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I was lucky to have a chance to participate in two-week intensive training courses of Russian language in the European University of Viadrina.

I met my colleagues from Germany, Director of the Languages Department of the University of Viadrina Dr. Thomas Fogel, and Elena Dormann who is the Head of the Russian language department of the same university, in the year of 1999 in the Yerevan's State University. They were visiting Armenia within the frames of the Tempus program. However, our meeting didn't result in any agreements or plans.

In the autumn of year 2000 T. Fogel and Elena Dormann once again visited Armenia. This time they initiated the idea of starting intensive Russian Language courses for the students of Viadrina University. These courses would help students by means of studying Russian Language and developing spoken language skills, get acquainted with Armenia, the country that charmed T. Fogel and E. Dormann. Thus texts on Russian language could serve both means of language development skills and information source about Armenia. In the second half of the February 2001 Dr. T. Fogel invited me to visit the European University of Viadrina. The initiator and manager of the "Vesenniye Universiteti (Spring Universities)" intensive courses was E. Dormann.

The course "Puteshestviye v Armeniyu (Trip to Armenia)" (30 academic hours, 6 academic hours per day) was proposed to students of high level study in the field of Russian language. These were mainly students from the faculties of cultural education (these were majority), economics, law as well as Ph.D. students and researchers. The popularity of the offered courses even exceeded our expectations.

The second week I worked with my German colleague-specialist of the Russian language Thomas Plyushke. The course named "Masterskaya perevoda (Workshop in interpreting skills)" lasted 40 academic hours, 8 academic hours per day on the high level of study. Mr. T. Plyushke specialized in interpreting and translation in his work with students. I worked on developing reading language skills in the fields of Russian mass media by means of using teaching method of "Critical thinking" approaches and techniques which allow for development of "critical thinking" skills during reading and writing processes. This approach towards study process became very popular and favorite amongst students.

In the February-March of the year 2002 I received another invitation. This year I worked with the groups of beginning and intermediary levels together with T. Plyushke. He worked 4 hours/day with the beginners group while I used to work for 2 hours/day with the same level group. And vice versa: in the medium level group I worked for 4 hours/day and he worked for 2 hours/day. Working together with German colleagues allowed to share experience, impressions, to search for new ways and methods of presenting grammatical and lingua-cultural material. Theater, musical and cinematography workshops that presented Russian folk tales, songs and demonstrated Russian cartoons and movies gathered around for discussions students from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds: Germans, Polish, French, Bulgarians and Americans. In my opinion, work in European universities helps to get insight into individual's inner world, to understand and find individual's own place where she/he fits in this world.