

Application for the Santander Group Erasmus Staff Mobility Programme

My name is Gun Nordström and I work within the Gothenburg University within an organization called Reväst – the Board of Regional Research in West Sweden – as a communication officer since 1998.

REVÄST - Regional Research in West Sweden

Background

Reväst is a forum and a network for regional research both within and beyond Sweden. The organisation operates as a line of communication between researchers and those who make use of the result of research.

Reväst was established in 1983 having previously being a state institution under the ERU (expert research group on regional development). Reväst comprises representatives from universities and colleges, industry, state institutions, provincial governments, the Västra Götaland Region, Västra Götaland County and other organisations in western Sweden. Reväst is currently active in over twenty different research fields. Reväst is a unique organization which plays a key role with regard to research cooperation and to the application of research.

Reväst is not only important at the regional level, but also functions as a focal point at the national level. Through study visits overseas Reväst follows an international perspective, which creates the opportunity for comparison between different countries and regions.

Objectives

- to be a regional focal point and forum for proposed, ongoing and completed research related to regional development both within and outside west Sweden
- to initiate regional development research at the various universities in west Sweden, grounded in issues identified in west Sweden and beyond
- to support the creation of regional science research competence in west Sweden
- to seek international comparisons (to develop a comparative approach informed by international experience)

Activities

- In order to facilitate contact between researchers and consumers of research, Reväst arranges public seminars to which representatives of national, regional and sub-regional authorities, organisations, research bodies and industry in the region are invited
- In order to stimulate research into regional science issues Reväst is involved in the formation of reference groups or working groups connected to the preparation and implementation of various projects, seminar series, conferences, study visits etc.
- Documentation in the form of reports from seminars and study visits are a key part of Revästs mission to inform
- A key role is also to contribute to cooperation between universities and the wider society through facilitating informal meetings and contact between university researchers and various types of individual and organisation.
- Such a cooperation follows naturally for those organisations who are represented within Reväst. Beyond this, our contact network includes many other consumers of research within the region.

Membership

Reväst is formally under the administration of Gothenburg University, which manages economics. Our membership includes, amongst others, Västra Götaland Region, Västra Götaland County, provincial ('commune') governments, universities and other higher education institutions in west Sweden as well as the National Rail Administration, the Swedish Trade Union Confederation (LO), The Swedish Confederation of Professional Employees (TCO), the Federation of Swedish Farmers (LRF). Reväst also cooperates with the Swedish Road Administration in west Sweden.

The goals of the placement and the added value of the visit for both the home and host university

I would very much like to participate in enhancing the relations between Gothenburg University with a university within the Santander Group Erasmus Staff Mobility Programme. As I work as a communication officer and within the society where Gothenburg University is a vital and important actor I would like to contribute in mutual understanding between the organizations and to foster mobility, international experience and cooperation in education and development. My job today consists very much of making direct personal contacts between various organizations and persons with mutual benefit for example universities, students, researchers, teachers and administrative offices, organizations within our region, with other regions, municipalities and other countries.