



Photo: DA/Peter Lechner

# The 2021 in Review Issue

Stories about #WeAreDA alumni interviews, scholarship awardees, a new DA law, the ClubDA General Assembly and all alumni events 2021



Dear Alumnae, dear Alumni,

As you know ClubDA News is one of our many ways to reach out to you and inform you about current events at the Academy as well as the respective endeavors of ClubDA.

We have spent the last months in a multitude of calls - with our chapters and many of you in order to talk about our goal as ClubDA to bring alumni together and to fund students in need through our scholarships.

I am happy to say that we were able to host a number of events, online and physical. One example was our international #WeAreDA initiative, where several chapters organised events on the same day. We look forward to hosting many more events in the coming year - should the pandemic allow it.

Aside from our events, our scholarships are an essential part of the *raison d'être* at our Club. These scholarships are funded by you - our members. A big source of our membership payments has traditionally been your presence at the DA's Sommerfest. Still, I am happy to say that we have managed to uphold our EUR 10,000 scholarship goal despite the Sommerfest not having taken place. That is a great sign of solidarity with our students and a great gesture on your behalf. I wholeheartedly thank you for that!

Since the beginning of our scholarships in the academic year 2011-12, we have been able to award EUR 84,500 until today.

Now my question is: Will we be able to get to 100,000 next year? That would be a great goal to reach and

this is why I would like to humbly draw your attention to our mission at ClubDA and invite you (as far as you may be able to) to pay said fee or even donate the one or the other Euro to enable us to support current students who can surely greatly benefit from it. Please do not hesitate to contact [club@da-vienna.ac.at](mailto:club@da-vienna.ac.at) concerning your fee or directly wire your holiday contribution to ClubDA. We would greatly appreciate it!



Lastly, next to all this positive news I would like commemorate those members who are not with us anymore: Sepp Dabringer (DLG 02, 1965-67), Gerhard Deiss (DLG 11, 1974-76), Helmut Koller (DLG 19, 1982-84), Markus Rodlauer (DLG 18, 1981-83) and Tom Wästfelt (DLG 14, 1977-79).

From the entire board of ClubDA and all the chapter heads: Have a wonderful holiday season and please do not hesitate to contact us concerning any questions or requests you might have for ClubDA.

Kind regards,

David Lansky  
ClubDA President

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# New law strenghtens DA's legal basis

The new "Diplomatische Akademie-Gesetz (DA-G)" ensures that the DA's current (MAIS, ETIA) and future Master's programmes are fully recognised within the European "Bologna Process" and adds a fifth discipline to the Academy's portfolio

The Diplomatische Akademie Wien – Vienna School of International Studies is happy to announce a major amendment to the legal basis of its work, the "Diplomatische Akademie-Gesetz" (DA-G). The most important changes and clarifications are:

- The new law underscores the **status of all Master's programmes** – current and future – as full study programmes under the so called "Bologna Process".
- Besides the current academic disciplines – history, international relations and politics, international economics as well as international and European law – **culture will be the fifth major field** the DA will work on and train its students in going forward.
- Women have to make up at least 50 percent of the members of the DA's Board of Trustees.

The most recent version of the DA-G was promulgated in the Austrian Federal Law Gazette I No. 177/2021 and entered into force on 1 October 2021. The amendment explicitly clarified the equivalence of the Master's programmes offered at the DA in cooperation with recognised Austrian and international universities to regular study programmes in accordance with the European Higher Education Area's Lisbon Recognition Convention (also known as "Bologna

Process"). This ensures that the DA's study programmes will continue to be attractive to students from all over the world and that the DA will remain internationally competitive.

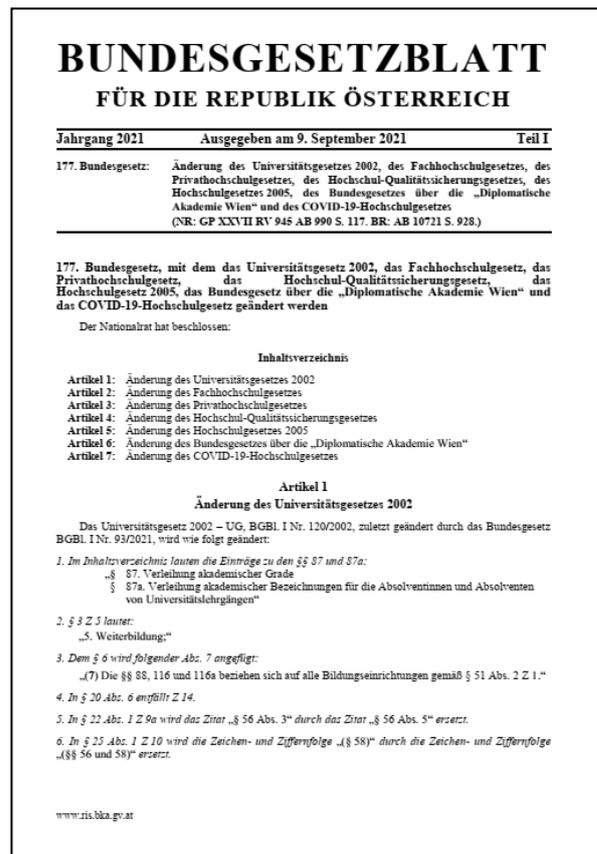
At the same time, the amendment provides the DA with the opportunity to develop innovative new study programmes. One such programme is currently being set up in the field of Digital International Affairs. Likewise, by anchoring culture as the fifth area of responsibility of the DA, the possibility of setting

