

Editorial

Dear Readers

The still young year 2010 did not only bring us golden medals during the Olympic Winter Games in Vancouver or golden Oscars in the frame of the 82nd Academy Awards Ceremony. Maybe not so widely known, but nevertheless at least as exciting, 2010 will also be the year in which the Balkan Case Challenge (BCC) will take place already for the 10th time. The BCC fosters the idea of a common Europe that is not defined by the borders of nations but rather constitutes itself through a sense of community. Students from the whole Balkan region (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Rumania, Serbia and Slovenia) as well as Austria and even Oman will compete in 12 sub competitions and international finals in the field of ICTs (Information and Communication Technologies), law, business and politics.

The deadline for applications for the BCC in each partner country ended on March, 1st. To this date the event counts a stunning total number of 822 applications, the highest number since its existence. The sub competitions will take place during the end of March and last until the mid of May. They mark the first selection process of those applicants from all participating countries. The best amongst them will then have the opportunity to compare their strengths in their particular field of study at the final competition in Vienna from the 5th to the 10th of July 2010. But to win this amicable "battle" is not only a matter of honour. First of all the students can prove their key qualifications and their high potential. Secondly, several high class awards will foster the motivation of the participants: Beside internships in renowned enterprises also attendances of various summer schools as well as of the Forum Alpbach in Tyrol will serve as good incentives. But even for the ones who won't win one of those prizes, the BCC closing event will be a more than satisfying reward, since the Montenegrin singer-songwriter Rambo Amadeus will perform during this occasion. All non-participants are very heartily invited to join the opening ceremony of the Balkan Case Challenge 2010 - organized in cooperation with ERSTE Foundation - starting at 7.30 p.m. on the 6th July in the rooms of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. The key note speech will be held by Boris Buden, a Croatian-born philosopher, journalist and author living in Austria.

The BCC Team as well as WUS Austria once more want to take the opportunity to thank the sponsors of the BCC, notably the Austrian Development

Cooperation, Erste Foundation and Erste Group, Vienna Insurance Group, Wolf Theiss, Ande-LM, Energy Community Secretariat and DiePresse. For more information about the BCC please visit: www.bcchallenge.org.

Kind regards,
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Thematic Article

Sharing experiences

WUS Austria's project **"Experiencing Europe: Serbian Young Professionals in Austria - Zoran Đinđić Internship Programme"** - financed by Austrian Development Cooperation and the Zoran Đinđić Fond - aims at supporting the socio-economic development of Serbia by increasing the employability of its youth. Besides allowing highly talented young students to receive an internship in Austria, the project also helps to foster the European integration process. One of the "high potential candidates" from Serbia, Mrs. Tamara Brajovic, shares with us the experiences she made during her stay in Austria.

Q: Mrs. Brajovic, could you please describe how you first heard about the "Experiencing Europe" initiative and how you successfully applied for it?

TB: I have been involved in other project supported by the Zoran Đinđić Fond, so I received a recommendation to apply for the internship programme. I have to admit, this was one of the most relaxed selection processes that I had undertaken so far, because during that time I working on my master thesis - and for architects like me this means loads of coffee, nearly no sleep and a lot of stress! So when I was invited for the second round - having this job interview was like having a break from all that stress. To me, it nearly felt like a day off or like a holiday.

Q: What good or maybe bad experiences did you make? Amongst these, what was the most rememberable and why?

TB: Taking part in the Experiencing Europe project gave me a deeper insight in the complexity of the European Community. During my time here in Austria I have had both: good and bad experiences. That's normal, everywhere in the world we have to face different problems, that's not a unique thing to Austria. You can find things like prejudice, gentrification and chauvinisms here in Serbia as well. On the positive side I have to say though that you're getting used very easily to really good things, like the transportation system, safety, regular payments and so on. Right now, I'm enjoying the alternative scene here in Vienna, too.

Q: What personal and also vocational gain did you get from participating in Experiencing Europe?

TB: In my case, Experiencing Europe has changed both- my personal as well as my professional life. I got the opportunity to keep on working in the same company, even after the end of the one month internship. By the end of the programme I had a new visa and a signed contract. This was really a boost for my professional self-esteem. But it also changed my personal life - I moved from the centre of Belgrade to Vienna and became one among the many ex-Yugoslavian inhabitants along the "Gürtel". Right now, my apartment has become some sort of small hostel for all my friends who come to visit me from Serbia.

Q: What would you recommend people who are interested to take part in Experiencing Europe?

TB: I will recommend Experiencing Europe as the best possible way for young Serbians to gain experience in living and working in an EU member state. This program is putting you in a real life situation: you are suddenly working and living in Austria. This is nothing like having another travel, one more excursion or attending a seminar abroad. This program really puts your professional and personal skills to a test. It is also a unique opportunity to share your life with other young people from Serbia, who are equally good in their field of expertise. It is also helping you to become part of a professional network in Serbia and Austria.

Q: Mrs. Brajovic, thank you very much for this interview.

Recent News & Events

25.03.2010

Creating R&D Capacities - Conference held in Oxford



Oxford. The famous English University of Oxford was the hosting institution for a project meeting that took place in the frame of the Tempus IV project "Creating R&D Capacities" from the 22nd to the 23rd March 2010.

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10.03.2010

Quality Assurance in Montenegro - One-day seminar on teaching skills



Podgorica. One-day training seminar on Teaching Skills named "Designing and Structuring Courses and Communication Skills" was held on 10th of March 2010 at the premises of the Rectorate of the University of Montenegro.

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10.03.2010

Crystal Award 2009 goes to "Experiencing Europe"



Belgrade. WUS Austria proudly announces that the "Crystal Award" for best youth project in Serbia in 2009 was given to the Zoran Djindjic Fund for "Experiencing Europe - Serbian Young Serbian Professionals in Austria - Zoran Đinđić Internship Program", a project that is designed and implemented under the auspices of the Dr. Zoran Đinđić Fund, prepared and implemented by WUS Austria, and financed by the ADC (Austrian Development Cooperation). [read more](#)

03.02.2010

Conference "From Quality Assurance to Strategy Development" successfully held in Sarajevo



Sarajevo. WUS Austria organized a Conference "From Quality Assurance to Strategy Development" on 28th and 29th January 2010 at UNITIC Business Center. [read more](#)

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