

debate is life

everything else is just prep-time



Seasonal Report 2012/13

The season of 2012/2013 was the busiest and most successful year ever for DKWien. In total we organised 3 tournaments with international attendance, 2 public debates and about 70 training sessions. We sent 48 teams and 26 adjudicators to 35 international tournaments all over the planet. Vienna teams broke teams into the final rounds in London, Cologne, Le Havre, Munich, Salzburg, Budapest, Manchester and Eilat, additionally to our adjudicators breaking to the final rounds of a multitude of competitions. We won the Southern German Championship in Debating in April 2013, and even made it into the elimination rounds at the European Universities Debating Championship in Manchester and the German-Speaking Championship in Munich.

This success would not have been possible without our sponsors. We greatly thank the Vienna University of Economics and Business, the University of Vienna and the University of Vienna Law School for amongst others allowing to use their rooms for our regular sessions and providing us with space for the tournaments. Moreover, specifically we would like to thank the law-firm Baker & McKenzie that has been supporting us for 3 years by now. We are looking forward to continuing the great cooperation in future!

Highlights

We picked a few highlights out of the past 2012/2013 season which we think deserve special attention. The full timeline is available on debattierklubwien.at.

1st Vienna Freshers' Tournament

November 2012. DKWien is eager to spread University Debating among students of all Viennese Universities. We think competition is a very essential part of debating. Attending tournaments is the best guarantee for a fast learning curve, connects debaters internationally and spreads Vienna's name all over the world. Thus, we put together a tournament especially for those who are new to debating. The first Vienna Freshers' attracted teams from Germany and Hungary as well as 6 domestic teams, which is a very healthy sign for debating in Vienna and the region. The success of this Vienna Freshers' was so great that we decided to repeat the tournament this year and we are proud to say that the now much enlarged competition was already booked out at the time this report was written.

MondayTalks at DKWien

November 2012 and January 2013. Debating teaches argumentative skills and critical thinking. Yet, it is even more than that. Our public MondayTalks with US-American Cultural Attachée Marlene Nice and author Robert Menasse gave students a report on current issues. The format allowed them to critically discuss a topic right after they had heard the facts. DKWien will continue to organise Talks and public debates 2013/14, since we think they are a great additional service for students who want like to be informed about different sides of a current issue.

Debating at Schools

We believe that the ability to weigh arguments and critically analyse multiple sides of a policy is a precondition for a democratic society. Debating trains exactly this skill. Thus, we think it is exceedingly important that debating spreads beyond the universities. This is why we apply the competences our members acquire in competitive debating to teach debating in schools all over Austria. In 2012/13 we held multiple workshops for a host of different schools. In 2014 the project is going to expand all over Austria and high-school students will have the chance to compete in debating at the Austrian Schools Speaking Contest.

3rd Vienna IV

March 2013. Vienna Intervarsity is the annual international tournament DKWien has been hosting since 2011. We are proud to say that Vienna IV in the meantime grew to the largest intervarsity debating competition on the European continent! 60 teams from 22 countries followed the call to debate 6 rounds at WU Wien and the finals at the Main Ceremonial Chamber of the University of Vienna. A team from the University of Vermont (USA) took the win in the thrilling final against teams from RRIS (Israel), BBU (Romania) and Göttingen (Germany).

3rd Baker & McKenzie Debate Club

April 2013. Outstanding lawyers need to exceed at conveying arguments convincingly. The law firm Baker & McKenzie has recognised that debating is an excellent way to train and assess this skill. Therefore DKWien and Baker & McKenzie annually organise the Baker & McKenzie Debate Club, where law students can proof and improve their argumentative powers. The winner gets to undertake an internship at Baker & McKenzie. The third edition of the annual competition took place on 26 and 27 April at WU Wien and was won by Bernadette Weißnar.

DKWien wins the Southern German Championship

April 2013. After having reached the final in the previous year, Ingolstadt once again proved to be a good place for Viennese debaters. Our team of Christoph Jäger, Jakob Reiter and Mark Etzel beat Stuttgart to win the second tournament for DKWien after Innsbruck 2007. But not only that, our team also managed to top the tab and Mark

was awarded the best speaker of the final and also the tournament overall. DKWien has been working hard over the last years to promote debating in Austria. We see the first international title of an Austrian team as a validation of our efforts and an incentive to continue our mission for more such successes in the future.

DKWien in the Quarterfinals of the European Universities Debating Championship

August 2013. The European Universities Debating Championship (EUDC) is the most important tournament in the European university debating calendar. Top universities from all over Europe send their best and brightest students to compete. The EUDC 2013 took place in August in Manchester, and for the first time in history an Austrian team made it into the ESL* quarterfinals of the Championship. Thanks to DKWien team "Vienna A" (Christoph Jäger and Stefan Zweiker) as well as DKWien quarterfinal adjudicator Rosie Halmi, Vienna's universities now rank among the few top institutions that make the 'break' at this prestigious competition. This amazing success is the product of all DKWien members' hard work in training. Cambridge A won EUDC in the main category against teams from Oxford, Trinity College Dublin and Edinburgh. Team Lund A from Sweden won the ESL* final.

* English as a second language

The European Championship in Vienna

2015 will be a big year for debating in Austria. DKWien will host the European Debating Championship in Vienna! We decided to bring EUDC to Vienna since we think it can have a massive impact on debating in Austria and the entire Danube region. The championship attracts almost 1000 debaters each year and the event with its high-class finals offers a splendid opportunity to bring debating to the Austrian public. It also serves as a perfect promotion for the city of Vienna and Viennese Universities among the brightest students all over Europe. At many top-universities, students will have to qualify within their debating society in order to be selected to go to EUDC. The 3-months work we put into preparing the bid paid off when the European debating community approved of Vienna EUDC in a unanimous vote in late August. Grateful for this extraordinarily enthusiastic affirmation, we now start the actual work – we hope for your support!

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