priorities in the area of cultural diplomacy, which is particularly promising for Austria, has been created.

"The Vienna School of International Studies thus has every opportunity to respond to the new challenges in international relations with innovative teaching programmes and as a public platform for international dialogue. This will also enable Austrian foreign policy to benefit even more from our work," said the DA's director, Ambassador Emil Brix, on the adoption of the amendment to the DA-G in the Austrian National Council on 8 July 2021.

In this regard, the DA reaches out to its alumni and welcomes ideas and

suggestions from professionals in the cultural sector on how to best include culture in its programmes. 



The full text of the *Diplomatische Akademie-Gesetz (DA-G)* is available at <https://www.da-vienna.ac.at/Organisation>.

# ClubDA General Assembly 2021

What's new for ClubDA going forward and a look back at recent achievements

In accordance with the respective amendments to the Club's statutes, which were adopted by the ClubDA General Assembly on 29 September 2020, and due to the still difficult COVID-19 situation, the Club's regular General Assembly 2021 was held online via ZOOM on 30 June 2021. After the statutory waiting time of 30 minutes, ClubDA president David Lansky opened the meeting at 6:30 pm.

The following major issues were presented and discussed as part of the reports both by the board of ClubDA and the DA:

- **Alumni events:** Due to COVID-19, most alumni events organised by the DA and ClubDA had to be held virtually. Still, a substantial number of gatherings – including new formats like virtual Anniversary Celebrations – took place.

For a full review of alumni meetings in 2021, please see pages 14 and 15.

- **ClubDA Scholarships:** Since 2011, ClubDA has been able to award almost EUR 75,000 via its scholarship programme in order to support students in financial need.

For portraits of the 2020-21 scholarship awardees, please see pages 8 to 11.

- **Local chapters:** Despite many people feeling some form of ZOOM fatigue, virtual meetings made it possible to connect alumni from

all over the world. For instance, a recent graduate announced the soon-to-come foundation of a new Latin America & the Caribbean Chapter, the Club's 23<sup>rd</sup> local chapter, which will hold its meetings mostly online.

- **Membership and payment morale:** Several membership drives have resulted in a new record of 1,690 ClubDA members as of 30 June 2021. In the meantime, this number has increased to 1,725. However, the board also had to report a drop in membership fee payments, most likely due to COVID-19 and the lack of in-person meetings since early 2020.

Based on the member survey conducted in 2020, the board presented amendments to the ClubDA Statutes, which were

adopted by the General Assembly. The most important updates are:

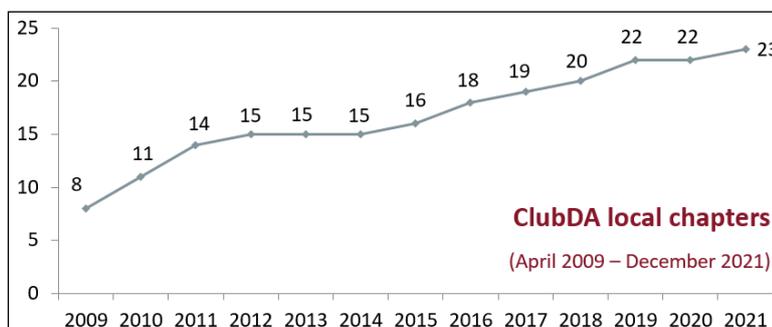
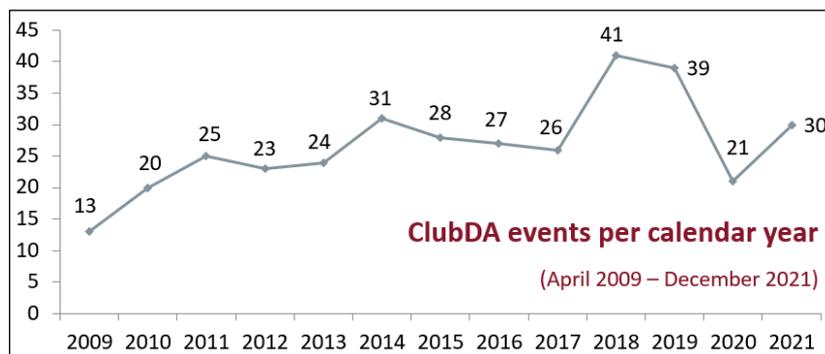
- **Fördernde Mitglieder:** Members paying at least twice the regular annual membership fee are considered

“supporting members” for the respective year. With their consent, their exceptionally gracious support is mentioned on the Club's website and/or in these pages.

