



Final Report

w u s a u s t r i a

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Foreword

The quality of Higher Education in the Balkans often suffers from a lack of opportunity in gaining practical experience, where students are being exposed to real life problems and given the opportunity to learn how to deal with them.

For three consecutive years now the Balkan Case Challenge has been most successfully addressing that need. From a Bosnian-Herzegovinian competition it has become a regional one, bringing together students from 8 countries of Southeast Europe, who otherwise would hardly meet and find out how much they actually have in common. The method of a simultaneously held Business Case Competition, a Law Moot Court and a Model United Nations simulation provides an unforgettable experience, and hopefully will help promoting the case study method at some of the universities the students come from.



Skill building, an integral part of the Balkan Case Challenge, also has a positive impact on the labour market of the region as companies can identify excellent students and students can learn skills that provide them with better job perspectives.

Therefore, this largest regional event in the field of student competitions in the Balkans increasingly has been attracting the interest of institutional sponsors like the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Austria, the Open Society Institute or SEED, who kept on supporting the event throughout these years, as well as increasingly attracts local and regional companies, realizing the opportunity of being provided a link to the future intellectual elite of the region via this project.

As the chairman of WUS Austria, it is a pleasure for me to see how much enthusiastic feedback the Balkan Case Challenge receives every year from all people involved, making it one of WUS Austria's most successful projects ever. Therefore, a Balkan Case Challenge 2003 is already in preparation, and it is our intention to further improve the already high standards of the competition in order to give students from the Balkans better perspectives for their future.

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Benedek
Chairman, WUS Austria

Credits: Report compiled by Maximilian Hartmuth / Texts written by Maximilian Hartmuth, Lejla Muftic, Amina Hasanovic, Marko Nuic and Thomas Klein / Photos taken by Angelika Stadelmann

Results Achieved

The Balkan Case Challenge 2002 was to promote the case study method and to offer teaching methods rarely used in the region. Feedback received on this method was very positive. Students stated that they seldomly have the chance to put theory into action and therefore highly appreciated this event.

Very important too was the opportunity to meet colleagues and make new friends from all around the Balkan region. Furthermore, students met representatives of local and international organizations and companies. Many students were awarded scholarships for further trainings, internships, others got in contact with prospective employers right at the event.

Organizing Committee

The Balkan Case Challenge 2002 was a follow-up project to the Balkan Case Challenge 2001 and the BiH Challenge 2000. Some of the board members in 2002 were already involved in the board of 2001. The International Project Coordinator was **Maximilian Hartmuth**, who had been working with WUS Austria since September 2001 as Project Manager. **Elma Agic**, who had been involved with the project since 2000, took the function as Local Project Coordinator.

The further organizational board was divided into teams with 1 spokesperson each.



Fundraising:

Amra Islamovic, Sanja Merdan, Adisa Nezirovic, Maja Pehar

Event and Facility Management, Transport and Accommodation, Human Resources:

Haris Karamovic, Stanislava Nuic, Lejla Sabanovic, Davorka Kordic

Information Dissemination, PR and Promotion:

Naida Muftic, Lejla Mahmutcehajic

Business Case Challenge:

Lejla Muftic, Amela Skikic

Law Moot Court Competition:

Marko Nuic, Armin Imamovic

Model United Nations:

Faris Hadrovic, Amina Hasanovic

The Organization – WUS Austria

World University Service (WUS) is an international NGO with committees in over 40 countries. The basic idea of WUS is the promotion of the right to education and academic freedom. Since the end of the war in Southeast Europe, WUS Austria has focused its work on the reconstruction of a properly functioning system of higher education in South Eastern Europe, as well as on promoting and supporting initiatives in the field of higher education. In autumn 1998, WUS Austria opened offices in Podgorica, Montenegro and in Priština, Kosov@. Since 2001 WUS Austria also operates in Belgrade, Serbia. We consider a properly functioning system of higher education to be vital for the prosperous development of Southeast Europe. www.wus-austria.org

Evaluation

In an effort to constantly improve our efforts and results, anonymous evaluation forms were handed out to all participants.

Sample feedback:

"The atmosphere was extraordinary friendly and constructive. I learned a lot of things"

"I had to work very hard, but it was actually real fun at the same time."

"None of us could now imagine life without BCC :)"

"It was a great experience. You can really learn so much and meet some great people".

"I had to work very hard, but it was actually real fun at the same time. The organizing committee did its work In an extraordinary way"

"It's an excellent event from all points of view. It stimulates to improve yourself because of the others"

"A great project that should continue in the future."

"It was much more serious than I first thought."

"I enjoyed the high quality of the debates"

"The BCC was the best stress I've ever been exposed to."

Balkan Case Challenge 2003

By promoting student mobility and their active participation, the Balkan Case Challenge supports the implementation of the Bologna Process.

After the overwhelming success of the Balkan Case Challenge 2002, all persons involved in the organizing process agreed on its continuation in the year 2003. Many cooperating partners expressed their intention to support the event in the year 2003 as well. The Organizing Committee has already started with its activities in February 2003.