

I am proud to be part of WUS Austria, part of the WUS family. In 1992 WUS Austria was the first organization to realize that Bosnia and Herzegovina was facing the most difficult period in its history and that there was a need for immediate reaction and support.

Dino Mujkic, WUS Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Regional Manager

Working for WUS Austria is not only about designing and implementing projects, it is also about having a vision, working on its realization and finally succeeding. Therefore, not only the organization improves its quality of work, but also each and every individual advances in their personal development.

Jasmin Moser, WUS Austria, Project Manager

WUS Austria enjoyed the trust of its partners because they felt the sincere commitment of the organization and its staff to supporting higher education in very difficult times, when other sectors received much more attention and many other agencies hesitated to take action.

**Borna Krempler, former Program Advisor to the Sarajevo Office (1997/98)
and Head of Prishtina Office (1998-2000), is now Program Coordinator at ICMPD**

A key to WUS Austria's success is our ability to transform trends and developments in higher education, e.g. in the European Higher Education Area, into viable projects on the ground.

Veronika Nitsche, WUS Austria, Member of the Executive Board

Higher Education Development

Higher Education & Human Rights

Linking Higher Education & Economy

Higher Education & Human Rights

Higher Education Development & Culture

Linking Higher Education & Economy

Linking Higher Education & Economy

Linking Higher Education & Economy

Arts & Culture

Higher Education & Human Rights

Higher Education Development

Linking Higher Education & Economy
& Human Rights

Education & Economy
& Human Rights

Higher Education & Economy

Higher Education Development

Education & Human Rights

Arts & Culture

Education & Economy

Education & Economy

WORLD UNIVERSITY SERVICE WUS AUSTRIA REVIEW 2009-2010

w u s a u s t r i a

right to education

Linking Higher Education & Economy

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Arts & Culture

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right to education

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Graz, September 2010

Higher Education Development

Linking Higher Education & Economy

Higher Education & Human Rights

Higher Education Development & Culture
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Linking Higher Education & Economy Higher Education & Human Rights

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The Austrian Committee of World University Service (WUS) Austria celebrated in 2008 its 25th anniversary with a Symposium on Higher Education in South-Eastern Europe in the Aula Magnifica of the University of Graz. In the "Festschrift", published on this occasion, many former staff members and partners highlighted the relevance of WUS Austria for Higher Education in South-Eastern Europe after the disastrous wars in the Balkans, which also affected the institutions in the region. Since WUS Austria arrived in the region in 1994 it has continuously worked on the promotion of the human right to education. With the help of its offices in the region which are implementing this stream of programs, constantly developed and adjusted to the needs of the universities, WUS Austria and its highly devoted and competent staff has gained a position of confidence both from university management and its staff as well as from the students. Many of them have benefited from brain gain and mobility programs, course development programs, Tempus programs and many more, elaborated together with the partners for whose benefit they have been designed. In this context we would like to thank the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the European Union that have been the main donors of the WUS programs.

World University Service considers the improvement of Higher Education as its mission. In Europe this means an active but not uncritical participation in efforts to build a European Higher Education Space with similar standards known as the Bologna system. It encourages innovative projects and supports new master programs, always emphasizing the linkages between higher education and human rights. It provides opportunities for young talents from South-Eastern Europe to prove themselves in the Balkan Case Challenge, one of the flagship programs of WUS, and to meet with companies eager to recruit new potentials. Due to its commitment and its experience, WUS Austria is often called upon to advise and assist the development of university structures, curricula, mobility programs, and capacities of Higher Education institutions in the field of teaching and research in general, and to help introducing quality assurance schemes. In doing so, the organization can rely on the good will of many professors in various EU countries. These academics are eager to share their experience and time with colleagues in South-Eastern Europe in order to develop new linkages, to strengthen existing co-operations, and thus assisting partners to move into the European Higher Education Space. WUS Austria would like to take this opportunity to thank all partners cordially for their availability and engagement. In the future, WUS Austria will remain committed to assist Higher Education institutions in South-Eastern Europe in developing their potential based on an even closer cooperation with universities in the European Union and beyond.

Wolfgang Benedek
Chairman, WUS Austria



During the last two decades WUS Austria has initiated, developed and implemented a large number of projects; many of them have become true success stories. During this time we have had the opportunity to learn from our experienced partners and have integrated their vast knowledge to successfully enhance our own development. Thus, during the past ten years we have further expanded our areas of expertise in the fields of Internationalization of Universities, Quality Assurance, Curriculum Development, University Management, Technology Transfer or Research&Development. Furthermore, we have re-introduced and strengthened old components such as Migration and Human Rights.

The UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) 2005-2014 states that 'Universities must function as places of research and learning for sustainable development'. On the one hand we contribute to this by supporting universities in their role as vehicles for innovation and economic development. On the other hand we continue to assist universities in meeting their responsibility to transform lives and serve society and the broader academic and local community by providing a platform for education and research and for the socio-political education of society. WUS Austria's initiatives, projects and networks reflect the role which higher education providers play in the development of both society and economy. We will carry on our engagement in South-Eastern Europe also in the future, ensuring the sustainability of running projects and creating new ideas. Thus, we will continue providing our profound expertise and the wide scope of our successful methodologies to those countries which find themselves in a transition period. However, permanent change is an inevitable part of the progress we make. This means the continuous adaptation of corporate strategies and structures to changing external circumstances. For us change is not the exception but part of our daily work and every successful transformation also means the start of a new process. I sincerely thank those who have supported WUS Austria during the last couple of years either as staff members, project partners or donors and who have proven to be reliable partners in times of profound transition and change. Together we will further support knowledge-based societies and look forward to striking new paths in order to face new challenges in new thematic and geographic areas.

Adi Kovacevic
Executive Director, WUS Austria



about wus austria

Who we are...

World University Service (WUS) Austria is a politically independent, non-governmental organization committed to the promotion of the human right to education on the basis of academic freedom and university autonomy. Since its establishment in Graz in 1983, WUS Austria has been working on the promotion of this aim in various countries all over the world. Today the organization has a strong regional focus on the countries of South-Eastern Europe. While this area remains at the center of WUS Austria's work, the organization is also transferring its knowledge and experiences to projects in other regions of the world.

What we believe in...

Our vision is to be a competent partner for the development of higher education, which we believe is a key factor in the socio-economic and political advancement of every society. Therefore we aim at increasing the quality of higher education in accordance with European and international standards. Our mission is to establish solid and sustainable structures for a strong role of universities in society.