- **ClubDA Scholarships:** While the board had already reserved and used donations to fund its scholarship programme for many years, the amendment now turned this long-established practice from an informal tradition into a statutory norm of ClubDA.

Finally, with the election of a new board, Lucia Kronsteiner stepped down from her position of ClubDA's vice president after six years. She will, however, continue to support the Club as a member of its Advisory

Council. On behalf of the Club, David Lansky thanked Lucia for her many years of dedicated service. 



The full meeting minutes are available in the members' area at <https://club.da-vienna.ac.at>

# Inauguration of the Academic Year

## Induction Ceremony of the DA Alumni Hall of Fame's Class of 2021

"Let the play begin." With these words paraphrasing Shakespeare, the DA's director, Ambassador Emil Brix, welcomed a new group of students during the traditional Inauguration of the Academic Year at the DA's Festsaal on 5 October 2021.

In his welcoming address, Ambassador Brix voiced his excitement over being able to see so many faces at the DA. While the pandemic was not over yet, he was looking forward to as much in-person teaching as possible.

One of the many highlights of this year's ceremony was the keynote address by Valentin Inzko, until recently High Representative and EU Special Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina. In his speech, Ambassador Inzko gave plenty of advice on how to develop a successful career in diplomacy. In conclusion, the DLG 09 alumnus and member of the DA's Alumni Hall of Fame congratulated the students on having chosen to study international relations. "While every profession can make you happy [...], in diplomacy you will enter doors which usually are closed. You will work in and travel to faraway countries. But most rewarding, you will meet fascinating people whom you would not meet otherwise," said Inzko.

After music by Sigrid Horn, Sarah Metzler and Bernhard



Scheiblauber, Director Brix was honoured to induct the Class of 2021 into the DA Alumni Hall of Fame. After three years, the DA invited three alumni to join their 100 peers: Bernd



Brünner (SPIS 06 and MAIS 01, Secretary General of the Austrian Federal Chancellery), Ksenia Levushkina (MAIS 03, Vice President Legal at VISA CEMEA) and Li Qiang (DLG 24, President of Shanghai Gonda Electronics). On behalf of his colleagues, Mr. Brünner addressed the audience, stressed how happy he was "coming back home" and gave students some more advice on life at the DA and beyond.

Finally, Miriam Gruber, MAIS 25 student and president of DASI, introduced the Diplomatic Academy Students Initiative and underscored the notion of the DA being a tight-knit community that supports and takes care of each other along the way both during and after studies. 



# #WeAreDA

Alumni stories from all generations and programmes



**Pushkal Chhparwal**  
ETIA 08 (2014-16)

*"The DA has definitely played a key role in developing my career. The insightful courses, events to engage & connect with different organisations and most importantly, the opportunity to study with such a diverse group of students from over 50 different countries and the variety of disciplines were the key highlights which helped mould my career."*



**Brigitta Blaha**  
DLG 13 (1976-78)

*"My diplomatic career took me to Washington, Bangkok, Rome, Tokyo, Hong Kong, New York and Islamabad. Encouraging women has always been on my agenda, both professionally and personally. I have participated - and still do - in various mentoring programs, for example at the University of Hong Kong or the Cross Mentoring Program."*

**Miriam Baghdady**  
ETIA 07 (2013-15)

*"The regular career talks at the DA gave me an insight in what it means to work for an advocacy group, which is also how I gained interest in working in a similar field. Studying with highly motivated colleagues further improved discussions on all kinds of political and economic issues. Thereby I gained new friendships and a valuable network for the future."*



**Roger Hilton**  
MAIS 19 (2014-16)

*"Attending the DA was truly a transformational experience and is based on two parts. One part is being able to learn in a city like Vienna and take in all the history while making use of all the diplomatic offerings at embassies and international organisations to gain practical experience. The other part is theoretical and sharpening your intellect through the interdisciplinary curriculum and lectures with outstanding professors."*



## DA Alumni Stories: #WeAreDA

Each month we reach out to DA alumni around the world to see what they are up to and ask them about life after the DA. In case you have not already seen our 29 stories on social media, we invite you to head over to <https://club.da-vienna.ac.at/WeAreDA> to read the full interviews and portraits.

