



# *Vienna 2016*

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***EXCURSION PARTICIPANTS***

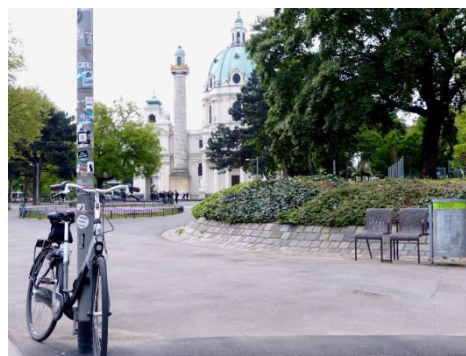
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***VISITS***

- 26. April – German chamber of commerce & United Nations  
27. April – Organisation for Security and Co-operation  
28. April – Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries***

In April 2016, Prof. Dr. iur. Danker and 13 students from the degree courses Baltic Management Studies, BWL and Leisure and Tourism Management of the University of Applied Sciences Stralsund went on a promising excursion to the Austrian capital Vienna. The trip was prepared by weekly meetings, called “Company Roundtable” during which we prepared our trip and informed ourselves for appointments with different institutions and their representatives. The overall excursion was set to be 5 days and offered a great combination of interesting business activities and enough time to explore the beauty of Vienna.



Our arrival was planned for the 25<sup>th</sup> of April; Some travelled there by plane, train and one participant even took it upon himself to sit 22 hours on a bus. We all arrived safely and met at a traditional restaurant called Bermüda Bräu, where we enjoyed the local cuisine and had a few drinks in the evening.

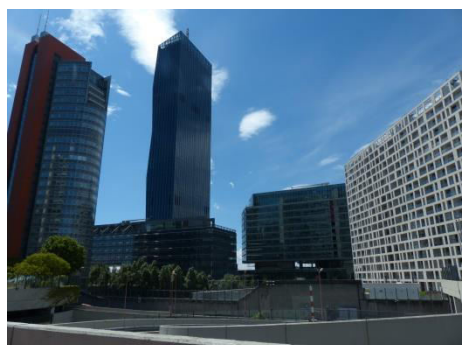
## **VISIT OF THE GERMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN AUSTRIA**

The next morning we met in front of the German chamber of commerce in Austria, where we had our first appointment. Thomas Gindele, chief executive, gave us a great insight in the functioning of chambers of foreign trade. We were welcomed to learn about their history, difficulties concerning commercial treaties and their main tasks, including among other things the consultation of companies, which would like to export their products in foreign markets and the disclosure of trade barriers. The whole group was really interested in those topics and used the opportunity to ask emerging questions, through which Gindele was able to give more specific information about their work.

## **VISIT OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

### *GUIDED TOUR THROUGH THE ORGANISATION*

First of all, what we should mention, is that our expectations on how this enormous class building would look inside were not fulfilled. The building was not as modern as one would assume nor it was impressive. It was rather simple and even dull looking, unlike the organizations’ tasks and doings.



So, our tour started at the Plaza - located in the centre of all the UN buildings. Plaza holds all the 193 member states’ flags in an alphabetical order. In addition to that

there are two extra flags, which represent the two observer countries (Palestine and Vatican City) that can take part of the conferences but are not allowed to vote, different from other member countries, and naturally the UN flag, which can be recognised by branches on it representing the peace.

United Nations was founded after the Second World War on October 24 in 1945 by the so called Atlantic four - United States, United Kingdom, France and nowadays Russia, in order to avoid another conflict as such. As the founders of the organisation, these four countries also have a veto power in front of others. UN has four locations - New York (the headquarter), Geneva, Nairobi and Vienna. Vienna itself deploys around 5000 people in its 16 different departments, which include for example *International Atomic Energy Agency, International Narcotic Control Board and United Nations Environment Programme*. Our



tour lead on to the conference building, which is only 5-7 years old and has 40 conference rooms. United Nations can be considered as a very democratic organization, being that even the seating in the conference rooms is set after alphabetical order and in rotation, i.e. members change seats, so that everyone is being treated equally. Conferences can be held in one of the six languages - Arabic, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, English or French. For our big surprise, we found out that German is not included there. UN's official languages in all of their offices are English and French, which means that even though you would work in the UN in Vienna, you would not need German knowledge.

