

club **danews**

Inaugural Meeting of ClubDA's new Kazakhstan Chapter



ClubDA Vienna Chapter 2.0



New column: DA Insight – Student life at the Academy



club danews

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EDITORIAL



Dear colleagues and friends,

“... and the new Austrian President is Alexander Van der Hofer!?” This charming lapsus linguae of the ORF TV reporter illustrates the dilemma of the Austrian political status quo. The country is divided and only the joint forces of Social Democrats, Conservatives and Greens could stem the tide against the populist wave engulfing east and west.

The losers of globalism – “the deplorables” (quote Hilary Clinton) – are turning against the establishment and want populist change ... The working poor and jobless, the “Generation Praktikum”, the hard-up younger generation with grim perspectives to start a career and – increasingly – the middle class are fed up with a lame political system. The frustrated middle class is forced to pay for the diminishing services of our ex-welfare state and at the same time is being tortured by too many “sadist” rules and regulations galling business life ... This increasing dissatisfaction and anger needs to be appeased quickly, otherwise the parliamentary elections in two years will be the end of the Second Republic and the Post World War II balance of chambers, unions and the established political parties.

For the Diplomatic Academy Ambassador Hans Winkler was an active and public supporter of our future president Alexander Van der Bellen. Our respect and gratitude for his involvement and clear statements for Austria remaining an integral part of the EU and the western alliances.

ClubDA is welcoming the students back to “School” and is happy to announce that due to an increasing membership and budget we are able to support three scholarships for our students from this year on.

In general, we welcome 185 students from 43 countries this year.

May the good education they receive at the Academy be a good start towards a successful future life!

A very good Christmas to all of you and enjoy the well-deserved holidays!

Oliver Kitz

Oliver Kitz (DLG 19) is President of ClubDA.



DA Insight – Student life at the Academy

DA Ball 2017 – The Charity: UN Women Project in Za’atari Refugee Camp

Viktoria Holler & Lena Pieber

Traditionally, each year students of the DA can propose and vote the charity we’re raising for at the annual DA Ball. This year’s choice was nearly unanimously: The UN Women Project in Za’atari refugee camp in Jordan. By supporting this project, the student body of the Diplomatic Academy contributes to the safety, empowerment and dignity of women in the Za’atari refugee camp. Find out what it’s all about and feel free to contribute!

“My mother works in the Oasis producing handicrafts along with my father, who is teaching women how to produce accessories, such as jewellery made from dates and coffee beans. I work as a journalist for the camp magazine, helping to share information and practice my English. In the camp I learned English also because I want to be a translator, so that maybe one day I can tell the whole world what has happened in Syria.”

Testimony from Zaad Al-khair

UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, opened its first women and girls safe space in 2012 in Za’atari refugee camp to support the Government of Jordan respond to the impact of the Syrian conflict. Since the beginning of the war in Syria, there are more than 4.7 million Syrian refugees. 60% of them are women and girls, who are often exposed to all possible types of violence, including sexual violence.

The specific needs and vulnerabilities of girls and women are rarely at the forefront of humanitar-

ian aid. Thus, UN Women established safe zones called “Oasis” in Za’atari, where women can find counselling, as well as medical and judicial help. Several educational and training programs are provided to help women start their live in camp like the alphabetization program for girls between 12 and 17, computer courses and mathematics courses. The “cash for work program” includes job opportunities for women to improve their skills in areas like recycling, tailoring, handcrafting, and teaching, among others. The project has proven to dignify women’s work and provides them with a small income source with which they can sustain their families and participate in decision-making processes.

The purpose of this project is to empower women refugees from Syria in the refugee camp Za’atari through increased access to economic opportunities and significant engagement in community life, which provide them with financial resources needed for family care. UN Women’s work in Za’atari refugee camp reaches on average 16,000 people every year. As the war in Syria still continues and no end is in sight, it is more important than ever to continue with these programs so that girls and women can benefit from them.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at daball@da-vienna.ac.at or at +43 699 17153612. We are happy to answer any further questions.

Viktoria Holler and Lena Pieber are enrolled in DA’s 20th and 21st MAIS Programmes respectively and members of this year’s Ball Committee.

DA Insight – Student life at the Academy

The new Sustainability Committee Ansgar Fellendorf

We are happy to introduce our newly established Committee on Sustainability that deals with the many issues around environmental protection, energy security and sustainability. Certainly, educational institutions such as the Diplomatic Academy play a particular role in discussing and exploring these important topics.

Whereas we already have the opportunity to learn and discuss about sustainability in courses such as on Environmental Law and during the “ETIA talks”, our Committee aims to further mainstream sustainability at the Academy and act as focal point. On the one hand we organize events and projects at the DA and on the other hand we go on field trips and visit relevant institutions.

This way, we have already organized a film screening and discussion of Leonardo Di Caprio’s climate change documentary “Before the Flood”, a SmoothieBar, and an excursion to Vienna’s nuclear research institute. In January

we will organize a workshop with FairTrade Österreich, visit the chair of the Environment and Climate Committee of the Austrian Parliament and raise awareness about personal energy consumption. Later in 2017 we organize an event with the NGO Global2000 and plan to visit the international organization SustainableEnergy4All. Hopefully, we will also establish an organic vegetable garden in the DA courtyard, where students and staff can grow own locally produced vegetables and herbs.

We would be very happy to get in touch with alumni working in the fields of sustainability, environmental policy and energy. If you have questions or comments about the committee or think it would be beneficial for DA students interested in sustainability to learn about your workplace, please write to ansgar.fellendorf@da-vienna.at. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Ansgar Fellendorf is enrolled in DA's 10th ETIA Programme.



