

Scholarship 2003
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Summing up in a few lines all the things my companions and I did during our three weeks stay in Hamburg is almost impossible. I would therefore rather concentrate on how this experience enriched me both from a professional and a personal point of view.

From a professional point of view, DA-PA's Scholarship gave me first of all the opportunity to meet maritime lawyers of other countries and therefore to get acquainted not only with the German law and practice, but also with the English, Egyptian and Russian ones. Besides, our several debates and legal discussions were very useful also in letting us assess the degree of our personal knowledge in the different subjects dealt with.-

Moreover, during our German stay we had the chance to meet numerous operators working in the maritime and insurance field – such as underwriters, brokers, claims agents, surveyors, etc. -, who took the trouble to dedicate us their time, describing us the different aspects of their jobs and answering to our questions and, as a result, consenting us to understand what they expect from a lawyer assisting them.

Finally, we had the opportunity to experience in actual fact the world we usually only hear about while working behind our desks: we went on board of vessels, visited container terminals and shipyards, took part to surveys, etc.-

From a personal point of view, it's nice to realize that the acquaintance made with the other scholars developed into authentic friendship, which I'm sure won't be limited to possible future professional cooperation.-

Likewise, the various persons I met and had the chance to talk with during the Scholarship did not just convey professional knowledge to me but in most cases also communicated a contagious enthusiasm, as well as passion for their jobs and pride for their harbour and city.

Furthermore, some of our "outdoor visits" changed into authentic adventures like the time we were on board of a feeder and were surprisingly invited to have dinner with the Captain and then stay on the bridge with him while sailing on the Elbe, or the one I had to overcome a tremendous fit of giddiness in order to get on board of a huge coal carrying vessel through a staggering gangway while attending a survey.

Last but not least, I can't forget that during the three weeks spent in Hamburg I had the chance to discover a beautiful city, which offers lovely open spaces, interesting sights, magnificent promenades and shopping malls, not to mention its extravagant night life.-

In short, I can't help already envying the fortunate 2004 Scholars.-

Lucia Pedrini