What does your life after the DA look like? Please reach out to [sybil.bitter@da-vienna.ac.at](mailto:sybil.bitter@da-vienna.ac.at) if you would like to be featured in one of the next #WeAreDA postings. We are always happy to hear from our alumni and to share your stories!

# DA Wien Connect

Join your peers on our networking and career platform

Would you like to catch up with former DA colleagues and friends?

Are you interested in events at the DA and alumni gatherings around the world?

Is your organisation searching for professionals to fill current vacancies or are you looking for a job yourself?

For all this and more, we invite you to join our networking and career platform, DA Wien Connect!

The main features are:

- **Feed**  
Find information on interesting events, scholarships and more. Or just drop a note yourself and engage with your peers
- **Directory**  
Look for former colleagues or people working in a field you are interested in and connect with them
- **Mentoring**  
Guide a current student or simply share your knowledge, experience, network, insights and more
- **Jobs**  
Browse through our vacancy database or post job openings yourself
- **Photos**  
Check out impressions from recent alumni meetings or post your own memories from the DA and since graduation
- **Groups**  
Join one of ClubDA's 23 local chapters
- **Events**  
Learn about upcoming alumni meetings all over the world

All ClubDA members and students are most welcome to sign up for free at

<https://clubdanetwork.com>.

Enjoy and keep connecting!

58 NEW

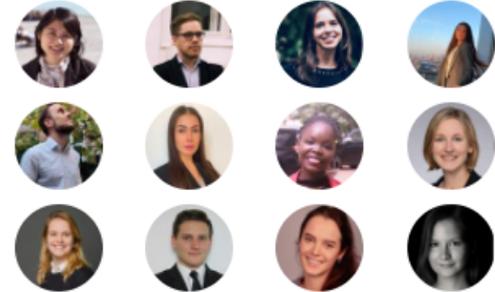
### Recent jobs

-  **Redaktionsassistentz (20h)**  
IDM (Institut für den Donauraum und Mitteleuropa)
-  **Project Management Intern**  
SOS Children's Villages International
-  **Intern - Energy, Resources and Climate Change Unit**  
Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)
-  **International Advocacy Intern**  
ADHRB - Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain

[VIEW JOBS](#)

69 NEW

### Recent members



[VIEW MEMBERS](#)

← 14th ClubDA Outdoor Weekend: Alpannonia, part 2



📅 26-29 May, 2022

[ADD TO CALENDAR](#) [REGISTER NOW](#)

From 26 to 29 May 2022 (tbc), ClubDA will organise its 14th Outdoor Weekend. This time we will complete our Alpannonia journey, which we had started in 2019 (photo gallery). The western part of this hiking trail will take us from Fischbach via Alpl, Stuhleck, Feistritzsattel and Hochwechsel to Mönichkirchen. More information will be provided in early 2022.

# *Introducing the ClubDA*



**Maria Khoruk**  
MAIS 25 (2020-22)

**Could you name one experience which influenced you and made you the person you are today?**

Moving to Vienna on my own when I was eighteen was certainly the biggest influence on who I am today. It had been a long journey and it had its ups and downs. Moving to a completely new country with the prospect of staying long-term when you just finished high school is at the same time the most exciting thing and the biggest challenge.

**What are your plans after graduation and where do you see yourself in the future?**

I always plan a few steps ahead but try to stay flexible. While at the DA, my views of what I want to do after graduation have already changed and I want to stay open for new opportunities. In the big picture, though, I am extremely interested in questions of development and migration and doing field work.

**Would you like to get involved with the DA's alumni network in the future?**

Certainly, I would! I have already benefited from the career talks, events, and workshops organised by ClubDA and I want to stay connected with the DA alumni network after graduation.



**Lydia Maria Lienhart**  
MAIS 25 (2020-22)

**How did the ClubDA Scholarship impact your academic year?**

The ClubDA Scholarship motivated me to try as hard as I can and give it my best, as it also motivated me to work towards the tuition waiver [for MAIS-2]. Those two are a big support and they also impacted me in form of helping me to manage my second year at the Academy.

**What do you plan to do after finishing your studies?**

I am still undecided on that and I still have some time to decide what I want to do. However, during my time at the DA I realised that I really like writing scientific papers and that is also why I think about doing my PhD after graduating from the DA. I am more and more motivated to pursue this path.

**If you could have dinner with one person, living or dead, who would it be and what would you talk about?**

If I could have dinner with one person it would be with Swiss Professor Hans Rosling, who died a couple of years ago. He worked for Doctors without Borders and wrote many books. He used facts and statistics to guide his decisions as a doctor in a developing country. He advocates for a fact-based world view. I am convinced that the world needs more of this.