DA Insight – Student life at the Academy

DASICON 2017 – Europe under pressure The OSCE in a Complex Security Environment

Hannes Pirker and Niels Pollmann

March 3rd and 4th 2017, the 13th DASI Conference takes place in the Festsaal of the Diplomatic Academy. DASI Conference Committee cooperates with the OSCE Secretariat, the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (OSCE chairmanship 2017), the Institute for Peace Support and Conflict Management (IFK) based at the National Defence Academy, the University of Vienna's Institute of Legal Philosophy and the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES). Focusing on the OSCE's role within the European Security Architecture, the first day of the conference will deal with both the organization's current strengths and challenges, while the second day will focus on its potentials in the near future. In this regard, the conference mainly comprises the following panel sessions, dealing with specific problems and questions:

1. The OSCE in the European Security Architecture
2. Current Conflicts in the OSCE Area
3. Shrinking Democratic Space
4. Radicalisation
5. Cyber Security
6. Energy Security
7. The OSCE in 2022

The Austrian OSCE chairmanship in 2017 provides a unique opportunity for us to focus on this many-faceted organization. As a platform for more or less like-minded states, the OSCE contributes to security in Europe in



various ways. The keynote speech will be given by Lamberto Zannier, the Secretary General of the OSCE. Panelists include inter alia personnel from our partner organizations as well as the EU, NATO, academia, IOs, NGOs, and the private sector. The conference will enable participants to gain a deep understanding of today's and tomorrow's security challenges.

Furthermore, the Conference Committee also pursues the goal to establish DASICON as an institutionalized and well-known conference format which will serve as a framework for the future. In this regard, the new website www.dasicon.org was registered and will be launched on January the first. Since space in the Festsaal is limited, you are strongly advised to register as soon as possible on that website. The DASI Conference Committee 2017 is looking forward to welcoming you in Vienna. If you wish to get involved more actively or have any further questions, please refer to info@dasicon.org.
With best regards, CONCOM'17

*Hannes Pirker and Niels Pollmann are enrolled in DA's
20th MAIS Programme (2015-17) and members of
this year's Conference Committee.*

New ClubDA board members 2016-17

David Lansky – Deputy Secretary

DA Programme:

19th MAIS (2014-2016)

Nationality:

Austrian (father) / Spanish (mother)

Life after the DA:

The new life as a fresh DA graduate lead me to work as the parliamentary assistant of the Austrian Member of Parliament Gisela Wurm.

Position at ClubDA:

Deputy Secretary

Reason for involvement with ClubDA:

I am deeply thankful for the great time I had at the DA. I am thankful for the great people I got to meet, for being able to be course speaker for my year, for the great study trips I was able to embark on and the great people at the DA that advised me concerning career choices, classes to take and ultimately became a go-to place for discussing important questions. In this spirit, I want to give the little back that I can by contributing to the already great work of ClubDA.

Favorite memory of the DA:

There are too many to pick one. It is absolutely impossible to crown one of the many moments but one can safely say the following: many include great discussions and tales of friendships being forged but not all were made for the public eye and some included long nights out.



New ClubDA board members 2016-17

Catherine Lankes – Student Representative

DA Programme:

20th MAIS (2015-17)

Nationality:

Austrian

Career path so far:

During my BA studies in Transcultural Communication (Translation Studies) at the University of Vienna and in Paris, I worked as a staff journalist for the Austrian daily, the Kronen Zeitung. At the moment I am freelancing with the APA, the Kronen Zeitung and Metropole – Vienna in English, hoping to step into the international sphere of journalism after graduation.

Position at ClubDA:

Student Representative

Reason for involvement with ClubDA:

The DA is a colourful melting pot of bright and high-achieving students – an asset clearly palpable in our every-day studies. It is also what we affectionately call “our bubble” or “Hogwarts in Vienna”. Being part of the next step, following through with that family-feeling, is of special importance to me – as is staying connected to the house that gave me my intellectual grounding. I believe that ClubDA is underlining exactly these qualities and values. Being able to relay ClubDA’s work to the current student body and vice versa is a great honour for me.



Favourite memory of the DA:

There are so many more memories to be made before graduation – the Ball, our Polemics-re-launch, Iraq, Ukraine, the Balkans ...! But so far, the revival of the Debating Society and our first (well-received) debate in February 2016 clearly is in the lead. It’s a special moment to see successful teamwork come to fruition.

New ClubDA board members 2016-17

Finja Draxler – Election Committee

DA Programme:

18th MAIS (2013-2015)

Nationality:

Austrian

Life after the DA:

Life after the DA has lead me to the Austrian Chancellery, where I work in the Directorate General I: Presidium and in the office of the Bioethics Commission.

Position at ClubDA:

Election Committee

Reason for involvement with Club DA:

After having spent two enriching years at the DA, I wanted to stay in touch and give something back. I felt that ClubDA would be the best platform to do so. I am very thankful for the things I have learned – I have grown personally and academically, the professors I have had and the people I have shared the two years with and who have inspired me in so many ways. There is a great spirit within ClubDA and I am very thankful that I am now part of such an amazing team.



Favorite memory of the DA:

The Balkans trip, the Musical; even the times I spent at the Leseraum! During my studies at the DA I also had the great opportunity of organizing the DA Ball, which is also a great memory. So many awesome memories were made during my time at the DA.

New Lecturers 2016-17

Welcome to the DA, Daniel Schade!