Another interesting fact we learned, was that the United Nations has some extra laws within the building and the organization itself can be seen as “all countries in one”, meaning that they also have their own holiday's calendar, which includes the most important public holidays from different cultures.



We also had a chance to see a tent that is used in refugee camps for example in Jordan, offered by the UNHCR. In addition to that, we were shown a video about the refugee situation that we are facing today which included a heartwarming message from the UN's Secretary-General - Ban Ki-moon, reminding us to take care of, respect and appreciate people and places around us. With that the tour

was finished and it was time for our first meeting about the UNIDO and all the good ways the help developing countries.

## UNIDO

The presentation was held by Mr. Ravindra Wickremasinghe. First thing to know about this organisation is that they are one UN's department and they emphasise promoting sustainable industrial development and wealth creation through education. UNIDO includes a majority of the UN's member states - 172 in total, and has two so called branches - Industrial Development and Programme & Budget Committee.



The whole meeting that we took part of could be divided into two parts, where the first part concentrated on UNIDO's short- and long-term goals, which for example include:

- empowering the poor through job creation and education, as mentioned earlier
- educating the developing countries in how to bring products into the market
- improving quality and standardisation in developing countries in order for them to enter the global food value chains ("farm to fork")
- ensuring the safety and suitability of the exported products
- preventing and managing production of industrial waste

The second part introduced us UNIDO's eight Millennium Development Goals. The four already in process or completed missions are:

- (1) eradicating extreme poverty and hunger
- (2) promoting gender equality & empowerment of women
- (3) ensuring environmental sustainability
- (4) promoting a global partnership for development

For those who would like to get more acquainted with UNIDO's Millennium Development Goals, can read all about it on: [www.unido.org/fileadmin/user\\_media/MDGs/mdgbrochure2.pdf](http://www.unido.org/fileadmin/user_media/MDGs/mdgbrochure2.pdf)

## IAEA

We had a great pleasure to meet International Atomic Energy Agency's press and public information officer Ms. Luciana Viegas Assumpcao, who walked us through the background and goals of this UN department, which for most of the people is known as "Atoms for Peace" organisation.

IAEA is with its 168 member states, the world's centre for nuclear cooperation. It has offices in the U.S. and Switzerland, but its headquarter is located in Austria, Vienna. As we understood, the main idea for this organisation is to find ways to use nuclear power in a good way.

This meeting was no doubt the most interesting, as well as the most complicated one. For example, we found out how IAEA is working against malaria and Tsetse flies. So, put in a simple way, their plan is to sterilise those disease spreading male mosquitos and flies, to slow down the reproduction of those species.

Another project that the organisation is working on, is to fasten the plants' mutation process using radiation. The idea behind it is to make plants more resistant to illnesses.

If you are interested to find out more about the topic, we would recommend to everyone who finds this issue compelling, to read more about IAEA's work on their homepage - [www.iaea.org](http://www.iaea.org).



## VISIT OF THE OSCE

### GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONFERENCE

The next morning started with a lot of rain but we all found our way to the Hofburg Palace for our next appointment with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the OSCE, where we were all enraptured by the stunning building. Together with a group of students from Russia were welcomed by Florence Le Clézio, Senior Media Assistant, who would show us the way into a conference room where we would get a great overview. The OSCE, we were

informed, is the largest regional security arrangement in the world with 57 participating states and 11 cooperating partner states. Because of the high amount of member states, it is difficult to negotiate and make decisions. The Cold War and the issues between the Eastern and Western states lead to the establishment of the OSCE with the Helsinki Final Act in 1975, which were signed by



all member states and named the 10 principles of the organisation. Today the OSCE is a unique forum for political dialogues between the states, which also monitors the violation of their principles and executes field missions for democratic support in conflict areas, such as the negotiations in the Civil War in South-Eastern Europe in the 1990's. They also cooperate with national defence ministries for an exchange of ideas, security issues and to reduce the amount of arms. We were also informed, that the principle of "freedom of media" often has been violated by member states, but as the OSCE stands for the dialogue between nations and not for exclusion, they cannot throw countries out or force them to follow rules, but remind them of the contract. The OSCE consists of 3 dimensions: the politico-military security dimension, which concerns about conflict prevention, crisis management, arms control and demining, the economic-environmental security dimension, which fights corruption, shares natural resources and reduces waste, and the human dimension, which cares about freedoms, democracy and gender equality. Unfortunately, Mrs. Le Clézio pointed out, the violation of these principles have increased in the last years.



