

Dear all,

Welcome to the 2nd edition of our eBCC Newsletter!

First of all:

Please do not forget to keep the **deadline** for the Sub-Competitions in the 12 participating countries to the BCC - Albania, Austria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Moldavia, Serbia, Slovenia, Romania in mind.

Last chance to apply today at 23:59!!!!

For this 2nd edition of the eBCC-Newsletter we will explain the basic structure of the *Sub-Competitions* in the 12 participating countries.

Further, we will start to introduce the first of our 11 **Local Coordinators** in South-Eastern-Europe, Mjellma Carabregu from Kosovo, who is responsible for the organisation of the BCC in Kosova.. She will share with us some highlights of her work and will further introduce us in a specific article on the current overall recruitment situation for young professionals in Kosova.

In addition, we will continue our line of interviews with former participants and invited further former participants from Kosovo to reflect on their participations in the BCC 2006 and BCC 2007. Including their voices into the eBCC-Newsletter is essential for us as through them we try to get you in touch with the most authentic advocates for the BCC – those who have already participated in this exciting event and who were able to make use of the many opportunities the participation in the BCC can provide.

Last, but not least we will present to you our media cooperation with the Austrian daily Newspaper "DerStandard" and provide you with some recent announcements.

We hope you enjoy reading our eBCC Newsletter!

Cheers,

I) Short description of the Sub-Competitions in the disciplines of *Law Moot Court, Business Case Competition, Information Communication Technologies Competition* and the *Simulation of the European Council*.

Law Moot Court:

The Law Moot Court is a simulation of a trial before the International Court of Justice. The teams are presented with a fictitious dispute between two states. Drawing on their knowledge of both international and European law, student teams prepare and present their cases before the court.

Business Case Competition:

The Business Case Competition brings together top students from the field of business studies, management and economics. The case study is a business related theme relevant to economic development in South-Eastern Europe.

ICT Case Competition:

The ICT Case Competition simulates the application of ICT in a specific business context. Participants are required to analyse the business procedures and infrastructure of the company in question and to provide an integrative solution.

Model European Council

The Model European Council is a simulation of the European Council that will help participants acquire knowledge of the EU and its institutions, the issues, communication skills, debate, negotiation, research and lobbying skills through a simulation of the European Council.

II) Interviews with former participants

a) Stelian-Mircea Olaru



1. How did you find out about the BCC, why did you participate?

A couple of friends at university told me about the BCC project and we decided to apply together. However, the main reason I applied were not the excellent location nor the chance to go abroad with my friends. The challenge of solving a real-world business case study in a short period of time within an international team was the trigger behind my application. I was not dissapointed.

2. Can you briefly describe your personal and professional background?

I am currently aged 24 and a graduate of the Masters programme jointly organised by the Universite of Orleans and the Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest. Also, I am currently working for the company that employed me as a result of my performance at the BCC 2006, Contrast Management Consulting&Training within its Romanian office. After starting as Junior Consultant in 2006, I am currently

occupying the position of Project Coordinator and working on consulting projects in finances, tax, NGO collaboration.

3. How did the participation at the competition contribute to your personal/professional developments?

The short deadline meant the team had to find a quick and efficient way of organising its work including splitting responsibilities, establishing deadlines etc. Working within an international team rendered the tasks above even more challenging due to inevitable intercultural differences. However, overcoming all these obstacles led in the end to a great feeling of satisfaction especially during the final presentation of the results, when all of us could identify ourselves with the content presented.

On the other hand, the structure of the BCC competition, with all the case-related activities taking place in the same building and several team-building activities organised, enabled me to create create friendships not only with my Romanian colleagues but also with foreigners. In fact, I am going out with the BCC2006 Bucharest group 3 days from now.

4. You were offered a job immediately after the BCC. Can you explain how that happened? How did you engage yourself in the recruitment process?