Career path:

Daniel has studied Political Science and International Relations at Sciences Po Paris, Harvard University and the University of Cambridge. He has recently completed his doctorate at the London School of Economics and has joined the DA as a postdoctoral fellow in International Relations. He also serves as the Vice-Chairman of the Project for Democratic Union, a think-tank concerned with reforming the EU's institutions.

Research fields:

He conducts research on the EU's foreign policy, and the coordination between different policy areas, such as trade and development in particular. A second strand of his work is concerned with the evolution of the EU's defence policy and how this is scrutinised by parliaments.

Why the DA?

Given that Vienna is the host to a number of international institutions, his stay at the DA and in Vienna will offer the perfect setting for his current research project, which is concerned with EU policy coordination at the OSCE.



*All ClubDA profiles as well as this page were compiled by
Nicholas Lieb, a student enrolled in DA's 10th ETIA Programme
and Social Media Assistant at the DA.*



Polemics – The Magazine of the Diplomatic Academy

For several years now, DA's students have been successfully publishing "Polemics – The Magazine of the Diplomatic Academy" which features articles on a broad variety of topics written by the students. Since June, we include one Polemics article in every DA News issue. To enjoy the current issue of Polemics in its entirety, please go to <https://dapolemics.com/>

An Afterthought on Fidel Castro Victoria Fassrainer

Havana, Cuba. December 31st, 1960.

Celebrations were quieter since the revolution.

Whether out of exhaustion or fear, Clara and Eduardo insisted on welcoming the New Year without mentioning politics. The young couple ran through family gossip and softly chuckled about their youngest son's mischief as they finished the dinner preparations.

Jorge Victor, a friend who had also taken part in counterrevolutionary campaign, joined the family in their small apartment of El Vedado, near Old Havana.

As the trio set on their main dish, the front door suddenly toppled to the ground to reveal three men of the revolutionary militia—rifles in hand, crackling cigarettes in mouth, rosaries bound around their necks. They ravaged the apartment, searching for anything that might give the 24-year-olds away as dissidents. Though finding nothing, they assassinated Jorge Victor on the spot.

The young couple had just enough time to pack one suitcase and grab the ten dollars hidden in the cupboard before scurrying to a friend's home with their children. They fled to Venezuela just a week later—never to return to the island.

The morning of January 1st, 1961, Jorge Victor was the only one to greet the New Year.

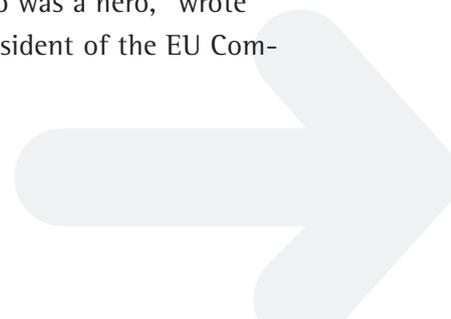
He lay flat on his back. His open eyes glared at Cuba's future under Fidel Castro.

To some, the silhouette of the scruffy beard, half-smoked cigar and guerrilla beret is a symbol of a romantic hero of the Cold War, who liberated Cuba from the U.S.-backed dictatorship. To others, it is nothing more than the costume worn by a hollow patriot, who promised the Cuban people liberation, and instead bound them within a prison of destitution.

Dubbed *El Comandante* by supporters, Fidel Castro overthrew President Fulgencio Batista in a coup in 1959 and soon after proclaimed the island to be the communist "pearl of the Caribbean." In a famous speech that ran over four hours in 1953, Castro divined that *history would absolve him* for his sins in the struggle for Cuba's liberation.

Fidel Castro's legacy is surely to be as contradictory as his 60 years in power, and with his death on November 25, 2016 the extremes resurfaced: Amid the nostalgic portrayals of a hero in the media and tributes from leaders in the international community, there were sketches of a monster described by Cuban exiles who rejoiced in his passing.

International leaders' responses upon his death reinforce his prophecy of exoneration. "The world has lost a man who was a hero," wrote Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the EU Commission.



“I join the people of Cuba in mourning the loss of this remarkable leader,” added Canada’s young PM, Justin Trudeau.

“For all his flaws, Castro was a champion of social justice,” chimed in Jeremy Corbyn, Leader of the Labour Party in the UK.

Even the mainstream media have been seduced by the allure of a romanticized Castro. The BBC for example, painted his controversial reign as natural. In its obituary to the revolutionary, it hailed him as “one of the world’s longest-serving leaders.” That he was the longest-serving leader due to an entirely undemocratic regime seemed to be a mere parenthesis in a greater tale of revolution and liberation for the Cuban people, who were bestowed with an education and healthcare system unmatched in the world today.

Yet history should not absolve Castro so easily.

Often painted as a prophet of education and healthcare for the Cubans, the revolutionary leader did achieve truly impressive results, with the Cuban literacy rate at roughly 99%, according to the World Bank, compared the average of 51% of developing countries.

Yet those soaring literacy rates are met with a society too poor to purchase books and even basic goods. Breakdowns in production have, for example, caused severe food shortages over decades and average monthly earnings per person

of 20 USD a month, according to the National Review.

Castro is also credited with providing free universal healthcare to the Cuban people. “They’ve become known as having not only one of the best healthcare systems, but as being one of the most generous in providing doctors and medical equipment to third-world countries,” said Michael Moore in *Sicko*, his 2007 documentary that featured Americans who traveled to the island to receive free treatment.

The regime, however, excludes its own people from this medical paradise. In one Havana hospital, the PanAm Post reported biological waste hanging in a regular trash can, beds without linen, and the bag of IV fluids hanging above the patients as the only equipment around. “Well, they have to bring everything with them, because the hospital provides nothing. Pillows, sheets, medicine: everything,” said the Post’s guide.

