project on Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and public-private partnership in Artificial Intelligence investment). Moreover, during various academic conferences, remarks that always drew my attention were usually done by people with some experience in this policy field. Thanks to the funding, I was able to enrich my knowledge about the Polish economy and establish connections with extremely knowledgeable experts.

The Treasury Department in the Chancellery of the Prime Minister of Poland was an extremely engaging environment and a great place to work. Formerly, the supervisory of the most important companies with varying degree of state ownership was organized under a separate ministry. However, to underscore the importance of strategic sectors for the economy and companies within those verticals, the responsibilities were moved in early 2018 directly under the government leader, and the Treasury Department then executes this task. It is a place where true geopolitics meets business considerations. Over my time there

I was able to participate in the evaluation of energy companies' strategies, monitoring management practices with minority shareholders, understanding supervisory mechanisms from the legal and corporate relations point of view, and see how public funding assistance programs interact with the broader EU competition law. I improved my communications, planning and accountability skills. I got much better with reading legal documents and drafting policy memos. Moreover, I analyzed large quantities of data later applied to evaluate the effectiveness of strategic decisions for SOE. Moreover, thanks to the support I received from amazing mentors, I was able to experience first-hand coordination between strategy and supervisory specialists, and took part in some strategic initiatives too: including analysis of business fundamentals behind creating a new capital group in the Aerospace and Defense sector, and participation in a SteerCo with main stakeholders of the initiative.

I was also interested in this internship because much has been said both at home and abroad about the recent political situation in Poland. I wanted to see first-hand how changes in the government affect public administration's operations. After interning there I am reassured by the competency of people in the public service, their attitude towards their tasks and civil service mission and values. I greatly enjoyed lunch conversations with those experts, ranging from various visions of past governments and current policies to cultural recommendations on what to see and do in Warsaw. I was able to interact with graduates of the best European universities, both in general and those with a public administration focus. I received many insights on career development and I hope those will make my future decisions more informed. Especially Senior Specialist Mr. Radoslaw Niedzielski, who was my direct supervisor devoted countless hours to me and broadened my horizons by providing informative answers on any topic I could think of. Thanks to his personal initiative I was able

to meet and interact with public servants and experts in their fields also outside of the Chancellery. Without hesitation, I can state that he became a role model for me when trusting me and giving me challenging yet meaningful and extremely rewarding tasks that pushed me out of my comfort zone and results of which were later on used by other employees of the Chancellery. His patience when answering all the questions was unrivaled, and while the stimulating discussions on the theories behind public governance and IR, comparative approach between different countries and practical stories from his personal experience will remain in my memory and I can only wonder how he managed to share all that with me while efficiently completing his own tasks on time.

Lastly, I would like to stress the importance of the remaining part of this summer's adventure for my personal growth - living in a beautiful city after office hours this summer. Thanks to the PWH, I was able to live in Warsaw for the first time in my life and explore the city's rich cultural offer. I attended impressive modern-designed museums, including National Art Galleries, the Warsaw Rising Museum and POLIN, the Museum of History of Polish Jews.

I spent countless hours in wonderful parks and attended multiple theatre productions. It was an incredibly important part of the experience, which allowed me to develop my "non-economical" interests in Polish culture and understand leading artists' view on both current and timeless issues.

This summer experience was very formative for my personal growth and enabled me to understand more about a topic I care deeply in a country that is close to my heart. I hereby wanted to thank the Perry World House for providing me with trust, necessary assistance, and financial support.