How we work...

We ensure a high level of sustainability by applying both a top-down as well as a bottom-up approach from the policy level to the individual level. We cooperate with many different partners such as higher education institutions, companies and individual experts on a national, regional, European and international level. The main principles guiding all our activities are:

- Ensuring sustainability and local ownership
- Ensuring a high level of cooperation and partnership
- Fostering sustainable development through capacity and institution building
- Promoting academic solidarity, human rights as well as peace and stability

The services we provide...

Sustainable development of higher education goes beyond the university level. Responding to this, we at WUS Austria work together with the public sector and the economy, as well as with civil society. Our activities mainly lie in: Higher Education Development, Linking Higher Education & Economy, Arts & Culture and Higher Education & Human Rights. Within these areas we provide essential services including:

- Development of new and innovative project ideas
- Professional management of projects
- Fostering knowledge and technology transfer
- Networking activities, and
- A broad range of consulting services

target areas and countries

World University Service (WUS) Austria increases quality in Higher Education in accordance with international standards through its activities and the provision of project development, project management, networking and consulting services. The work of WUS Austria comprises of four areas:

Higher Education Development

Within this area WUS Austria supports universities in their reform processes, particularly with regard to the principles of the European Higher Education Area.

- Curriculum Development
- Quality Assurance
- New Teaching Methods & Technologies
- Higher Education Management
- Academic Mobility & Cooperation

Linking Higher Education & Economy

Taking into account that Higher Education plays a significant role in (regional) economy, this area contains projects that enhance the positive impact universities may have on the development of a region.

- Research & Development
- Development of Applied Curricula
- Human Resource Development

Arts & Culture

Programs in the area of Arts and Culture support the international cooperation and knowledge transfer in projects connected to the arts and in cultural projects in South-Eastern Europe. Establishing links to Higher Education is also one of the goals of the programs in this field.

Higher Education & Human Rights

Ever since the foundation of WUS Austria, the incorporation of human rights into Higher Education has been one of its key activities. From the development of Human Rights Curricula and the implementation of Human Rights Trainings to the establishment of Human Rights Centers at universities in Former Yugoslav Republics and the setting up of a number of networking activities between them, WUS Austria has become an advocate of Human Rights Education as a pillar of an academic environment based on mutual cooperation and academic freedom.



facts and figures

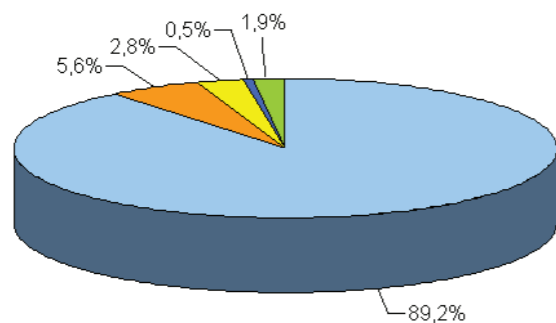
OVER 25
ON-GOING
PROJECTS

MORE THAN
100 FINALIZED
PROJECTS

ACTIVITIES
IN 22
COUNTRIES

OVER 35
STAFF
MEMBERS

WUS AUSTRIA SOURCES OF
ANNUAL PROJECT BUDGET (2009)



■ Austrian Development Agency
■ European Commission
■ ERSTE Foundation
■ Austrian public bodies (Ministry of Science and Research, Styrian Government, City of Graz)
■ Other Donors/Subventions/Sponsors

HEAD
OFFICE
IN GRAZ

AN ANNUAL
PROJECT BUDGET
OF AROUND
€ 3 MILLION (2009)

4 REGIONAL
OFFICES IN
BELGRADE,
PODGORICA,
PRISHTINA
AND SARAJEVO

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR **374** STUDENTS,
385 POSTGRADUATES AND POST DOCS

38 PROGRAMS BASED
ON NEW TEACHING METHODOLOGIES

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT:

320 COURSES,
26 STUDY PROGRAMS (MASTER PROGRAMS)

ACADEMIC MOBILITY FOR **1,340** ACADEMICS

DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHING AND RESEARCH

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR **280** FACULTIES

7 NATIONAL STRATEGIES
IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

STRUCTURAL MEASURES AT
22 CENTERS AND UNITS AT
HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

64 CONFERENCES AND TRAININGS

7,160 INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATIONS
FOR STUDENTS AND UNIVERSITY STAFF

72 UNIVERSITY AND FACULTY
COOPERATION PROJECTS

WUS Austria's projects relate to the following areas: Higher Education Development, Linking Higher Education & Economy, Arts & Culture and Higher Education & Human Rights. Below you find a selection of projects from the years 2009 and 2010. For more detailed information on our projects see <http://www.wus-austria.org/allprojects/38/15.html>.

BGP^{plus}

Support to Reforms of Higher Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo and Serbia

The "Support to Reforms of Higher Education" programs, financed by the Austrian Development Agency from resources of the Austrian Development Cooperation, aim at reforming the Higher Education Systems in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Kosovo and Serbia through various measures such as guest lectures (Brain Gain Program +), course and curriculum development (MSDP, LMOCP, CDP+), eLearning/Life Long Learning (LLL) projects, Quality Assurance, infrastructure development projects, academic information and counselling services, academic cooperation and university reform.

The focus is on supporting the development of the respective country's Higher Education system towards the goals of the Bologna Process, the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), the Lisbon Convention and other European standards in order to facilitate its integration into the European Higher Education Area. Quality Assurance (QA) is a core element of the new or modified study programs and the adapted strategy and policy papers in order to provide their full compliance with European quality assurance and study program accreditation standards.

More information on these programs can be found at: <http://www.wus-austria.org/project/0/74.html>, <http://www.braingainprogram.org>.

Creating R&D Capacities and Instruments for Boosting Higher Education - Economy Cooperations (EU/Tempus)

The main goal of the project is to establish R&D Services Centers and to develop R&D strategies, services and instruments at four SEE universities. The first activity comprises an analytical assessment of the current situation and the development state of R&D strategies at the universities. Building on the assessment results, a clear strategy that addresses the particular needs of each university are to be formulated. This is followed by the setting up of R&D Service Centers and by identifying its services and instruments. The elaborated measures aim at addressing all university relevant needs and problems in regard to R&D by commencing a change process on one side and creating further R&D capacities on the other side, in order to enable the universities to fulfil their central role in the national R&D systems and thus in the local, regional and national development of their countries. Link to project website: <http://www.rd-capacities.org/>

Partners: University of Montenegro; University of Prishtina; University of Sarajevo; University of Skopje; University of Leoben (contractor); University of Oxford; CIRPS – Sapienza University of Rome; Austin, Pock + Partners; K-CIRT – Kosovo Centre for International Higher Education, Research and Technology Cooperation

Kosovo Interdisciplinary Knowledge Triangle Centre (EU/Tempus)

The core of the project is the Interdisciplinary Knowledge Triangle Center which serves as modern laboratory and as a platform for research and networking in the academic world. The overall objective of the project is to improve the conditions for the development of professional research capacities and PhD study programs for the medical and natural sciences at the University of Prishtina.