For all his words of liberation, Castro’s reign resulted in the imprisonment of his own people. According to the Cuba Archive, his government has overseen some 4,000 firing squad executions and over 1,200 extra-judicial killings. Human Rights Watch reports more than 6,200 reports of arbitrary detentions in 2015 alone, a statistic from the Cuban Commission for Human Rights and National Reconciliation, an independent human rights group that the government views as illegal.



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Polemics – The Magazine of the Diplomatic Academy

An Afterthought on Fidel Castro

Victoria Fassrainer

And Article 216 of Cuba’s Penal Code forbids Cuba’s citizens from leaving the island without prior government authorization and penalizes attempts with years in prison. The tens of thousands of lives lost fleeing the island, whether on the seas by the *valseros* (rafters) or other crafts – an estimated 78,000 – bear witness to the Cuban will to liberty despite the repercussions.

As with all authoritarians, Castro was a paradox in his life time. And in death, he will likely remain so unless the international community and media ensure that his prophecy of exoneration remains unfulfilled.



Little Havana, Miami, December 31st 2016:

After 10 years in Florida, Cuban exile Clara’s feelings are complicated:

“I refuse to partake in the revelry of the many Miami-ans who have crowded to the streets to rejoice and sing the Guantanamera,” she said. “But I also refuse to stay silent on the media’s and world leaders’ gross mischaracterizations of this excuse of a patriot.”

Clara and Eduardo have lived through 60 years of marriage and 7 children. After exiles from Cuba and Venezuela, the couple now makes Old Havana, Miami, their final home. But Clara misses Cuba.

“When I close my eyes and inhale deeply, I can again breathe in the breeze of the Malecón. The air is vibrant, but not yet fresh. It will take time to cleanse it, as it has taken time to pollute it over decades of grief,” she said. “And if I’m unable to do so, you and your generation will have to breathe it in for me – that curative, humid breeze saturated by history.”

For somebody that has directly suffered the pain of Castro’s rule – living in exile, mourning relatives’ deaths by execution or fatal attempts at fleeing – her prescription is humbling: Neither revile, blinded by emotions, nor eulogize, blind to history.

Rather, she says, let us reconcile with an eye, for once, to the future and to the good of the Cuban people.

In this project, Fidel Castro is likely to be an afterthought.

Victoria Fassrainer is enrolled in DA’s 21st MAIS Program (2016-18)

For more highly interesting articles please visit <https://dapolemics.com/>

Alumni Meetings reviewed

Recent Alumni Meetings Andreas Ehrmann

Since ClubDA implemented its chapter strategy in spring 2009, eighteen local chapters have organised 190 alumni meetings in Vienna and around the world. More than 6,000 graduates and students as well as friends of the Diplomatic Academy took part.

Recently, the following meetings took place:

7 July 2016:

Alumni Meeting in Berlin

Alumni and friends gathered at the Café am Neuen See for this summerly meeting.

23 August 2016:

8th Vienna Summer Meeting

What started out as the inaugural meeting of ClubDA's Vienna Chapter at Schweizerhaus has become a cherished tradition. Starting the new Vienna Chapter era with Presidents Finja Draxler (MAIS 18) and Jasmin Ploner (ETIA 7), we went back to the roots and enjoyed an evening at the Prater.

3 September 2016:

Alumni Meeting in Berlin:

Spaziergang um den Schlachtensee

30 September to 2 October 2016:

Alumni Meeting in Bucharest



At the invitation of the Austrian Ambassador to Romania, DA alumnus Gerhard Reiweger, ten alumni – most of them from abroad – gathered for this reunion. Thanks go to Harald Fieber for providing us with some photos of the event.

Alumni Meetings reviewed

Recent Alumni Meetings Andreas Ehrmann

20 October 2016:
3rd Alumni-Stammtisch in Vienna
(see article on page 18)

22 October 2016:
Weinlese / grape harvest at Röschitz



For the third time ClubDA organised a grape harvest event, this time at Röschitz/Lower Austria. After a short introduction, the group of 15 alumni, students and friends of the DA went to and worked in the vineyards of award-winning Weingut Gschweicher.

7 November 2016:
Frauen im Gespräch: Jutta Stefan-Bastl



DA Alumni Hall of Fame member Jutta Stefan-Bastl, former Austrian Ambassador in Ljubljana, New Delhi and Tokyo, talked about the situation of women in Asia based upon her personal experiences in India, Japan and China. Welcome: Susanne Keppler-Schlesinger, Deputy Director of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. Moderation: Lucia Kronsteiner, Head of Unit Sanctions, Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs

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Alumni Meetings reviewed

Recent Alumni Meetings

Andreas Ehrmann

8 November 2016:

Kazakhstan Chapter Inaugural Meeting
(see article on page 19)

9 November 2016:

Alumni Meeting in Brussels

Alumni and friends gathered at Grand Central for this reunion.

9 November 2016:

Cocktail reception at Ulaanbaatar

The Austrian Embassy in Beijing organised this meeting on the occasion of the visit to Mongolia by Ambassador Michael Linhart, Secretary General of the Foreign Ministry of Austria.

12 November 2016:

Guided tour of Zurich's Opera House



© Jürgen Angleitner

In cooperation with the Zurich chapter of alumni UNI Graz, ClubDA's Switzerland Chapter organised a guided tour of Zurich's Opera House followed by a casual get-together in one of the Opera's bars.