Afterwards we had the great opportunity to observe a part of the meeting of the Forum for Security Cooperation, which started with a security dialogue: Security Issues in the Baltic States. These type of dialogues offer the opportunity for every member to raise security concerns at any time and provide solutions for specific concerns.

## *HUMAN TRAFFICKING*

Then we had time to process all the information during a coffee break, which also made it possible to talk more to Florence Le Clézio, which was followed by another interesting presentation concerning Human Trafficking. Alfred Kueppers, Public Information Officer, started off with defining where smuggling ends and trafficking starts. They have a small but highly effective department of 12 people who are mainly lawyers or police officers. There are 20.9million estimated victims, 5.5million of them child victims but it is very difficult to catch the

wirepuller and achieve convictions, for example between 2010 and 2012 there were only 13.320 trafficking convictions. The OSCE aims to eliminate human trafficking in all forms by visiting countries raising awareness for the problem, assisting countries to implement the anti-trafficking commitments in many ways like workshops for judges and prosecutors but also combating human trafficking in crisis situations for example along the migrant routes. Currently they are preparing specific workshops in which they will teach police how to identify trafficking victims and help them, which is really important because those victims are helpless and might even be too afraid to speak about it. Since they have to work with a rather small budget they raise money from participating states to enable the realisation of such projects.

Right after that we were able to explore Vienna with its architectural gems, its elegant palaces and magnificent churches, for which 2 students prepared a walking tour around the city which covered some of the most interesting sights. Starting at the Hofburg we made our way to Parliament passing Volksgarten and eventually City hall. Afterwards we went to see the Austrian National theatre Burgtheater and the impressive St. Stephen's Cathedral, followed by Kärtner Straße (the most famous shopping street in central Vienna) and finished the tour at the Vienna opera.



### **VISIT OF THE OPEC**

The next day we had our last appointment, which was at the OPEC, where we and other student



groups from Germany and Austria were friendly welcomed by Mr. Mahid Al-Saigh, who introduced the organisation to us. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries consists of 13 member states and headquarters in Vienna. The OPEC is a permanent intergovernmental organisation with the main aim of closer communication and sharing knowledge about petroleum export between its member states. They provide a dialogue about policies and interests, try to stabilize the oil market by eliminating fluctuations and secure benefits for all stakeholders, i.e. a steady income for producers, efficient and regular supply for consumers and fair returns to investors. In addition they arrange meetings and cooperations with other states and organisations, such as Russia, China, the EU, the IEF



and the IEA. Since the European Union is the biggest consumer market, the OPEC's office is in Vienna. Then Mahid Al-Saigh informed us about the organizational structure consisting of ministers of member states, a board of governors and the secretariat, which is responsible for research, the analysis of market developments, environmental matters and the image of the organisation. In addition he pointed out the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) as aid and financial support for developing countries and promotion of South-South partnership between the OPEC states and other countries.



Afterwards he was pleased to answer our questions regarding political issues, oil reserves, communication between states, the amount of production and participation of the member states. Thereafter he led us in the conference room of the OPEC, where we were allowed to take a member state's seat and take pictures.

Most of us stayed another day in Vienna and used the free time to explore the city's beauty.

In the end we would like to thank everybody involved in the organisation of our excursion, the interesting speeches we heard by all representatives and the welcoming atmosphere in all organizations. We would particularly like to thank our professor, Prof. Dr. iur. Claudia Danker, for the opportunity to participate in the excursion, for the fast organisation of all the interesting meetings and speeches, although the original destination had been denied one month before the excursion started, and for the freedom of choice and flexibility regarding our travelling and accommodation options. Thank you very much for your efforts and time you spend organising our excursion!