Partners: University of Prishtina (contractor); Medical University of Vienna; Austin, Pock +Partners; Edinburgh Napier University; Ghent University; Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Kosovo; K-CIRT – Kosovo Centre for International Higher Education, Research and Technology Cooperation

Fostering and Developing the Quality Culture at the University of Prishtina (EU/Tempus)

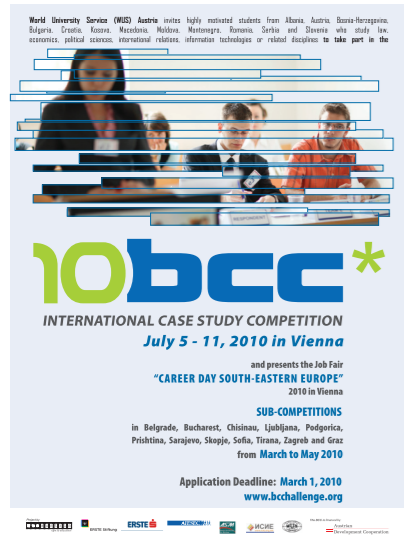
This project addresses the importance of 'Quality Culture' as a prerequisite for a functioning and lasting quality assurance system within the University of Prishtina. The main objective of the project is to further develop quality culture at all service levels such as teaching, research, administration and student support services. The project inter alia includes awareness raising events targeting at students, staff and stakeholders, self-assessment activities and trainings for staff of the university.

Partners: University of Prishtina (contractor); University College Cork; University of Salzburg; University of Wuppertal; Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Kosovo

Supporting and Developing the Structures for Quality Assurance at the Private Higher Education Institutions in Kosovo (EU/Tempus)

The project aims at introducing and implementing standards of QA at eleven private universities in Kosovo. This includes self-assessment activities, awareness raising events, trainings for staff and students, producing a manual on QA, establishing of QA units/centers at the universities and the introduction of regular events on QA (such as yearly meetings on development and trends in QA). The various components of the project contribute to the standardization of Higher Education in Kosovo, ensuring quality in education at the universities in Kosovo in the long-term.





Partners: University of Salzburg (contractor); University College Cork; University Politehnica Bucharest; AAB-Riinvest College; Biznesi Institute; Dardania College; EVOLUCIONI – Professional High School; FAMA College; ILIRIA College; Pjeter Budi Institute; TEMPULLI Professional High School; UBT College; UNIVERSUM Institute

Balkan Case Challenge

The Balkan Case Challenge (BCC) is an annual international case study competition and recruitment event focusing on South-Eastern Europe. It aims at opening up opportunities and new perspectives for excellent students from this region by strengthening links between Higher Education and employment and by providing concrete job opportunities. Additionally, the Balkan Case Challenge increases awareness about the potentials of South-Eastern Europe and about the region being an integrative part of a joint Europe. The competition has adapted the case study method developed at Harvard University and aims at promoting outstanding students. Highly motivated students are provided with a chance to demonstrate and apply their theoretical skills in practice-oriented simulations, individually as well as in teams, in front of an international jury composed of experts from universities, companies and international institutions. Local sub-competitions in all countries ensure that only the best students qualify for the finals in Vienna where 140 participants are invited every year to show their talent. Students can apply for participating in one of the following disciplines:

- * Business Case Competition for students from economics, business administration and management;
- * ICT Case Competition for students from information technologies;
- * Law Moot Court for law students;
- * Model European Council for students from political sciences, international relations and diplomacy.

The Balkan Case Challenge is a project of WUS Austria, financed by the Austrian Development Agency from resources of the Austrian Development Cooperation and supported by numerous companies and institutions.

Link to project website: <http://www.bcchallenge.org/>

Experiencing Europe: Serbian Young Professionals in Austria – Zoran Djindjic Internship Programme

The project, financed by the Austrian Development Cooperation, aims at supporting the socio-economic development of Serbia by increasing the employability of Serbian youth on the one hand and the understanding of European integration on the other hand. Each year up to 50 excellent last-year students and young graduates from Serbia get the opportunity to gain three months of career relevant vocational experience through internships in Austrian companies and institutions. The interns come from various fields of studies such as business administration, law, political science, electronic/civil/mechanical engineering and architecture, and are placed in Austrian companies and institutions according to their personal interests.

Business and Economics Internship Program-Kosovo

The internship program is designed to provide students with an opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge to the work place and gain practical employment experience. The internship helps students discover their fields of interest while at the same time offering employers a preview of prospective candidates for employment. The project is conducted in close cooperation with the Faculty of Economics of the University of Prishtina (UP), the American University of Kosovo (AUK), Ministries of the Government of Kosovo and private organizations. The program is financed by USAID Kosovo Private Enterprise Program (KPEP) and implemented by WUS Austria. The project additionally aims at giving recommendations for institutionalizing the internship program in all of Kosovo.

Reclaiming Democracy

The main purpose of this project by ERSTE Foundation, implemented by WUS Austria, is the presentation of the book titled „Reclaiming Democracy – Civil Society and Electoral Change in Central and Eastern Europe“ by organizing panel discussions all over Europe, where students and other interested individuals have the opportunity to meet and listen to the editors and authors of the book. The book is a joint project of the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) and ERSTE Foundation; the book presentations were organized by WUS Austria. „Reclaiming Democracy“ was edited by Joerg Forbrig and Pavol Demes (both from the GMF).

PATTERNS_Lectures

PATTERNS is a transnational project designed by the ERSTE Foundation that aims at researching and understanding recent cultural history with a focus on the visual arts and culture in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe from the 1960s until today. PATTERNS_Lectures launches a call to encourage the development of new university courses in the fields of art history, cultural studies and cultural sciences. An international jury selects outstanding courses that will be implemented at the respective universities in the course of the following academic year. Within the scope of this project universities have the opportunity to introduce new courses, to invite external guest lecturers as well as to take part in highly relevant conferences, interesting discussions and the exchange of ideas on how to teach recent cultural history of the region.