25 November 2016:

DA Thanksgiving Dinner in Berlin



© Wolfgang Dreusch

Ten DA alumni and friends gathered at Diana Bank's new place for this second Thanksgiving Dinner of ClubDA's Berlin Chapter. DA and ClubDA thank Diana very much for hosting this event.



Alumni Meetings reviewed

Recent Alumni Meetings Andreas Ehrmann

5 December 2016:

St. Nicholas Party & Meet and Greet



One of ClubDA's main goals is to maintain a link between the Diplomatic Academy and its graduates. Another is to give support to DA students. As every year, ClubDA combined these goals and organised a meeting of ClubDA members and DA's new students. With this annual gathering, we try to encourage DA graduates and students alike to get to know each other, and help to increase the ever-growing worldwide DA network.

The Diplomatic Academy and ClubDA thank all chapter presidents, the Diplomatic Academy Students Initiative and all other alumni, students and partners who made these events possible.

Please visit our website

www.da-vienna.ac.at/alumni/events

to see additional photos of recent meetings and find out more about upcoming events organized by the DA and ClubDA as well as its local chapters.

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ClubDA Local Chapters

ClubDA Vienna Chapter 2.0

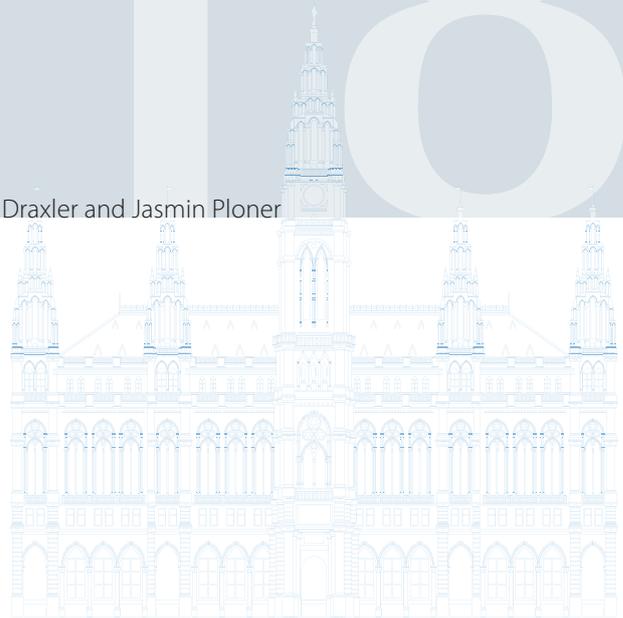
Finja Draxler and Jasmin Ploner

After long discussions within the DA community, we have decided to re-structure ClubDA's Vienna Chapter in order to better connect alumni of all generations. With great support from the Club (namely Andreas Ehrmann) and the previous Vienna Chapter head and current ClubDA president Oliver Kitz, we tested a new concept: the Vienna Chapter Alumni Stammtisch.

The idea of the Stammtisch was to have a casual get-together (typically at a restaurant in Vienna) so as to provide both more recent alumni, and alumni of years past, an opportunity to socialize, reconnect, and feel more connected to the ClubDA network.

While we were encouraged by the support and the turnout we received at our first get-together in February 2016, we decided in future Stammtisch events to add a 20-minute input session, which would feature an alumnus speaking about their current work and/or their career path after the DA, with the hope of better connected alumni across generations and perhaps offering some inspiration and guidance to younger alumni still trying to find their career footing.

At the second Stammtisch in April, we had the pleasure of listening to Hermann Hagspiel (DLG 20) speak about his time working in Papua New Guinea, where he consulted on agricultural projects initiated by the archbishop of Mount



Hagen and supported by the Austrian Embassy in Canberra.

After the summer break it was time for another Stammtisch, and this time Lucia Kronsteiner (DLG 36) was our guest speaker. Ms. Kronsteiner, who is currently heading the sanctions department in the Austrian Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, provided us with insights into the politically sensitive area of sanctions, particularly with respect to the cases of Iran and Russia.

Due to the generous support of the ClubDA, we were also able to invite the attendees for drinks both times. We hope that the success of the first Stammtische will continue in the coming year, and if anybody either has suggestions on how the Stammtisch can be improved, or is willing to volunteer to speak during one of the input sessions, please do not hesitate to get in touch!

*Finja Draxler (MAIS 18, 2013-15) and
Jasmin Ploner (ETIA 7, 2013-15) have been
presidents of ClubDA's Vienna Chapter since July 2016.*

ClubDA Local Chapters

ClubDA Kazakhstan Chapter

Temir Assanov

It is a great honor and responsibility to be chosen as head of the ClubDA Chapter, Kazakhstan. There are several areas where ClubDA Kazakhstan could focus on and strive to bring positive outcomes.

On the 8th of November 2016 in the residence of the Austrian Ambassador to Kazakhstan, H.E. Dr. Gerhard Sailler initiated and launched the ClubDA Chapter's creation. Invited to the launch were a number of DA graduates, among which were the Ambassador of Bulgaria to Kazakhstan Vasil Petkov (Special Course 1996), Ambassador György Szabó, the Head of the OSCE Programme Office (Special Course 1990-91), as well as a number of other graduates and participants of Executive Training Programs. The professional backgrounds of those attending the event varied from diplomacy, business to education. It was the first such event related to the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna held in Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan and Austria have very close diplomatic and business relations. Austria is fast becoming a popular place for Kazakhstan's younger generation to undertake its higher education. Considering the diverse backgrounds of our alumni, the Kazakhstan Chapter is well placed to contribute towards the strengthening of these areas of cooperation.