During the final presentation, one of the board members, Mr. Thomas Gabriel told me he was impressed with my performance and invited me for an interview upon my return in Romania. So technically, my job was actually offered during BCC.

While I was taking part in the recruitment process for my current employer I also applied for similar positions within other consulting practices. I have to say that my participation at BCC 2006 was always a 5-10 minutes discussion point and I am confident that it, together with my educational background, was one of the main reasons I was accepted in all the companies I applied too.

5. What is your job position now? Can you describe your current activities?

I am currently working for the company that employed me as a result of my performance at the BCC 2006, Contrast Management Consulting&Training within its Romanian office. After starting as Junior Consultant in 2006, I am currently occupying the position of Project Coordinator and working on consulting projects in finances, tax, NGO collaboration.



1. How did you find out about the BCC, why did you participate?

One night, I saw a poster at my faculty and decided to apply. Reading the words "UN Security council" and "simulation" intrigued me as I always wanted to deal in international politics.

2. Can you briefly describe your personal and professional background?

I am a soon-to-be graduate archaeologist. This, and my previous classical education provide me with a deep insight in the affairs of human relations.

3. What was your experience during the BCC? What are the highlights of the BCC which you want to share?

I came believing I had no chance of winning among by far more qualified people. It turned out that BCC "unleashed the dragon" of good oratory and diplomacy within me, as the coordinator put it.

4. How did the participation at the competition contribute to your personal/ professional developments?

It certainly determined the direction of my future endeavours. I decided that upon receiving a degree in archaeology I pursue career in foreign relations and oratory. On the downside, because of all the new interest BCC inspired in me, my studies of archaeology somewhat prolonged.

5. Which professional steps do you envisage next?

I have two goals at the moment: to finish my graduation thesis and get a degree, and to be accepted into the programme of postgraduate studies in International relations at the University of Cambridge. If I am found worthy, getting a scholarship would be the next step.

6. Summing up your personal experiences with the BCC - what suggestions do you have for future participants?!

To understand life as a serious game. Equip yourselves with the best knowledge you can get and play the game of life accordingly. BCC taught me the importance of accurate roleplaying and how the Game theory can be taken to a new level.

I would like also to say that the experience at BCC made it possible for me to participate at yet another programme coorganised by WUS (other organisers being ADA and Zoran Djindjic Fund), where I was, because of my success at BCC, bestowed with the honour of speaking before Mrs Plassnik, Mrs Djindjic, a number of Austrian dignitaries and my colleagues. I hope that this positive trend of streaking success will continue with being accepted at Cambridge, but I can certainly say that it was at BCC 2006 where that trend began.

III) Interview with our Local Coordinator Mjellma Carabregu



1. Since when are you working for the BCC?

I'm working for the BCC since May 2006. First I was a participant of the Kosova Case Challenge on Business Case Challenge and together with my team won the second place.

2. Can you please give us your overall impression of the BCC?

BCC is a very attractive project and a place of numerous advantages. What makes it special is that participants or candidates participating at the project are the ones that are characterized with the features of being very enthusiastic, a lot of energy and very smart. In the long term these elements identify them as the leaders of the country. And I would use the opportunity to say that it is also privilege to work and meet such people from all SEE and Austria.

Today participant of the BCC, tomorrow leader of your country or chief executive of the company.

3. Which element of the BCC leaves the most important trace for you in your country?

One of the best things and first and impressions from the BCC that participants get is the practice of knowledge. Especially in our country which is an area of education where is the lack of linkage between theory and practice.

4. Given your experience in the last years - as participant and as organiser of the BCC - which tips do you find most valuable for the participants?

It is amazing how you are surrounded with a lot of opportunities. Seize the chance by being participant of the project on the local or main level. It is very natural that you're maybe stacked of thinking on the assignment given. But do not forget to keep eye also on the companies, organizations or institutions present. Be self confidential, persuasive and open-minded.

5. Is it better to be a participant or an organizer?

Lucky you that are participants.