# Scholarship awardees 2020-21

Agnieszka Maria Kuderer  
ETIA 14 (2020-22)

## What brought you to the DA and why have you chosen ETIA?

My longstanding interest in environmental issues influenced my choice to pursue a career path that is meaningful to me. The ETIA programme seemed like the perfect choice; it combines various dimensions and allows me to include technical and political aspects into my expertise. I have a legal background and I have already worked in the field of international and medical law. Currently, I am also studying African Studies at the University of Vienna. I truly believe that this combination will help me to see the bigger picture in the combat against the pressing environmental issues of our future.

## What impact did the ClubDA Scholarship have on your first academic year?

It was certainly a cash injection I really appreciated at that time. From my own personal point of view, the COVID pandemic has brought some unexpected consequences which no one could have foreseen. Certainly, the ClubDA Scholarship eased the burden on me and allowed me to fully focus on my studies and my future career.

## What are your plans after graduation and where do you see yourself in the future?

I believe that sustainable management of the environment and its resources requires multidisciplinary and integrated knowledge. The ETIA programme provides me with a solid basis to tackle environmental issues on a global level. Due to my academic background, my future goal is to combine my knowledge and hopefully contribute competently within this field as the need for policy makers capable of using cross-disciplinary strategies to solve complex challenges is of utmost importance. Sharing of insights and experience is crucial to address complex global challenges our societies are facing. I hope to give back to this community, that has welcomed me so warmly by contributing actively within the network, and by supporting future students financially.



## ClubDA Scholarship awardees 2021-22:

From left to right: Miloš NEŠIĆ, Milica VUJAČIĆ, Felicite Moisa ONANA IBOGO, Farzanah SHAFII.

These and other awardees of the alumni-sponsored ClubDA and Alumni Hall of Fame Scholarships will be featured in the Spring Edition 2022 of ClubDA News.

All profiles are also available at <https://club.da-vienna.ac.at/ClubDA-Scholarships>.

# ClubDA Scholarship awardees 2020-21



**Hannah Theresa Seidl**  
DLG 57 (2020-21)

## How did the ClubDA Scholarship impact your academic year?

It helped a lot in the form of support. The DLG is full time, which means I could only work on the weekends and that took a lot of time away from studying. The scholarship made it possible that I don't have to work as much on the weekends anymore and can focus on my academic work!

## What do you plan to do after finishing your studies? In what way do you plan on changing the world?

I plan to take the A-Préalable and enter the foreign service. I don't know if I will do it right away after this year or try to gain some more work experience before that. It's all a little unclear now.

When it comes to changing the world, I don't know! I don't believe that a single person can change the world! But I will try to be a good person and do the best to make the world around me a better place.

## Let's talk networking, how will you be involved in the DA's alumni network after your graduation?

If I am able to do so at some point in my professional career, I would love to support some students financially, giving back the help I received!

**Nourhan Dib**  
MAIS 25 (2020-22)

## Could you name one experience which influenced you and made you the person you are today?

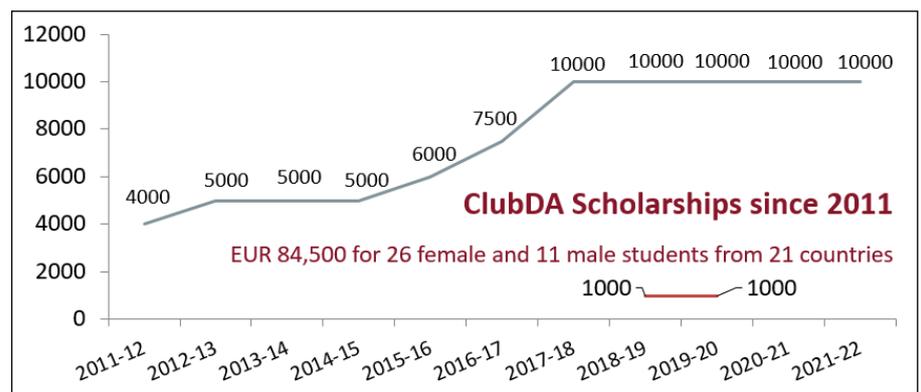
From my seemingly short 24 years of life, the most effective experience is definitely getting diagnosed with Diabetes type 1 at the age of 18. It was a very shocking revelation and changed my general outlook on life. I have since then changed my life goals entirely, having originally been in Pre-Med, I decided to go after a field I am more passionate about and to commit to my hobbies more. I've realised that life is honestly too short to not be doing what you find enjoyment and passion in.

## What advice would you give to the next generation of MAIS students?

Know your limits. I feel that understanding one's own limitations is an important part of self-growth and progress and it isn't emphasised enough. It is very clear that not everyone is the same. What could be easily grasped by some isn't so easily understood by others and this difference should be normalised and accepted. Instead of beating yourself up over not being as good or skilled as someone else, understand where you stand and take baby steps towards a practical and objective goal.