Yet another successful spin-off of the Balkan Case Challenge

The Balkan Case Challenge (BCC) – one of the flagship projects of WUS Austria, financed by the Austrian Development Cooperation - is a student competition based on the case study method. As some of you might know, its aim is to promote the case study method as a teaching tool and to open up opportunities and new perspectives for excellent students from South-Eastern Europe by strengthening the links between Higher Education and employment. The first BCC was organized in Sarajevo in 2000, since 2004 BCC sub-competitions are organized before the BCC final competition which is held in Vienna since 2006.

The first two BCC competitions in Serbia were held in 2004 and showed a great impact. Just shortly afterwards, the number of other student's competitions and events based on the case study method increased significantly. Today there are many student events and competitions that are using the case study method in different fields, most of them organized by student organizations, often with the help of former BCC participants. Almost all of them take place at the Universities of Belgrade and Novi Sad, while other public universities in Serbia stayed more or less passive when it comes to student activism. Therefore, it is an even greater pleasure that in the year 2009 for the first time the "Cultural Center DamaD" from Novi Pazar organized its first case study competition for students from the Sandzak region. This is even more special, if you bear in mind that the public university of Novi Pazar only opened in 2006. Since then it has been involved in many different projects that WUS Austria implements in Serbia.

Mr. Samid Sarenkapic, the competition coordinator, is himself a former BCC participant of the year 2006. His intention and idea in organizing this BCC-like competition in Novi Pazar in 2009 was to promote the case study method especially among students from Sandzak. The competition itself had the same disciplines as the original BCC, i.e Business case competition, Law Moot Court and Model European Council. The competition was held in Serbian language and was attended by students from public and private universities of the Sandzak region. It was extremely satisfying for WUS Austria that many members of the organizing committee (competition coordinator, case coordinators and jury members) were former participants from previous BCC competitions in Serbia and Bosnia & Herzegovina. This shows that case study competitions are not only a highly acclaimed training method but also that WUS Austria helps to train leading experts in this field. The whole competition was financed by "Fund for Open Society". The organization of the competition itself was supported by WUS Austria Belgrade Office. During the competition the team of WUS Austria Belgrade Office presented its own programs for participants, and had the honor and pleasure of being present at the awarding ceremony. All in all it can be summarized that the BCC spin-off case challenge competition in the Sandzak region was a first successful step to further foster this method in the Republic of Serbia. WUS Austria Belgrade Office is very proud to be part of this initiative.

Kind regards
Milica Cicovacki
WUS Austria Belgrade Office

Innovative Project Ideas come to live

In 2009 a special project was of high importance for the WUS Austria Podgorica Office. The aim of the so called "Innovative Project Ideas in the Field of Academic Cooperation between Austrian and Montenegrin Higher Education Institutions" project, financed by the Austrian Development Cooperation, is to enable and support academic mobility between Austria and Montenegro, and to contribute to the teaching and curriculum development by applying modern and innovative teaching methodologies and materials. Consequently, this leads to sustainable institutional cooperations between Austrian and Montenegrin Higher Education institutions like the exchange of teaching staff and students. Moreover, the project fosters cultural exchange and experience which can have a significant influence on other areas aside those already covered by the project itself.

The basic idea of the project is to promote innovative ideas in curricula design and teaching methodologies by involving at least one professor/teaching assistant and a small group of students in the exchange process between Austria and Montenegro. The recognition and transferability of credits with the help of ECTS are enforced as well. Following the great interest for the project among Montenegrin teaching staff and students, two calls for applications were open in early 2009 and during the following summer.

The selection of eligible applications after these two calls resulted in 17 exchange visits including 24 teaching staff and 55 students from Austria and Montenegro. This shows the high interest of the academic community in this exchange program from different areas of expertise like arts, science, humanities. Some of the supported projects are the following: "Establishing of Herbarium and Lichen Collection" of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, "Art Exchange: Inspiration is a Gift", of the Academy of Fine Arts, "Systematic and Molecular Genetic Assessment of Aquatic Biodiversity in Montenegro", Faculty of Natural Science, Biology Department, "Contrasts in Theory and Practice in an Intercultural Approach", by the Faculty of Philosophy, Department for German Language and "Jazz Language Application and Communication in the Repertory Ensemble", by the Academy of Music. WUS Austria Podgorica Office is very pleased to take a proactive role in a project that already echoes such positive responses. We hope to have similar positive results in the future.

Kind regards
Ivana Zivaljevic
WUS Austria Podgorica Office

"It is our great pleasure that we established a contact with the Karl-Franzens University of Graz, where great experts from [our research] field are working, so each study visit of their academic staff to Montenegro could be regarded as very important and useful for our project."

Danijela Stesevic – Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Podgorica

„This [the project] is a great opportunity for the students from our faculty to meet new colleagues, exchange ideas and to familiarize themselves with modern, innovative and more advanced models of acquiring and transferring knowledge."

Marko Markovic – Faculty of Fine Arts, Cetinje

"During our visit to Karl-Franzens University of Graz, our students were introduced with new methodologies and researches in one of the best equipped European laboratories and gained new knowledge and experience in their laboratory work."

Dragana Milosevic – Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Podgorica



Leading-edge Master Programs at the University of Prishtina

During 2009 WUS Austria Office Prishtina achieved numerous successes. One of these achievements was the beginning of the implementation of four new Masters Programs at the University of Prishtina. The MSDP (Master Studies Development Program) is financed by the Austrian Development Cooperation.

- **MBA in Health Management**, which is implemented in cooperation between: Faculty of Medicine of the University of Prishtina and Medical University of Vienna.
- **Master in International Law & Master in Civil and Property Law**, which are implemented in cooperation between: Faculty of Law of the University of Prishtina and University of Graz.
- **Master in Mechatronics**, which is implemented in cooperation between: Faculty of Computer and Electrical Engineering & Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of the University of Prishtina and Faculty of Applied Sciences FH Joanneum, Graz.

Although WUS Austria already has great experience in implementing projects, managing these Master Programs was a true challenge for the office in Prishtina. One of the difficulties faced during the implementation process was the accreditation of the programs. In the beginning, when the programs were designed, their accreditation was not planned, because at that time the Accreditation Agency had not yet been established in Kosovo. However, after the establishment of this agency, the essential requirement was the accreditation of all programs. Without carrying out this process beforehand, it would not have been possible to even start with their implementation. The preparation of all the necessary documents for the accreditation process was very difficult. The staff of the Prishtina office put a lot of effort into compiling these documents. After many hours of work the Accreditation Agency decided to accredit the four Masters programs. Moreover, these programs are now the ones with the best documentation among all programs that have ever been submitted to the agency.