The next meeting is planned for the beginning of the New Year, during which clearer future plans shall be discussed and set out. Until then



the Kazakhstan Chapter is first of all a networking platform for DA graduates.

We warmly welcome all DA graduates staying in or visiting Kazakhstan to join or contact the ClubDA Kazakhstan Chapter by contacting Mr. Andreas Ehrmann, Alumni Officer at the DA, who will provide you with our contact details.

*Temir Assanov, President of ClubDA's Kazakhstan Chapter,
is alumnus of DA's 15th MAIS Programme.*

ClubDA Local Chapters

ClubDA Kazakhstan Chapter

Temir Assanov

Mr. Temir Assanov

A native of Kazakhstan with a strong business and educational background, Temir specialises in international business development, in particular in the fields of agriculture and technology. Since Temir sees great potential for Kazakhstan to develop the export of organic and eco-friendly agricultural products, he has specifically focused on this field.

Currently Temir concentrates on developing agricultural businesses and leads key accounts as an advisor to the Presidium Member of Kazakhstan's National Chamber of Entrepreneurs (NCE) - Head of Aktobe region's NCE Council and General Director of the "Altyn Kyran Group". The dynamically growing group of companies is working in various sectors of Kazakhstan's economy focusing on oil, logistics and the active development of agricultural business.

Temir also focuses on IT, big data and robotics, and currently serves as a strategic leading advisor to the CEO of "Robo Technologies GmbH", an Austrian robotics company with offices in the US, Austria and China.

He actively participates in several business and diplomatic circles within Kazakhstan as the head of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna Kazakhstan Chapter and a member of the Diplomatic



ClubDA Local Chapters

ClubDA Kazakhstan Chapter

Temir Assanov

Business Club, whose membership consists of all foreign Ambassadors serving in Kazakhstan and major local businessmen.

Being active in academia, Temir also teaches Business Ethics as a visiting lecturer at the KAZGUU, one of the leading universities in Kazakhstan.

In 2014-15 Temir was a management consultant at Ernst & Young (EY) specialising in strategy development and efficiency enhancement projects. As an EY top performer he was invited by one of his client companies to work as a Managing Director at the JSC “Astana Innovations”, Kazakhstan’s National Company responsible for

innovative development and attracting investment to the capital city of Astana.

In 2013-14, as a chief expert at the Office of Kazakhstan’s Prime Minister, Temir was responsible for facilitating projects between the Government of Kazakhstan and various European countries.

Temir has an MA in Advanced International Studies from the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, an MA in Finance from KAZGUU and a BA in International Law from Peking University. As a high-achieving student, Temir was awarded the Kazakhstan President’s scholarship to study at Peking University. He is fluent in English, Chinese, Russian and Kazakh.



Envicient Consulting - A Notable Initiative of ETIA Alumni

Lamija Dzigal

Envicient Consulting is an environmental consultancy founded in 2012 by two ETIA graduates – Ann Marie Manhart and Cecilia Maronnier. They saw a need in the Austrian market for a consultancy that prioritized issues on environmental efficiency and a natural step forward was to establish a business that would address these issues.

Since its inception, Envicient Consulting has helped various clients in their environmental planning. Its mission and projects are continuously growing in ambition and impact, and making traction on the Austrian market. Notably, Ann and Cecilia have strived to cooperate with their ETIA network and have continuously hired graduates and students from the ETIA programme.

As a recent ETIA graduate, I was pleased to hear about the work that Envicient Consulting conducts at a career talk during the penultimate semester of my studies. I was even more impressed that the company was founded by ETIA graduates. Naturally, I spoke to Ann and Cecilia about their work and they encouraged me to write to them about any ideas I might have. Little did I know at the time that this Envicient Consulting would open the door for me to use my ETIA skills in a professional, real-life setting.

Shortly before my graduation, I received an email from them about a career opportunity. After an interview process and trial period, I am pleased to report that I was chosen to stay on as a project assistant. Presently, I am happy to report that through my work at Envicient Consulting, I have had the chance to work on many exciting projects in the environmental field. With this article, I would like to highlight one such notable project called Smart Kitchen.

How did Smart Kitchen come about?

Envicient Consulting had conducted a study that was funded by the Austrian Environment Ministry to observe the flows of food waste in the gastronomy sector. What was found is that much of the kitchen waste could be avoided during food-prep as many kitchen staff were not properly trained and did not have an understanding of proper cooking methodologies.

This is where the idea for Smart Kitchen was born.

The project was a answer to the need of businesses to be more conscientious in their resource use whilst at the same time ensuring that they are operating at the maximum level of efficiency.



Major economic benefit to the restaurants are the cost-saving potentials, in the most extreme case in the study conducted, small to medium-scale kitchens could be saving upwards of 8,000 - 10,000 Euros a year.