## Would you like to get involved with the DA's alumni network in the future?

Of course! In the end, the DA has always seemed like a big family that branches out to the entire globe. I look forward to keeping in touch with all my fellow alumni and the general network in the future. I am also very curious and excited to see the different future accomplishments of everyone that graduates!



# Hall of Fame Scholarship 2020-21

Sarah Noemi Weckbecker

MAIS 24 (2019-21)

## What brought you to the DA and why have you chosen MAIS?

Ever since high school, I pursued a career at the Foreign Ministry in Germany in the future, with a focus on human rights and economic development. The MAIS programme offered me not only a wide range of subjects but also professors from the diplomatic service with first-hand experiences. The international community with different academic backgrounds further spurred my interest and motivation to study at the DA.

## What impact did the Alumni Hall of Fame Scholarship have on your second academic year?

The COVID pandemic has brought unexpected consequences and changed all our lives in various facets. The scholarship, therefore, eased the financial burden on my family and provided a great financial support. Thereby, it allowed me to fully focus on my future career: I was able to do an internship at the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development in Berlin next to my studies.

## What were some of the highlights of your time at the DA?

I would say that my personal highlights were the Christmas Extravaganza in December 2019 and the Charity Ball in February 2020. Our student life has changed dramatically due to COVID-19 ever since. On the one hand, I learned to appreciate these shared memories even more. On the other hand, who can say they went through a global pandemic with their friends at university? So, the long-term friends I made in these two years have been my personal highlight.

## What are your professional aspirations?

As cheesy as it may sound, my endeavour has always been to bring more justice into the world and to have a lasting impact with my work. I have always wanted to change the lives of others. To me, this never meant travelling to orphanages, playing football and teaching English: I aspire to make a sustainable contribution and provide help for self-help with my work.

## Who are the people you would like to meet and work with in the future?

Generally speaking, I want to work with people who are not satisfied with the status-quo and strive for change. I would be honoured to work with women, such as Malala Yousafzai, on projects protecting human rights while improving the education standards of young girls around the world.

## How would you want to be involved with the DA's alumni network?

The DA's alumni network is a great opportunity to share experiences and stay connected with like-minded people. Of course I would like to support DA students in the future - just as I was supported this year. Thereby, I hope to give something back to the community that welcomed me once so warmly and supported me financially.



# *Cyber-attacking democracy: how the spyware "Pegasus" threatens the freedom of speech & the work of journalists*

A current article from Polemics, the DA students' magazine, by Benedikt Stolberg

In the summer of 2021, a collaborative network of journalists and NGOs published the report "The Pegasus Project", unveiling the use and misuse of spyware technology. The scale of surveillance that was uncovered by a major data leak shocked the public: a list of 50,000 phone numbers infected with the software that monitors every activity on a targeted person's smartphone. It included well-known journalists in countries such as Poland, Hungary, and Azerbaijan, but also less obviously, in France, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, to name just a few examples.

Now, one might argue that some of the targeted journalists in countries already struggling with press freedom would not have been surprised to find out that their work and even their private lives were under close observation by authorities - however unethical and contradicting with democratic principles this practice is. Yet in the same leak published in the Pegasus Project, independent experts and researchers identified the phone numbers of high-ranking state officials such as France's President Macron and some of his cabinet members. Another targeted person was the chief police commissioner of Istanbul who led the investigation on Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi's murder in Saudi Arabia's Istanbul consulate - a killing that triggered worldwide condemnation and horror. Khashoggi's wife and one of his closest associates were also being surveilled with Pegasus via their smartphones.

Not only are states using the spyware to fight terrorism, as they usually claim to do when questioned about Pegasus, but also to spy on foreign government officials. The French newspaper Le Monde's piece about Moroccan agents spying on French President

Macron's smartphone provoked a diplomatic crisis in an already tense relationship between the closely linked countries which, quite understandably, harmed trust and confidence between the two countries. As much as Pegasus empowers law enforcement, it also comes with a high level of risk to vital bilateral relations, as this example proves. The Moroccan authorities surely did not appreciate their spying activities going public, especially since a fifth of all leaked phone numbers were allegedly registered into the Pegasus system from Moroccan soil.

After having investigated Pegasus's customers and victims, where does this leave the Israeli group NSO Technologies, the outfit which provides the software? Which principle do they apply when clients order? How does the tool work? Let's first dive into the technical details of the software.