After the procedures for accepting new students had been completed, the lectures in the four programs could begin in December 2009. The selection of the participants was done carefully, in order to choose the best among the numerous applicants. The benefits from these programs are huge for the University of Prishtina and for its students, too. The development of these programs created an excellent opportunity to reform curricula in close cooperation with Higher Education institutions in Austria and with stakeholders of local businesses. At the same time it helped to internationalize the curricula offered by the University of Prishtina. On the other hand, the benefits for the students are numerous as well: Those who take part in these programs will gain the necessary knowledge and skills to be more competitive and to respond adequately to the needs and demands of the labour market in Kosovo.

Kind regards
Alfred Marleku
WUS Austria Prishtina Office

How to develop a new Degree Structure in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Bologna declaration was signed in 1999 which instigated the process of reforms of the Higher Education sector in the Bologna declaration signatory countries. At first, this process defined only the first and second cycle of Higher Education studies (Bachelor, Master). Only in 2003, the issue of a third cycle (PhD) in Higher Education was tackled. Consequently, Higher Education institutions were obliged to establish a third cycle of education for their students. However, in Bosnia and Herzegovina unfortunately this is not the case with most of its Higher Education institutions, even today.

In 2008, WUS Austria started the implementation of the “Austrian Support to Higher Education in BiH 2008 – 2011” project funded by the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC). One of the project’s components – “Degree Development Structure (DDS)” – was designed to support the establishment of second and third cycle (labour market relevant) study programs in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Thus, WUS Austria Sarajevo Office was extremely pleased to receive a (quality) application for the development of a third cycle study program, the PhD in “Information and Communication Technology” at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Banja Luka. Currently, the Faculty of Electrical Engineering Banja Luka is in the process of developing and implementing the study program in a twinning partnership with the International Graduate School Dynamic Intelligent Systems at the University of Paderborn, one of seven Graduate Schools which are initiated and supported by the Ministry of Innovation, Science, Research and Technology of the federal state North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany. The foreseen joint efforts will result in an internationalization of the academic education and research in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in further joint degree programs, and improvements and quality assurance of the postgraduate studies. The partnership will also open up new possibilities of cooperation in the field of graduation and research in engineering science which, for example, could be used for the reform and permanent modernization of doctoral studies in the fields of computer sciences, electrical engineering or mathematics.

In the light of such positive experiences, WUS Austria Sarajevo Office will be supporting similar initiatives in the future, in order to bring the Higher Education system of Bosnia and Herzegovina one step closer to European and international standards.

Kind regards
Jadranka Baric
WUS Austria Sarajevo Office



selected news

The News-Section of our website is constantly updated and contains news from all WUS Austria Offices. As it is our aim to provide our partners and interested individuals regularly with information on our activities and upcoming events and to give project updates, we publish a newsletter which is also available for download from our website (to subscribe visit our website at <http://www.wus-austria.org/newsletter>). Below you find a selection of (shortened) news from 2009/2010.

16.07.2010

BCC 10*: A Success All Down The Line

Vienna. This year's finals of the BCC took place last week from 6th-9th July in Vienna. The BCC, financed by the Austrian Development Cooperation, has a long history full of stories of high potentials, anecdotes and successes. In the past 10 years, the project has undergone a lot of changes, especially with regard to the geographic and the thematic focus.

The anniversary year started with a very promising number of applications (more than 800 students submitted their application, 30% more than in the previous years) and of participants in the sub-competitions: More than 400 highly motivated students took part. Therefore, it was decided to also accept more participants for the international finals in Vienna (148 in total).

The Career Day South-Eastern Europe was organized for the fourth time together with Austrian Trade and was co-financed by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Economy and the Austrian Federal Ministry for Family and Youth. In the evening the BCC was officially opened with a ceremony in the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

On July 6, a conference took place in the Diplomatic Academy on the topic "Linking Higher Education and Economy" with stakeholders from SEE universities, student organizations as well as Austrian experts in this field. The following days were dedicated to the competitions. The winners were announced during the Awarding Ceremony on July 9, which was financed by ERSTE Foundation. Finally, the whole group went directly to Studio 44 to enjoy dinner and the concert by RAMBO AMADEUS who brought a special guest: Leroy Emanuel, the guitarist of James Brown. This party was a tremendous success and can therefore be considered as a worthy closing for the BCC10*. WUS Austria would like to thank all participants for their dedication, ambition and excellent work, all partners and sponsors for their support, all jury members, judges and case creators for their contribution and finally all staff members for a year of hard and devoted work.

06.03.2009

10 years of WUS Austria in Podgorica

Podgorica. WUS Austria presented its work from the last ten years in Montenegro, with an overview of projects, partners, stakeholders and the challenges lying ahead. Around one hundred participants attended the event: representatives of the University of Montenegro, various ministries, the business sector, national and international NGOs, representatives of the Delegation of the European Commission to Montenegro and the media. Speeches on the fruitful cooperation between the University of Montenegro and WUS Austria were given by the Montenegrin Minister of Education and Science, Prof. Dr. Sreten Skuletic, Rector of the University of Montenegro, Prof. Dr. Predrag Miranovic, Austrian Ambassador to Montenegro, HE Florian Raunig and WUS Austria Executive Director, Almir Kovacevic.

In addition, the signing of the contract for the "Labour Market Oriented Curriculum Program" (LMOCP) marked a symbolic start of the program under which four new or modified curricula consisting of five courses each (20 in total) will be introduced at four faculties of the University of Montenegro. Selected professors will develop labour market oriented curricula in cooperation with specific corporate partners, national and international companies that operate in Montenegro, and Austrian/EU Higher Education institutions.

21.09.2009

My Country, right or wrong?

