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During my studies at the Donetsk National Technical University, I was a very active student, often participating in different student conferences. One day during my third year of studies, the deputy dean advised me to write an abstract for the annual EERC conference, which then led to an invitation to participate in the EERC conference. I enjoyed this event, both the quality of its organization and the level of the program. It was the best conference that I ever attended. Talking to EERC students, I understood that the education it provides differs very much from what is called “economics education” in Ukraine. The papers and presentations of EERC students were of a much higher level than mine. So I decided that I wanted to understand and apply the same research tools which the EERC student used. Therefore, my next step was the participation in small EERC scientific conference in the following year. That time, I was convinced by EERC teachers to enter EERC.

The EERC entrance exams were not hard for me. The three weeks of preliminary courses in math and Ukrainian language, organized by EERC, helped me to pass the exams successfully. Thanks to one of the EERC donors, I was able to study for free (my tuition fee was paid by Industrial Union of Donbass). But studying at EERC became tougher and much more complicated than passing the entrance exams.

While studying at EERC, you are always busy and almost do not have any spare time. Such “life training” helps to learn how to value time, to respect deadlines and be disciplined overall. The content of lectures was theoretical and not directly applicable to real business or policy work. But it helped to develop my analytical and logical thinking, something which distinguishes EERC alumni from other Ukrainian economists. Besides, studying in English helped to improve my written and spoken language (and also presentation!) skills which are necessary when working in an international environment. Living in dormitory and distributing home assignments among a group of students, helped me to obtain all necessary skills of how to work effectively in a team. The EERC public lectures, the internal seminars and the different social events allowed me to learn things from more experienced people (both from invited guest speakers from famous organizations, and from successful EERC graduates). They also developed my communication skills and gave me business contacts which I use in my work. Finally, EERC (now KSE) gives you membership to a unique community – a new generation of economists – which allows me to be continuously informed about vacant positions and to feel myself a competitive member of the modern World.

I am very thankful for the life experience that I obtained during my studies at EERC.