

I would like to thank the Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation for offering the opportunity to do research abroad. The experience helped me mature both professionally and personally. I had the opportunity to work closely and collaborate with professionals in the field of computer vision and neural engineering. Through such experience, I got the opportunity to investigate how the different aspects of these areas of expertise can intertwine. The research abroad enabled me to network with current graduate students in such fields. The undertaken project made me realize that my true interest lied in working in an interdisciplinary field to understand the intricacies of the brain complexity. The stay also allowed me to perceive, up to some extent, what is expected of a graduate student. The entire process of elaborating a research proposal, reading through academic publications relevant to the research topic in question, the interaction with different professionals, and the development of an extensive research report within a limited time constraint are skills I will treasure as I undergo my future graduate studies.

The institute I resided in during the development of the proposed Marshall Plan project was the Graz Institute of Technology. For me, the main advantage of working within such a small institute was that it facilitated me the process of contacting professionals within the institute of Neural Engineering. Obtaining this connection was a fundamental part for obtaining the necessary data for the elaboration of the Marshall Plan report. The Institute of Neural Engineering offered the necessary support by explaining the limitations of analyzing the provided dataset. TU Graz, being a small institute, facilitated the meeting my supervisor and I had with the professionals in the Institute of Neural Engineering during the first couple of days in Graz. In the meeting, we brainstormed what techniques would be useful and reasonable to employ within the limited time constraints. Keeping in mind what was discussed during the meeting enabled me to narrow down and focus my attention in investigating and understanding the methods enough to program them. The contacts essential for the initial stages of the investigation was my supervisor Professor Thomas Pock from the Institute of Computer Vision and Graphics, as well as, Professor Gernot Müller-Putz and Mr. David Steyrl from the Institute of Neural Engineering.

Some key pointers I would like to give to future Marshall Plan students and fellows is to pick a project you are highly motivated and intrigued by. However, you must also feel you have enough grasp and understanding of the subject in question. This is essential for one to fluently

communicate with either your supervisor or any other professionals in a different field you may get in touch with during your stay. Also, keep in mind that professionals are extremely busy, therefore you must be comfortable enough with the subject(s) in question to eventually work independently and be able to fully develop the proposed project.