Vienna. During her keynote speech "The Balkans – A Future in Present Tense" at the BCC 2009 on 7th July in Vienna, Biljana Srbljanovic made a clear stand for a different concept of society aside the predominant ideologies of patriotism, nationalism and neo-liberalism. The statement of the Serbian author and political activist had a highly controversial impact on the auditorium formed of young students from various countries of South-Eastern Europe. "I would like all of us to agree on patriotism". Already the first sentence of Mrs. Srbljanovic's speech proved to be a guarantee for very controversial reactions. It had to be of high importance for each society to overcome a shallow concept of nationalism that only breeds new conflicts and to find a way to really bring people together, the author stated. This is especially true for the societies in the Balkans that were coined by a violent and brutal recent history. In the course of her speech Mrs. Srbljanovic heavily criticized what she called the "Nationalist Diaspora", i.e. persons who live abroad but nevertheless actively foster nationalism in their home countries. Patriotism, she claimed, needed to be a common attitude of citizens towards their own society, not solely a means of the political or intellectual elite of a country to promote and prolong mutual hatred between neighboring countries. Such a new concept of nationalism and solidarity, Mrs. Srbljanovic said further, was even more necessary nowadays, as nationalism often enough

Rekordjahr zum Jubiläum

VON NIKOLAUS KOLLER

Zu ihrem zehnjährigen Jubiläum verläuft die Balkan Case Challenge (BCC) besonders erfolgreich. „Wir hatten dieses Jahr so viele Bewerber wie noch nie zuvor“, weiß Jasmin Moser, Projektkoordinatorin beim BCC-Organisator WUS Austria, zu berichten. Bewarben sich in den letzten Jahren jeweils etwa 600 Studierenden für den Wettbewerb (siehe Infokasten), so konnte WUS Austria in diesem Jubiläumsjahr mehr als 800 verzeichnen. „Das Interesse an der BCC ist so groß, weil wir uns in der Region einen Namen gemacht und effektiv unsere Kommunikations-

und Wirtschaft in den Ländern zu implementieren“, erinnert sich Kovacevic. Im Laufe der Jahre habe sich die BCC allerdings aufgrund ihrer speziellen Ausrichtung durchgesetzt. „Wir verbinden Studierende und Universitäten mit Wirtschaft und Gesellschaft“, erklärt Kovacevic. „Diese Kombination kann kein anderer Case-Study-Wettbewerb vorweisen.“

„Flagship-Projekt“

Die BCC hatte als „Flagship-Projekt“ eine Pionierrolle in der Region übernommen, ergänzt Moser. Viele der Teilnehmer aus den

neun Jahren haben mittlerweile in ihren Ländern Führungspositionen übernommen. Diese BCC-Alumni haben den Wettbewerb in besonderer Erinnerung behalten und haben sich der Initiative verbunden – deren größter Erfolg auch ihre große Überzeugung ist, dass die BCC ein Modell für die Entwicklung der Region sein kann. Die 100 besten aus den regionalen Vorauswettbewerben werden in der kommenden Woche in Wien über die Bühne gehen. Die Teilnehmenden werden in einer Präsentation

Auf einen Blick: die BCC
Initiiert durch die Österreichische Entwicklungszusammenarbeit

Die Balkan Case Challenge (BCC) findet dieses Jahr zum zehnten Mal statt. Der Wettbewerb wird in elf Ländern des Balkans sowie in Österreich durchgeführt. Studierende qualifizieren sich über regionale Vorauswettbewerbe für das Finale, das vom 5. bis 10. Juli in Wien über die Bühne geht. Die Teilnehmenden werden in einer Präsentation

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entailed neo-liberalism, which made it very difficult for the already weak civic societies of the Balkan countries to prevail. Neo-liberalism, on the other hand, pushed people to only look after themselves. Consequently, others – notably persons from other countries – were very easily turned into scapegoats for one’s own misery, concluded Mrs. Srbljanovic. Therefore she ended her speech with the vivid plea: “We must get together and come to an agreement on what the world should be that we want to live in.” As one can imagine, the reactions to this rather harsh critique of dominant ideologies could not have been more different. Many of the listeners in the audience interpreted Mrs. Srbljanovic’s statements as a critique of values they were raised upon and that they strongly believe in. On the other hand, other persons in the audience welcomed the plea to overcome violent nationalism and to start a new era of relationship, based on mutual respect rather than a tradition of hatred and despise. Put aside which opinion one personally has regarding this matter, Mrs. Srbljanovic made one thing very clear: Nationalism and patriotism are not obsolete concepts and are still growing strong, especially in South-Eastern Europe.

Busek, Benedek und der Balkan

Religion (nicht nur) am Donnerstag. Theologische Fakultät setzt sich mit dem Balkan auseinander.

Kaum irgendwo ist die kulturelle und religiöse Vielfalt so groß wie in jenem Gebiet, das wir meist gemeinsam als den „Balkan“ bezeichnen. Von Albanien über Bosnien, Bulgarien, Rumänien bis zum europäischen Teil der Türkei reicht das geografische Spektrum, fast ebenso bunt ist jenes der Glaubensfragen. Orthodoxe, katholische und protestantische Kirchen sind dort ebenso wie jüdische und muslimische Gemeinden. Jede Grundfrage der Religion hat hier eine eigene Geschichte.



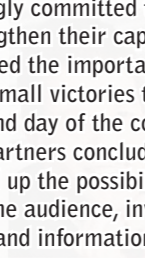
E. Busek



W. Benedek



A. Patru



B. J. Groen

06.10.2009

Creating R&D Capacities – Conference held in Sarajevo

Sarajevo. In the frame of the Tempus IV project “Creating R&D Capacities and Instruments for Boosting Higher Education - Economy Cooperations” a conference with all project partners was held from the 28th to the 29th of September in Sarajevo.

The title of the two-day conference “Adopting research structures to enhance university knowledge transfer” already made clear that the focus of this project is an ambitious one: due to the war in the 1990ies the whole region of South-Eastern Europe has to deal with a massive drawback of research and development (R&D) activities as well as a weak connection of their universities with stakeholders of the private sector in this region. The project now directly addresses these shortcomings by installing R&D Service Centers and hiring R&D Managers at the University of Sarajevo (BA), the University of Prishtina (Kosovo), the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University Skopje (MK) and the University of Montenegro (ME). The first day of the conference was reserved for the project partners to present the findings of the self-assessment of their university’s R&D situation. In the course of the presentations it became more and more visible, that all four partner country universities face a very similar situation. There is often a lack of a coherent legal framework and an overall R&D strategy. Alongside, most of the universities are heavily undercharged in terms of budget allocated to research and development. But all project partners are strongly committed to turn things around together. As the partner country universities join forces, they can strengthen their capacities and establish new networks in the whole region. The individual experts emphasized the importance of such small steps towards creating a new and successful R&D environment. It is the small victories that make it all happen!

