



To whom it may concern

PECO-Institut e.V.
Institute for sustainable regional development
Public research institution

Luisenstr. 38
10117 Berlin
Germany
Tel. +49 30 24639 500
office@peco-ev.de
www.peco-ev.de

Berlin, November 12, 2010

Letter of Recommendation for Mr Marcel Gerds

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Marcel Gerds. Mr Gerds has worked as a project employee within the PROGRESS research project "Structural change and labour in agriculture" at our PECO institute of sustainable regional development from December 2009 until November 2010. This project was funded by the European Commission, to be more specific by the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

The project's aim was to analyse examples of farm restructuring in six European countries (Germany, Austria, Italy, Romania, Bulgaria, and Poland). Causal analyses on the regional level were conducted in order to evaluate which strategies, methods and initiatives existed and how their relevance and efficiency can be measured. A structured questionnaire was employed in order to facilitate comparability of the farm specific results.

Mr Gerds' responsibilities compromised field work, e.g. obtaining data from different case studies in Germany, Austria and Italy there he was on-site for a few days in each case.

A very crucial part of Mr Gerds' employment within the project was the realisation of the causal analysis. By means of structural equation modelling Mr Gerds calculated the relevance of different factors for the success of restructuring strategies. Several of our hypotheses could thus be confirmed or falsified, respectively.

Furthermore he was responsible for the whole documentation of all case studies. He prepared presentations for each country including an overview of all visited farms which were published on the project's website.

Mr Gerds is efficient, organized, extremely competent, and has remarkable powers of comprehension. Due to his great performance in dealing with the aforementioned tasks Mr Gerds has qualified himself as a very valuable member of our research project. His work is valued and acknowledged by all team members. Mr Gerds' skill for the cognition of interrelationships is among the best I have seen. He has the energy and patience necessary to see complex tasks through to completion and guiding team members through the entire project's duration. If I may provide you with any further information in your consideration of Mr Marcel Gerds, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hentschel
Director of PECO institute

Chairman:
Klaus WieseHügel

Register of associations:
19617 Nz
District Court Berlin Charlottenburg

Bank connection:
SEB AG Berlin
Account number 18 36 06 95 00
Bank code 100 101 11
DE33 1001 0111 1836 0695 00
BIC ESSEDE5F100

Tax number:
27/688/56064

Director:
Thomas Hentschel