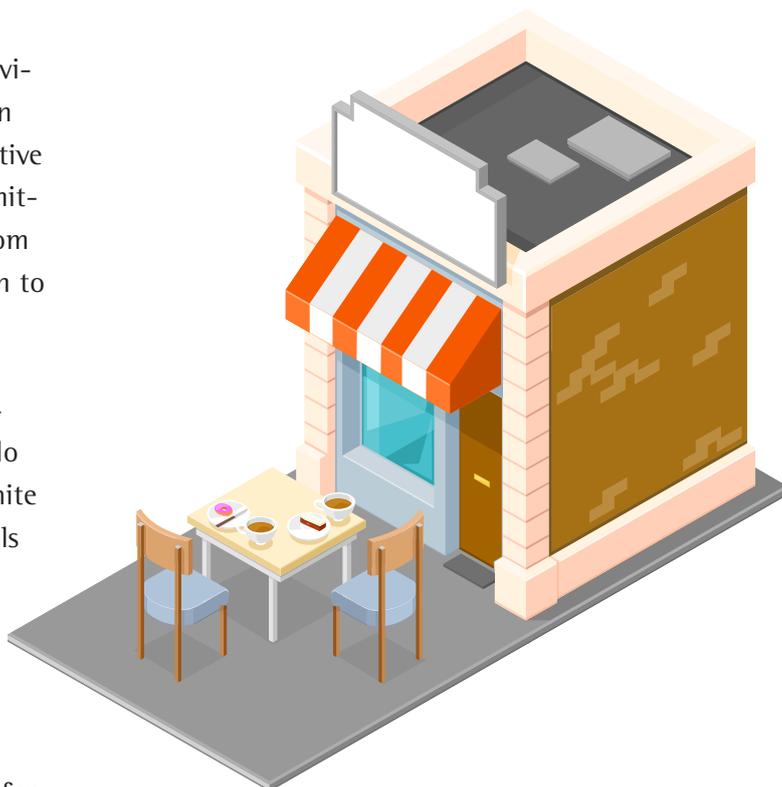
In addition, the project carries additional environmental and social benefits that project on the wider society. For instance, another positive benefit is the reduction of CO2 emissions emitted during the food production process - from agriculture to food processing, to retail, then to the restaurants.

The amount of CO2 emitted during the production of one kg of beef is 13.3 kg, one kilo of milk equals 9.5 kg of CO2, one kilo of white bread equals 6.5 kg, one kilo of apples equals 5.5 kg, etc. (Source: timeforchange.org)

The Smart Kitchen Workshop

The Smart Kitchen project aims to conduct awareness-raising and further skills training for kitchen staff to reduce their waste. The project was developed in cooperation with the Österreichische Ökologie Institut and receives funding from the City of Vienna's Ökobusinessplan.

The workshops are split into two different portions, a theoretical workshop on food waste and a practical workshop. Participating businesses receive certification logos, which can be used for any PR or marketing purpose.



An Award-Winning Project

It is an award-winning project. The first award won is the 2016 Environmental Prize by the City of Vienna. The second one is a nomination for the Viktualia Award of the Environment Ministry. And lastly, the third award is the KLIP7 award from the 7th District.

Envicient Consulting - A Notable Initiative of ETIA Alumni

Lamija Dzigal

For more information on the Smart Kitchen project,
please see:

✦ A YouTube video showing details of the workshop:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9deBv_3ZXX0

✦ Additional information may also be found on the

Smart Kitchen website: <http://www.smart-kitchen.at>

You may also like to visit our website:

<http://www.envicient-consulting.com>

If you know of a restaurant/business/institution with a
food service component that would like to participate in
this project please do not hesitate to contact us at:

anmarie.manhart@envicient-consulting.at

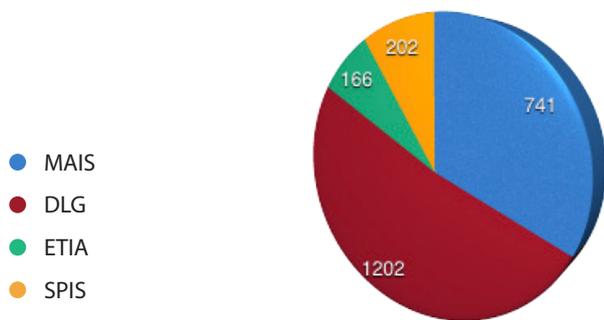
cecilia.maronnier@envicient-consulting.at

lamija.dzigal@envicient.consulting.at

We look forward to possible cooperation with you and
strengthening our ETIA Alumni network together!

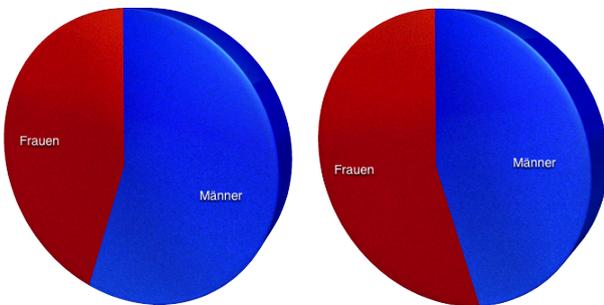
Lamija Dzigal is alumna of DA's 8th ETIA Programme.

Alumni nach Lehrgängen



Von 1964 bis 2016 absolvierten insgesamt **2.129** Studierende aus **122** Ländern den Diplomlehrgang der DA Wien, das SPIS sowie die Master-Studiengänge MAIS und ETIA. **1.202** Personen beendeten erfolgreich einen der bislang 52 Diplomlehrgänge, **741** MAIS-, **166** ETIA- und **202** SPIS-Alumni komplettieren die Liste, wobei **101** Personen ihre Zeit an der DA nach dem SPIS bzw. **79** nach dem DLG mit einem MAIS- oder ETIA-Studium fortsetzten.