The second day of the conference was open for the public and addressed more general issues on R&D. All project partners concluded that the conference was a very important step forward in the overall project. It opened up the possibility to strengthen existing networks and to exchange experiences and share ideas. And for the audience, invited to the Rector Hall of the University of Sarajevo, it was a good opportunity to get firsthand information on important topics on research and development.

30.10.2009

Internet algebra – The WUS homepage in numbers

Graz. In March 2009 the brand new WUS Austria homepage was launched. Since then it has become the number one information platform for our activities. As the end of the year approaches it’s time to take a look at its impact factor.

Thanks to the statistical tool “Google Analytics” it’s easy to track down these numbers. With the help of this instrument we are able to check how many people visited the WUS Austria webpage since March 2009 until now. It was a staggering number of over 14.000, with over 50 % of new visits. The average number of visitors is around 500 people per month. The number of overall hits in the above mentioned time span is a little bit over 26.000, most of them targeted at the subpage “all ongoing projects” (3618 hits) and the page “staff overview” (3547 hits).

Besides that we can also identify the origins of these hits in terms of country and/or region. With over 4.400 the largest number of hits originated from Austria followed by Serbia, Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. All in all it becomes clear that most hits of the WUS webpage come – not very surprisingly – from countries of South-Eastern Europe. That’s it for the numbers. We hope you will enjoy reading news and gathering information from our homepage in the future as you obviously did in the past. Until then we thank you for your interest in our activities and ask you to stay tuned, for more information about WUS Austria are to come.

16.11.2009

Reclaiming Democracy – last two panel discussions held

Graz. For the 9th and 10th time the book “Reclaiming Democracy – Civil Society and Electoral Change in Central Europe” was presented in the frame of a panel discussion in Bucharest and Budapest. These two events marked the end of a very successful guest lecturing series that portraits how people in Central and Eastern European countries fought with energy and courage to reclaim their democracies.

“New democracy does not emerge easily”, says Vaclav Havel in the preface of the book. “It is, indeed, an ongoing process, one that has not been completed even now.” Democracy is more than just a set of rules. It also depends on the day to day commitment of people to fill it with life. Often it is the so called civil society that fosters or initially allows the democratic development of its country. The anthology “Reclaiming Democracy”, financed by ERSTE Foundation, illuminates the role of civil societies inside various countries of Central and Eastern Europe. In order to communicate the insights of the book to a broader audience WUS Austria organized several panel discussions. Those were held at universities in Belgrade, Szeged, Podgorica, Bratislava, Brno, Cluj-Napoca, Kiev and Zagreb and just recently from 14th to 15th October in Bucharest and Budapest.

12.01.2010

MSDP: Beginning of the lectures for Master in Health Management

Prishtina. The Master in Health Management, financed by the Austrian Development Cooperation, developed in close cooperation with the Medical University of Vienna, has started lectures on January 8th, 2010.

An official ceremony was organized to welcome the students in the program.

Participants in the ceremony included inter alia: Prof. Dr. Muje Rugova, Rector of the University of Prishtina, Prof. Dr. Bajram Berisha, Vice-Rector for Teaching and Scientific Research, Prof. Dr. Gani Bajraktari, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Mr. Christian Geosits, Austrian Development Cooperation. The Rector of the University of Prishtina emphasized the importance of developing this Master Program in close cooperation with the Medical University of Vienna. Furthermore, he pointed out that similar cooperation opportunities should be used for developing other study programs demanded by the Kosovar society. The audience was addressed also by Prof. Dr. Bajram Berisha, Prof. Dr. Gani Bajraktari, Mr. Christian Geosits, Prof. Dr. Shemsedin Dreshaj, Program Coordinator and But Dedaj, WUS Austria. The Master in Health Management at the Faculty of Medicine is being developed in twinning partnership with the Medical University of Vienna. The program curriculum is designed similarly to the Medical University of Vienna, but also tailored to the needs of Kosovo and Kosovar students. The Medical University of Vienna gives invaluable support to the program by enabling the Kosovar professors to conduct visits, develop their course etc. Lectures at the University of Prishtina will be also held by Austrian professors. The program will be taught entirely in English by Kosovar professors. This represents the second program within the MSDP that started in a foreign language. 36 students are enrolled in the program and upon study completion they will be awarded with Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Health Management.

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 Djindjic Internship Program”, a project that is designed and implemented under the auspices of the Dr. Zoran Djindjic Fund, prepared and implemented by WUS Austria, and financed by the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC).

The program “Experiencing Europe” aims at supporting the socio-economic development of Serbia by increasing the employability of the Serbian youth on the one hand and the understanding of European integration on the other hand.

43 different projects applied for this award. The decisive factor for selecting “Experiencing Europe” was, according to the chairman of the jury, Danilo Milic, Olof Palme International Centre, Coordinator for Serbia, that the project promotes cooperation and contributions of individuals, civil society organizations, institutions and the business sector, as well as international cooperation.

The “Crystal Award” is provided by Olof Palme International Centre, Stari Grad Municipality, Berlitz Language School, the Agency for Cooperation with NGOs and European Integration, the Belgrade Office for Youth and the Ministry for Youth and Sports.

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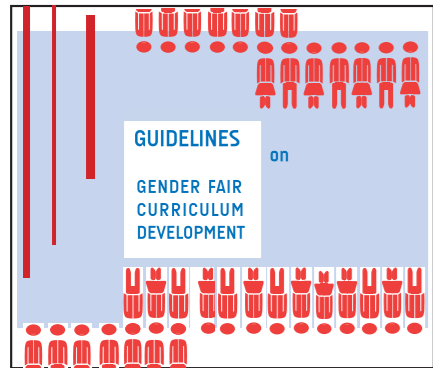
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Kovacevic Almir, Executive Director
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Mujkic Dino, Sarajevo Office, Regional Manager
Ostojic Goran, Belgrade Office, Regional Manager
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Zujko Milica Belgrade Office, Project Officer



Guidelines on Gender Fair Curriculum Development (January 2010)

Author: *Dr. Barbara Hey MBA University of Graz, Austria; Koordinationsstelle für Geschlechterstudien, Frauenforschung und Frauenförderung in cooperation with WUS Austria*
Layout: *Edin Prnjavorac (WUS Austria)*

It's all about fairness

The Austrian scientist Dr. Barbara Hey, MBA - researching and teaching about gender equality at the University of Graz – has developed a comprehensive guideline on gender fair curriculum development. The Guidelines are available for download from the WUS Austria Homepage.



