

Title: Career in Krakau

Country: Germany

Duration: 4'21''

**Insert: Author: Adrian Bartocha
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**Music: James Taylor Quartet; CD: The BBC Sessions; Track No.1 Blow Up;
CDNT 010; Nighttracks; Duration: 45'**

Content:

Three years ago, when Jens Otte moved to Krakau to start working in the Polish branch of the "Deutsche Bank", he was anything but enthusiastic about the prospect of living in Poland for several years. He would have preferred western foreign countries, but for the sake of his career, decided to take the job. Meanwhile, he has been living in Krakau for four years and has learned to appreciate the country and its people.

Text:

OFF: Jens Otte

The first impression of the city: it's like working while being on holidays. A mixture of business and culture. You come to a tourist capital and have to work twelve hours a day.

For Jens Otte, the city of Krakau has been a stepping-stone for his further career. Almost four years ago, the former branch manager from Frankfurt/Main came here to take over the credit business of "Deutsche Bank" in Poland. From here, the 36 year old decides about loans for Polish and foreign entrepreneurs. Because increasingly, investors feel drawn to Krakau.

O-Tone Jens Otte

Of course, compared to Germany, a lot is happening here. When you are gone for a few weeks and come back, you see how fast and profoundly things are changing in this city.

In the bank, English is the working language.

Especially the very well educated graduates of the many universities in Krakau are in demand as employees. Not only have the high wages motivated the young Poles to work for a foreign company.

O Tone Pawel Burkiewicz (Polish)

Head of the department / Product Management

When you work in a globally operating company such as the "Deutsche Bank", the opportunities for advancement, in comparison to Polish banks, are much better. And there is, by all means, the possibility to move up the ladder maybe even in another country, provided that you are good.

Krakau, being declared by the Unesco to be part of the world cultural heritage, is one of the most interesting cities in Europe. Now, also Jens Otte knows that, who originally preferred to go to London or Paris. At first, it had been only the lucrative job which determined his decision. The man from Röpersdorf in Brandenburg didn't know much about the city in the south-east of Poland which attracts yearly about a million tourists.

OFF: Jens Otte

Before, I didn't think that a Polish city with a structure like this is possible at all.

O Tone Jens Otte

The city is influenced mainly by students, which makes the town lively, starting with the bars, restaurants, and festivals that take place in the historical center.

OFF: Jens Otte

You have to look around in the city for a while in order to realize what it offers. The more so if you are interested in the arts like I am. As a tourist, you wouldn't go to these areas, but because I know a native who takes me by the hand and leads me to areas which may be a bit darker, I always discover something new like this beautiful gallery in the courtyard,.

Krakau has a lot to offer, especially for art lovers. This city has always been seen as Poland's cultural capital, attracting artists and people dealing with art such as Marian Gologorski (pronounce: Gouogurski), the owner of a gallery.

O Tone Marian Gologorski (Polish)

Gallery owner

Krakau is truly the cradle of Polish culture. It is the oldest and most beautiful Polish city. Here, so many historical periods meet like nowhere else in Poland. Here, the Renaissance meets the Middle Ages. But the modern spirit is here as well.

Increasingly, noble boutiques, expensive shopping malls, and exclusive restaurants mark the streets of the city. Krakauers who are "better off" spend their time here. Most of them, like Jens Otte, live in newer apartments outside the historical center. After almost four years in Krakau, he has settled in very well.

O Tone Jens Otte

I had to change some habits I had in Germany because you don't have a circle of friends. On your own, you don't go anywhere – that only comes with time. It is just a question of time until you feel at home.

The famous jazz clubs are a popular meeting place in Krakau. In the meantime, Jens Otte also has found a new circle of friends. Although he still hardly speaks Polish.