## **Decrypting privacy: a lucrative hack and a blow to democracy**

In order to gain access to encrypted applications such as WhatsApp, Telegram, E-Mail, calendar, etc., the phone's system core must first authorise the decryption of the app and the contained information and functions. Pegasus can do this with a so-called "zero-click attack", which enables the spyware to infect the phone's system. An example of a zero-click attack is a "missed call" notification that the user opens without having to click any further links. This coding method is called "sandboxing". Even though Google and Apple advertise rewards for researchers uncovering security gaps, they cannot compete with the astronomical sums offered by private companies such as NSO or Zerodium, a British-American hacking group that bid up to 2.5 million USD to individuals developing "zero-click attack sandboxing".



For the research of the Project Pegasus, experts from Hidden Stories and Amnesty International compared the operating systems of infected phones with those of non-infected phones. They noticed traces of codes disguised as ordinary iOS or Android codes in which Pegasus made almost invisible

replacements, e.g., the number 0 with the letter O or a small l with a capital I. Experts tested 48 of the 50,000 phones on the leaked infected numbers list. All the devices showed evidence of Pegasus and matched the additional data accessible to the journalists. This was proof of the existence of the large-scale surveillance which



was leaked to the research collaboration. The results of these tests were also confirmed by the independent Citizen Lab of the University of Toronto, Canada.

NSO uses the global fight against terror to justify the sale of its spyware. The company was founded in 2010 by three friends who met during their service in the military intelligence body "Aman" of the Israel Defense Forces. The export of the firm's software underlies regulations that are monitored by the Israeli Ministry of Defense; therefore, its customers must be approved by the Israeli authorities and comply with national security interests. The company states that it strictly follows the respect of human rights and privacy laws and that it does not use Pegasus to limit the freedom of expression. It further claims to constantly review contracted clients and potential breaches. Following the investigations around the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi, NSO cancelled its contract with Saudi Arabia. Most recently, NSO has been blacklisted in the United States while Apple and Facebook are suing the company in US courts to ban NSO from using Apple software or devices for its operations. American officials justified the decision as a means of promoting human rights values as a vital part of US foreign policy.

States' desire to increase control and surveillance is understandable considering security problems worldwide, such as the fight against extremist terrorism or drug cartels. However, once the software falls into the hands of autocratic regimes, it gives the state an unprecedented power to observe

its own citizens. The temptation to go beyond simply monitoring suspected criminals is huge, especially for states with very low or suppressed democratic checks and balances. This poses a serious threat to press freedom and journalistic principles. Journalists must be able to communicate incognito in order to keep their sources and themselves safe. What is more, Pegasus is featured on an international list of

cyber weapons. Authorities show a disrespect for the freedom of expression and democratic values when they use an espionage tool against individuals who are committed to the progress and development of their own society. A government spying on a foreign country's officials harms trust and destabilises bilateral relations, as described in the case with Morocco and France. The illicit use of Pegasus by some governments diverts its intended function to tackle security problems and instead creates an atmosphere of surveillance and control which is unhealthy for any society. 

*This article was written by Benedikt Stolberg (MAIS 25)  
and edited by Stefan Bartl (DLG 58).*

## Polemics

For several years, the DA's students have been publishing "POLEMICS - The Magazine of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna" which features articles on a broad variety of topics written by the students. Since 2016, we share Polemics articles on a regular basis.

To read the current issue and subscribe, please visit <https://www.polemics-magazine.com>.

# Alumni Meetings 2021

The Diplomatic Akademie Wien and ClubDA thank all chapter presidents, the Diplomatic Academy Students Initiative (DASI) and all other alumni, students and partners who made the following 30 events possible!

**11<sup>th</sup> Alumni-Stammtisch of the ClubDA Brussels Chapter**  
03.02.2021 (virtual meeting via ZOOM)

**ClubDA Berlin Chapter New Year's Gathering**  
18.02.2021 (virtual meeting via ZOOM)

**Quarterly ClubDA North America ZOOM Call**  
23.03.2021 (virtual meeting via ZOOM)

**ClubDA Town Hall Meetings**  
15.04.2021 (virtual meeting via ZOOM)  
13.05.2021 (virtual meeting via ZOOM)

What can, what should ClubDA do for DA alumni? With this question in mind, the Board invited members to voice their opinion and ideas in the Club's first virtual Town Hall Meeting.

First measures were taken immediately and discussed in a follow-up ZOOM call one month later.

**Gerhard Deiss: "Ein Garten zweier Welten"**  
20.04.2021 (livestream on Facebook & YouTube)

Presentation of Gerhard Deiss' (DLG 11) fourth book. Sadly, Gerhard passed away one month after this event. The DA and ClubDA will honour his memory.

**Virtual Talks in cooperation with the Rotary Club Vienna Maria Theresia (RCVMT):**

**Thomas Greminger on "Cooperative Security and the Role of the OSCE"**  
01.06.2021 (virtual meeting via ZOOM)

**Theodor Thanner on "The value of competition in times of crisis"**  
15.06.2021 (virtual meeting via ZOOM)

**ClubDA General Assembly 2021**  
30.06.2021 (virtual meeting via ZOOM)

For more information see the article on page 4.