Balkan Case Challenge 2009. International Case Study Competition (October 2009)

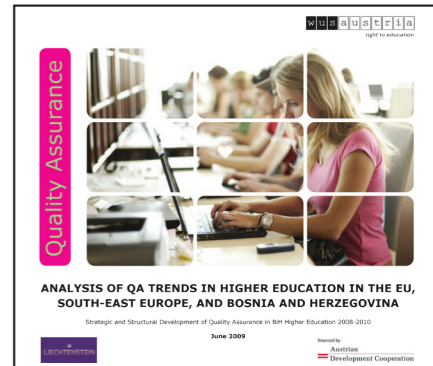
Editors: *Andreas Krammer (WUS Austria); Moser Jasmin (WUS Austria)*
Layout: *Edin Prnjavorac (WUS Austria)*

The Balkan Case Challenge (BCC) is a case study competition for excellent students from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and Austria. Every year the BCC offers around 140 students from that region the opportunity to apply their theoretical knowledge to a practical context, and to present their solutions to an international jury consisting of academic experts, representatives of the business world, national and international institutions.

Analysis of QA Trends in Higher Education in the EU, South-Eastern Europe, and Bosnia and Herzegovina Strategic and Structural Development of Quality Assurance in BiH Higher Education 2008-2010 (June 2009)

Authors: *Roland Humer, Independent consultant for university management; Nina Kovac, WUS Austria Project Manager; Almir Kovacevic, Executive Director of WUS Austria; Dino Mujkic, Regional Manager of WUS Austria in BiH*
Layout: *WUS Austria Sarajevo Office*

Within the field of quality assurance, WUS Austria supports universities with the introduction of quality assurance measures as foreseen by the Bologna and Copenhagen Process, thus advancing SEE universities towards the European Higher Education Area and international standards in quality assurance and quality control.



Experiencing Europe: Serbian Young professionals in Austria – Zoran Djindjic Internship Programme (2007/2008)

Editor: *Jasmin Moser (WUS Austria)*
Layout: *Edin Prnjavorac (WUS Austria)*

The program targets at excellent final-year students and young graduates from Serbia who can gain initial work experience trough internships in Austrian companies and institutions



Festschrift: WUS Austria 25 (2008)

Editor: *Johanna Paar (WUS Austria)*
Layout: *Edin Prnjavorac (WUS Austria)*



references and recommendations



Contracting Authorities and Donors:

Austrian Development Cooperation; Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research; Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs; City of Graz; Erste Stiftung; Styrian Government; Ministry of Education Science and Technology in Kosovo, European Union et al.

Partner Universities:

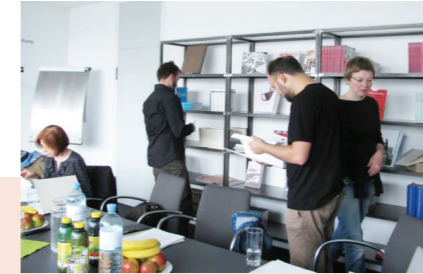
8 Public Universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Banja Luka, Bihac, Mostar East, Mostar West, Sarajevo, Sarajevo East, Tuzla, Zenica); University of Montenegro (Montenegro); University of Prishtina and University of Prizren (Kosovo); University of Tirana (Albania); 6 Public Universities in Serbia (Art Belgrade, Belgrade, Kragujevac, Nis, Novi Pazar, Novi Sad); Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje; 6 Universities in Ukraine (National Aerospace University, Dombass State Engineering Academy, National Metallurgical Academy of Ukraine, I.I. Mechnikov Odessa National University, Crimean University for the Humanities, Lviv Polytechnic National University); Universities and Universities of Applied Sciences in Austria (Karl-Franzens University of Graz, University of Vienna, University of Applied Sciences FH Joanneum Graz, University of Leoben, Medical University of Vienna et al.); Partner Universities in the EU (University La Sapienza in Rome/Italy, University of Cork/Ireland, Ghent University/Belgium, University of Girona and University of Alicante/Spain, New Bulgarian University/Bulgaria; University of Liverpool/UK et al.); Partner Universities in Australia et al.

University Related Partner Institutions:

ACCESS-Academic Co-operation Centre for Students in Sarajevo; AIESEC; ASM – Student Alliance from Moldova; BSC – Business Start-Up Centers in Skopje and Tuzla; CEP-Centre for Education Policy; EXIT; DAAD - German Academic Exchange Service; PEF- Privatuniversität für Management; SUS - World University Service BiH; Taldi Tuzla; WUS Germany; WUS Romania; Uniport et al.

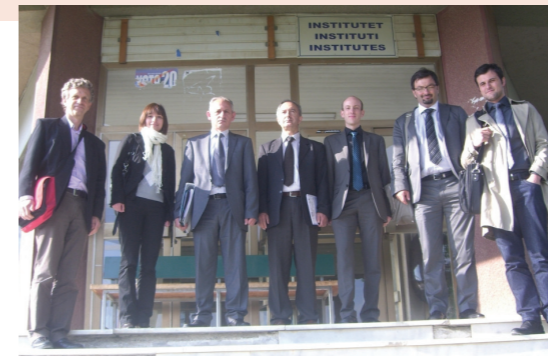
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Erhard Busek, Former Vice-Chancellor, Rector of the University of Applied Sciences Salzburg:

[...] the development and dissemination of European values in their best sense, a perspective for a young generation, and eventually for the future of the respective countries would not be possible without WUS. I am constantly asking myself if organisations of this kind should not deserve an award. If this award existed, then WUS would be an outstanding candidate for it. That such organisations exist helps us to sometimes be proud of Austria!



Faruk Caklovica, Rector of the University of Sarajevo:

With pleasure we recognize every success WUS Austria achieves. To work, to be successful and generally to exist for [more than] 25 years is worth a notice. WUS Austria and the Austrian universities [...] are for sure the most important partners for the University of Sarajevo. We will never forget what [...] the organisation, led by Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Benedek, for already 25 years successfully, did for our university and our employees. In the most difficult times for the university, [...] the employees [of WUS Austria] gave us a big support, without which we would not have been so successful after the war.



Enver Hasani, Former Rector of the University of Prishtina, President of the Constitutional Court of Kosovo:

In the post-war period, the history of the University of Prishtina would be deficient if the contribution of WUS Austria's projects were not presented. The value of WUS programs has been heightened by the modern development approach and the project implementation. [...] I would like to use this opportunity to express my utmost gratitude to the [...] Austrian Development Agency for the support provided during this period of time [...]. I will also use the opportunity to thank WUS Austria for the sincere and professional cooperation during the project implementation period.

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