6. Which highlight do you want to share?

By being in the team during the final better split the work among each other according to your competences. Do not lose all of your energy by working on the same parts.

7. Lesson learnt experiences!

Better check the list of the participating companies/organizations/institutions before the recruitment event on the web page or material received by e-mail. "Hunt for your dream job" and do not forget to bring your CV!

"An Event Paving the Way to Break with Typical Traditions of Family-Related Staff Recruitment in Kosovo" by Mjellma Carabregu

In Kosova, a tradition of recruiting and selecting future staff based on family relations has been cultivated for years now, especially after the war. In many cases it has caused disappointment among the potential employees and for many perfectly skilled potential employees even resulted in a complete unwillingness to

apply for certain positions. Not everyone has a relative working in the public institutions and private companies!

The *Kosova Case Challenge* has helped now already for the fourth year to develop and promote a new way of identifying high potentials for the labor market in Kosova.

In this context, the BCC - which aims to invite the best students of the University to participate in the competition - was already for the fourth year able to demonstrate to some chief executive officer of a local company, that it is not necessarily the family relations which make a candidate ideal for a working position.

As businesses increasingly need to operate within a tough market competition context, there is an ever growing need for people who know how to handle the market demands successfully and who actively respond to the needs of market. Particularly in a way, which seeks to satisfy customer demands. Consequently, a future employer needs creative people, open minded, flexible, equipped with a spirit for cooperation, and in trend with the latest development of global markets. Not necessarily do we always have such persons in our family!

Education is one of the best tools which can effectively contribute to the decrease of unemployment – and it can help companies create a leading position in the market. Well educated staff constitutes one of the most essential links in a chain that aims to achieve long-lasting satisfactory positions in the market. Only with such kind of staff can a company create sustainable and bench-marked goals in the ever increasing competitive market-scenery. In this regard, a close cooperation of the business community, public institutions and international organizations with the academic world creates fundamental links which continuously need to be strengthened.

We are very glad, that finally the BCC with its sub competitions in 11 countries of SEE and Austria helps spreading this breath of modern recruitment all over!

IV) BCC Media Cooperation

The BCC builds on a successful media cooperation with the Austrian daily newspaper "*Der Standard*". For students with German language skills "*Der Standard*" offers the following subscription possibilities.

STANDARD LeserInnen und Leser sch•en die erstklassige
Berichterstattung. Mit internationalen Reportagen, umfassenden Kulturberichten und
erlesenen Gastkommentaren ist DER STANDARD federführend in der
tagesaktuellen Berichterstattung und Meinungsbildung.
Nutzen Sie die Vorteile eines STANDARD Abos und überzeugen Sie

Sich selbst.

Link zu 4 Wochen Gratis Bestellformular:

<http://derstandarddigital.at/?url=/?id=2471801>

V) Recent announcements:

EUROPEAN FORUM ALPACH

Dear students and recent graduates,

"Perception and decision" is the general topic of the 64th European Forum Alpbach. From 14 to 30 August 2008, the forum will explore the question of how perception and interpretation lead to diagnosis and ultimately to forecasts that have an influence on our decisions.

The three-week event offers an opportunity to enter into discussion with renowned personalities. In a unique atmosphere, speakers from a wide variety of disciplines will discuss burning issues of our times with the participants. An extensive social programme offers opportunities to continue debates outside the conference and seminar rooms. The special nature of the European Forum now brings more than 3,000 participants to Alpbach every year.

To enable young people to share in this experience, we offer with the kind support of our donors scholarships for students and recent graduates.

For more details about the scholarship program please have a look at our website <http://www.alpbach.org/scholarships>

Best regards,

Franz Mailer

PS: Alpbach Initiative Groups and Clubs have been founded in numerous European countries by participants of the European Forum Alpbach. These institutions organise events in the spirit of Alpbach and provide individual calls for scholarships. More details can be found at <http://www.alpbach.org/associates>

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