Geschlechteranteile seit 1964 / seit 1996

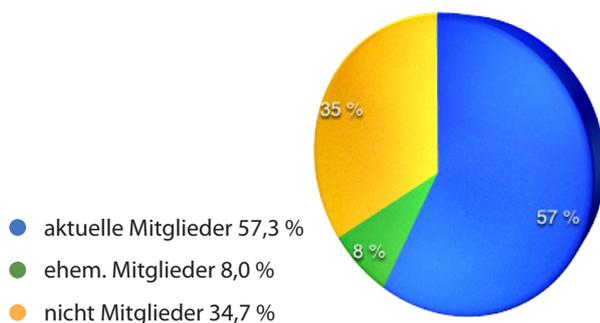


weiblich 45,2 %
männlich 54,8%

weiblich 55,3 %
männlich 44,7%

Vor allem in den Anfangsjahren der Diplomatischen Akademie war der Frauenanteil noch gering, insgesamt stehen bislang **963** Absolventinnen **1.166** männlichen Kollegen gegenüber. Dies ändert sich jedoch stetig. Seit der Ausgliederung der DA im Jahr 1996 sind **910** Studentinnen gegenüber **737** Studenten deutlich in der Mehrheit.

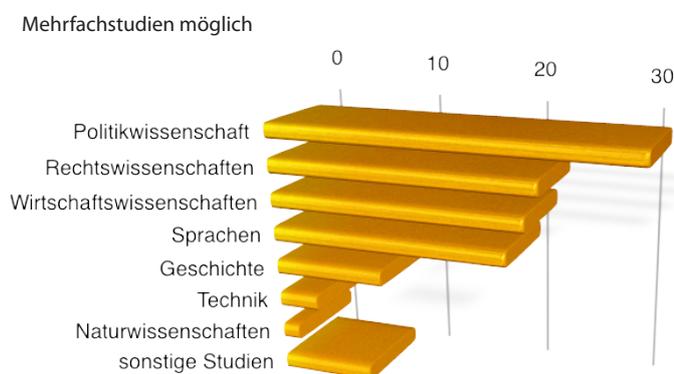
Anzahl der ClubDA-Mitglieder an der Gesamtzahl der DA-Alumni



Mehr als die Hälfte aller DA-Alumni überzeugen die Idee hinter dem und die Leistungen des ClubDA. **1.219** Alumni der vier genannten Lehrgänge sind aktuell Mitglieder des ClubDA, weitere **171** haben den Club verlassen. Insgesamt **65,3** Prozent aller Alumni traten im Laufe der Jahre dem Club bei.

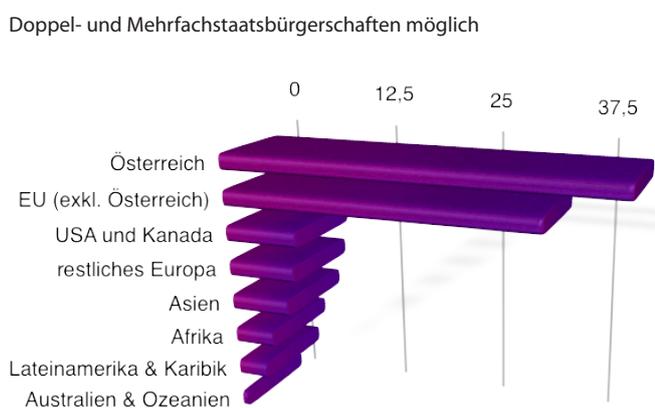


Vorstudien der DA-Alumni



Die Diplomatische Akademie zeichnet sich durch hohe geografische wie auch fachspezifische Pluralität ihrer Studierenden aus: **668** DA-Alumni kommen aus der Politikwissenschaft (inklusive Studien internationaler Beziehungen), **491** aus den Rechtswissenschaften, **468** aus den Wirtschaftswissenschaften, **437** haben Sprachstudien absolviert und **205** sind HistorikerInnen. Technische Studien haben **74** DA-Alumni abgeschlossen, naturwissenschaftliche **31**. Darüber hinaus haben **173** DA-Alumni sonstige Vorstudien besucht.

Herkunftsregionen der DA-Alumni



Wie bereits erwähnt, stammen die DA-Alumni aus nicht weniger als 122 verschiedenen Staaten. Die größte Gruppe bilden wenig überraschend **891** ÖsterreicherInnen, weitere **719** Alumni stammen aus anderen EU-Staaten. Aus den weiteren Ländern Europas kommen **159** Alumni, aus den USA und Kanada **170**, aus Asien **139**, aus Afrika **94**, aus Lateinamerika und der Karibik **70** sowie aus Australien und Ozeanien **12**.

Die zehn seit 1964 am stärksten an der Akademie vertretenen Nationen sind:

Österreich	891
USA	132
Deutschland	105
Frankreich	70
Großbritannien	66
Italien	63
Polen	58
Rumänien	45
Ungarn	41
Kanada	38

ON THE CALENDAR ...



- 28 December 2016 ClubDA Warsaw Chapter
Christmas Party and Commemoration
- 10 January 2017 Berlin Chapter New Year's Meeting
- 16 January 2017 Frauen im Gespräch:
Margit Fischer
- 28 January 2017 15th DA Ski and Snowboard
Championships
- Jan / Feb 2017 Wiener Eistraum
- 1 March 2017 11th Alumni Hall of Fame Talk:
"Krieg und Frieden – Gestern, Heute,
Morgen"
- 14 March 2017 DA LINK 2017
- 27 March 2017 Alumni meet students in Brussels
- 25-27 May 2017 10th ClubDA Outdoor Weekend:
Semmering
- 30 June - 1 July 2017 19th International Alumni
Meeting in Vienna with ClubDA General
Assembly, DA Sommerfest and the
traditional Alumni Excursion

Imprint

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For exact dates and additional events including
interesting talks by DA alumni in Vienna as well as
alumni meetings organised by ClubDA's local chap-
ters please check out our online event calendar at
www.da-vienna.ac.at/alumni/events.