

Newsletter No. 10, July 2021

Our spring semester is coming to an end. As it's the third semester that KGU is holding classes at least partially online, we all got some experience on how to get the most out of the zoom classes. What was new, however, was that for the first time, courses at KGU were offered as **COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning)** subjects. Concretely, this means that in several cases, KGU students were having their classes together with students from another university, discussing diverse issues online. One of the Jean Monnet Module classes, **The European Union: History, Politics & Society** was also offered jointly with LMU Munich (University of Munich), focusing on migration in Japan and in the EU. The verdict by the students: it was the best online class most of them ever had (so the students' comments), and a great example that even in times of Corona, international exchange is possible.

Apart from many exciting classes on the EU, we had different events happening as part of the Jean Monnet Module this spring semester, too.

During the EU-Japan Friendship week 2021, the Institute for Industrial Research (Sangyo kenkyusho) offered a wide variety of chances to study about Italy. About a hundred KGU students and staff enjoyed the fun quiz on Italy, the lecture by the Consul General of the Italian Consulate General in Osaka, Mr. Luigi Diodati, and an authentic Italian online cooking class with tasty Italian summer dishes. A big applause also goes to my students from the School of Economics and the School of International Studies, who made 10 wonderful panels on present-day Italy that were displayed at the Nishinomiya-Uegahara Campus Library for the whole month of June. All the positive feedback showed that the EU-Japan Friendship Week 2021 at KGU was another great success!

Now that the teaching part of this semester is over, I will have time to focus on my research. Through the wonderful support of Nordregio, a think tank in Sweden that analyses the diverse policies of Scandinavian countries, I am able to investigate the impact the Covid-19 pandemic had on labour mobility in the Scandinavian countries, especially in agriculture and fishing. I will keep you updated about my findings. Due to Covid-19 and the travel restrictions, I will not be able to visit Finland for my field study, but I am extremely pleased to have arranged several online interviews.

If anyone is interested in regional development in Scandinavian countries, I highly recommend checking out the exciting website with a wide range of publications Nordregio offers:

<https://nordregio.org/publications/>

I especially recommend this overview on Labour Mobility in the Nordic countries.

Nordregio (ed.) (2017), Perspectives on labour mobility in the Nordic-Baltic region

<https://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:1094949/FULLTEXT02.pdf>

I wish you a great summer vacation. Maybe some of you might use the time to read a bit on migration and rural development! Now that travelling has become so tedious, why not study the impact of tourism on regional development in Europe? ;)

All the best, and enjoy your well-deserved summer holidays,

Anna