## *ClubDA Anniversary Celebrations*

Studying at the DA goes beyond receiving education but also includes forming bonds, meeting friends and becoming a family. No matter if it had been 20, 15, 10 or 5 years - some connections are meant forever. Hence, ClubDA was happy to have organised four Anniversary Celebrations via ZOOM this year:

**ClubDA Anniversary Celebration: Class of 2016**  
25.02.2021

**ClubDA Anniversary Celebration: Class of 2011**  
18.03.2021

**ClubDA Anniversary Celebration: Class of 2001**  
25.03.2021

**ClubDA Anniversary Celebration: Class of 2006**  
22.04.2021

**Global ClubDA Local Chapters Meeting**  
01.07.2021 (virtual meeting via Hopin)

**U.S. Chapter Summer Happy Hours:**

**Washington, DC** (26.08.2021)

**Chicago, IL** (27.08.2021)

**New York, NY** (31.08.2021)





**Michael J. Reinprecht: "Ludwig"**  
27.08.2021 (at the DA and livestream on Facebook & YouTube)

Presentation of Michael Reinprecht's (DLG 20) first novel at the DA and broadcast on Facebook and YouTube.

### 13<sup>th</sup> Vienna Summer Meeting

02.09.2021 (Restaurant Luftburg)

This cherished tradition dates back to the Vienna Chapter's inaugural meeting at Schweizerhaus in 2009. This time, 20 alumni gathered next door at Luftburg in the Viennese Prater.



### ClubDA/RCVMT Talk: Wendelin Ettmayer on "Was the failure in Afghanistan inevitable?"

07.09.2021 (at the DA and livestream on Facebook & YouTube)



### 12<sup>th</sup> Alumni-Stammtisch in Brussels

21.09.2021 (Le Grand Central)

20 alumni attended the first in-person meeting of the Club's second-largest local chapter in the heart of Brussels.

### ClubDA Latin America & the Caribbean Chapter: Inaugural Meeting (02.10.2021)

Virtual Discussion on the Americas (20.10.2021)

Two virtual meetings marked the start of ClubDA's 23<sup>rd</sup> local chapter. During the second, a future cooperation with the chapters in the U.S. and Canada was discussed.



Recordings of all the above-mentioned livestreams:  
<https://www.youtube.com/DiplomatischeAkademieWien>

### #WeAreDA

Earlier this year the DA and ClubDA started to collect and publish the stories of alumni of all of the DA's academic programmes on the Club's website and on social media. For more on this, see the article on page 6.

To strengthen our alumni network not only virtually, additionally the #WeAreDA project materialised in four in-person meetings organised by four local chapters in Europe and the U.S. on two days:

#### #WeAreDA: Herbst-Treffen in Berlin

06.10.2021 (Zollpackhof)

#### #WeAreDA: Pizza Night with the ClubDA U.S. Chapter

07.10.2021 (Pupatella North Arlington)

#### #WeAreDA: Dinner and Drinks in Bratislava

07.10.2021 (SOHO Bistro)

#### #WeAreDA: Daperitivo in Vienna

07.10.2021 (Obsthunger)



#### ClubDA Brussels Chapter Pub Quiz

26.10.2021 (Lower Austrian Liaison Office to the EU)

#### ClubDA/RCVMT Talk: Monika Fröhler on the "Agenda 2030 – Change in the Making"

16.11.2021 (at the DA and livestream on Facebook & YouTube)

#### ClubDA U.S. Chapter Holiday Gathering

04.12.2021 (Heurich House Museum Christkindlmarkt)



## On the calendar ...



27 January 2022	Virtual Open House of the Diplomatische Akademie Wien
25 February 2022	DASICON 2022: The Future of Food
16 March 2022	da.link career day 2022 (tbc)
26-29 May 2022	14 <sup>th</sup> ClubDA Outdoor Weekend: Alpannonia Hiking Trail, Part 2
4 June 2022	Charity Ball at the DA (tbc)
1-2 July 2022	22 <sup>nd</sup> International Alumni Meeting (tbc) 1 July: ClubDA General Assembly and Sommerfest at the DA 2 July: Alumni excursion or gathering

## Follow us online

For up-to-date information on all our events please check out our event calendar at <https://club.da-vienna.ac.at/Events> or log in to our networking and career platform at <https://clubdanetwork.com>.

Follow us on social media and stay informed:

-  @DA\_vienna
-  @DA\_vienna
-  @DiplomatischeAkademieWien
-  @Diplomatische AkademieWien
-  @Diplomatische Akademie Wien

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