



## Research Networking Programmes

Short Visit Grant  or Exchange Visit Grant

*(please tick the relevant box)*

### Scientific Report

The scientific report (WORD or PDF file – maximum of eight A4 pages) should be submitted online within one month of the event. It will be published on the ESF website.

***Proposal Title:*** “Looking for Leisure. Court Residences and their Satellites, 1400-1700” - Conference report by Oliver Mallick

***Application Reference N°:*** 6592

#### 1) Purpose of the visit

From 5 to 7 June 2014 I participated at a colloquium in Prague entitled “Looking for Leisure” which was co-organized by the Institute of Art History (IAH), the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, v.v.i., and the Masaryk University, Brno. The conference, held at the Academic Conference Center in Prague, intended to bring together scholars from different countries working in the fields of history and art history and specialised, amongst others, on court residences. Consequently, the main purposes of the visit consisted in enabling the participants to network and in ensuring a fruitful scientific exchange by comparing several examples of court residences respectively their so-called “satellites” in France, Italy, Scandinavia, England, Scotland and the Habsburgian Empire. For me, this conference was the occasion to present a paper on the pleasure palace of Clagny, France, which is still not very well known.

#### 2) Description of the work carried out during the visit

The conference started on 5 June. After some welcome and introduction notes by Ivan Prokop Muchka and Ondřej Jacubec the first session, entitled “From Solitude and Buen Retiro to Mon-plaisir and

Sans-souci. Exploring the Theory of the Architecture of Leisure within the Palace”, began. On the one hand, this session was dedicated especially to the background and origin of the princely desire for seasonal, hunting, diplomatic, or just private palaces which were often near greater residences. On the other hand, the participants of this section emphasized not only construction details but also architectural aspects and similarities between the “satellites” and their respective main residences.

The second, third and fourth sessions took place on 6 June. The second session was entitled “Tradition and Modernity. Defining the Palazotto as a Spatial and Functional Type from the Late Middle Ages to the Early Modern Period” and dealt with the function and use of small residences. This concerned amongst others musical and artistic aspects. After that, we switched on to the third session under the topic “Decorating the Architecture of Leisure. Interpreting the Satellite’s Decor between Politics and Nature” where the topic were dominated by aesthetic, decorative and cultural reflections. The fourth and last session, “The Palazotto in Context. Exploring the Role of the Satellite in the Grand Design of the Residence and its Gardens” focussed on the role of gardens, parks and the general element of recreation within them, for example hunting pleasures.

After all these theoretical reflections the last day of the conference gave us the opportunity to a concrete practical experience by visiting the summer palaces Hvězda and Troja in Prague. Here we could gain a better understanding of several aspects already discussed during the conference.

**3) Description of the main results obtained**

This conference gave me not only the opportunity to come in contact with other scholars working on similar topics but also to get, thanks to the different countries they referred to, more information which could be also useful for my own research. Besides, and in a wider perspective, the conference underlined also very well that propaganda and leisure couldn't be easily separated between main residences and their satellites in Early modern court society.

**4) Future collaboration with host institution (if applicable)**

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**5) Projected publications / articles resulting or to result from the grant (ESF must be acknowledged in publications resulting from the grantee’s work in relation with the grant)**

Concerning the preparation of my paper for this conference and due to the useful discussions and information exchanged during the three days, I intend to publish an article about the forgotten pleasure palace of Clagny which will combine historical, aesthetical and architectural aspects.

**6) Other comments (if any)**

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