



Johannes C. Seybold (left) and Dr. Donatella Magliani (right), with Prof. Bertold Schweitzer (EPU)

UN Diplomats Share Experiences in EPU Lecture Series

On 20 November 2012, EPU was proud to host two UN diplomats for a guest lecture in the newly established EPU lecture series.

Dr. Donatella Magliani and Mr. Johannes C. Seybold, presently with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, talked on “Working as a UN diplomat” in a session with EPU students lasting close to three hours. Both speakers look back on extensive experience inside the UN system, having worked for UNIDO, UNDP, and IAEA.

Two fields were in the centre of the vivid discussion with EPU students: First, the institutional ambiguity of the UN system between being controlled by the member states and their political

negotiations and the UN administration’s efforts to follow and enforce the UN charter’s objectives of world peace and development.

The diplomats emphasized that the international administration is often depending on the initiative or the consent of the member states and thus can only perform on the ground of a common resolution.

This led to the second field under discussion: the visibility and performance of the UN in global scope. Both speakers pointed out that the daily work and implementation of UN policy is so multifaceted that it is a challenge to understand and characterise it.

It stretches from general questions of world ecology and sustainable and ecological development to aid in education and food supply to the control of nuclear plants and support services in technical fields. It comprises also the more or less successful efforts to keep or establish peace in the world.

Though the account of the United Nations might be mixed, the speakers pointed out the great achievement the UN provides as a global forum of exchange, cooperation and mutual aid.

Both speakers and students enjoyed this afternoon of exchange between academics and practitioners and hope to be able to repeat it in the coming year.



EPU Intercultural Evening: Celebrating the World's Differences

By Meah Mostafiz

How does the “EPU Intercultural Evening” contribute a positive impact for resolving global conflict? If that was the research question, the prime hypothesis could be, “the EPU intercultural evening teaches a tolerant and welcoming attitude towards different global cultural practices”.

Some may argue that a simple party and a variety of food cannot make that much difference. However, EPU Academic Coordinator Dr. László Farkas may have a strong argument which could save the hypothesis: “The purpose of the event is to give an understanding that you practice your own culture, but on the other hand you also accept other cultures in order to create a tolerant, peaceful and friendly environment in and around you.”

The traditional “Intercultural Evening” at EPU was held on 28 November 2012 at Haus International in Stadtschlaining. Students cooked their own national cuisines, dressed in traditional native costumes, and exhibited country flags and history. For many residents of Stadtschlaining – also known as “a town for peace” – who attended the party, it was “a life time memorable event” as one Stadtschlaining resident, Dr. Eeva Werderitsch, expressed her impression.

While enjoying the variety of food, EPU faculty Prof. Bertold Schweitzer delightedly pronounced, “Foods are so exquisite and luring and I am also extremely impressed seeing all the colorful dresses.”

For the EPU Students of the Master in Peace and Conflict Studies 2012/2014 academic year,

having studied since September theories of Hobbes, Machiavelli, war and conflict, terrorism, international relations, research methodology, writing reflection papers, semester modules, doing oral presentations and so on, the night was a relief and getaway from the workload and stress.

On the other hand, as a “peace ambassador” the event was part of learning process for the EPU students: “If you tolerate other cultures, welcome different foods, costumes, respect different practices and beliefs, it obviously creates a peaceful atmosphere”, Chiemzie Kingsley, a student from Nigeria, summarized.

Given the chance for students to cook their national food, and present their own costumes was an opportunity to be who they are. Core of it was to underline that the world is full of differences and peaceful co-existence can be achieved by respecting each other and welcoming all the diversities.

Some cuisines that were cooked on this night included Chicken adobo (Philippines), Dall (Pakistan), Fufu, Ero, Egusi and Okra Soup (Cameroon), Kabli Palow (Afghanistan), Kher (India), Jollof Rice, Egusi, Eva (Nigeria), Cassava leaf and rice (Liberia), Lasagna (Sierra Leone), Kelewele, Waakye (Ghana), and Mozartkugeln, Manner-Schnitten and Punsch (Austria).

Costumes presented were Anhon (Cameroon), Shari (India), Salwar Kamij (Afghanistan), Panjabi (Bangladesh), Kanzu (Uganda), African gown (Liberia), Dirndl (Austria), and Mgolole (Tanzania).

The EPU intercultural evening teaches a tolerant and welcoming attitude towards different global cultural practices





EPU Students on a Day Trip in the Austrian Province of Burgenland

As a traditional extracurricular program, the European Peace University invited students for an excursion in the province of Burgenland – where Stadtschlaining, home of the EPU, is located, too.

The day trip was organized and guided by DDr. Erwin Schranz, Manager of the EPU Association. Students were joined by EPU faculty members Prof. Patricia Bauer, Prof. Bertold Schweitzer, and Dr. Laszlo W. Farkas.

It was a foggy and rainy day, but we still enjoyed the visit in the medieval Güssing Castle for a ride back in history – and also learned that Schlaining was originally founded by the lords of Güssing.

Then we strolled around among the traditional buildings of the vineyards of Southern Burgenland, also tasting some of the local wines.

Having already learned much about the history of Burgenland on the way, we made contact with one exceedingly dreadful episode when stopping at the Holocaust Memorial in Rechnitz where the EPU delegation paid a tribute to the memories of those who lost their lives during

the Holocaust and especially to those (mostly Hungarian) Jews who were brutally murdered in the “Kreuzstadt” in the outskirts of Rechnitz.

Having “climbed” the highest hill in Burgenland (by bus, of course ...) we retired for lunch in a cosy local restaurant in Lockenhaus.

The afternoon’s program included visiting the wind power station Lichtenegg, one of the few of its kind with an observation platform, 60 meters above the ground. Unfortunately, the fog was so thick by the time we arrived that even the rotor blades could hardly be seen from the ground.

We traveled on to the windy shores of Lake Neusiedl in Northern Burgenland before visiting the famous wine town of Rust, and finally the elegant castles and palaces of Eisenstadt.

Eisenstadt, or the “iron city”, today the capital of Burgenland, was formerly the seat of the Eszterházy, a Hungarian noble family and is also famous for the fact that Joseph Haydn, the composer, lived as an orchestra director at their court.

Mark Your Calendar

MA Courses

(Venues: Haus International, unless indicated otherwise)

- “Qualitative Social Research” (Bertold Schweitzer, EPU, 03–07 Dec 2012)
- “Causes of War” (Paul D. Scott, EPU, 10–14 Dec 2012)
- “Causes of Peace” (Paul D. Scott, EPU, 10–14 Dec 2012)

EPU Lecture Series

- “Literary and Political Utopias: From Plato to NATO” (Lecture and discussion, Laszlo Farkas, EPU, Wed, 05 Dec 2012, 7:00 pm, Haus International)

Film Colloquium

- “No Man's Land” (introduced by Patricia Bauer, EPU, Tue, 11 Dec 2012, 7:00 pm, Haus International)

Workshop

- “Using R for Statistical Computing in Social Science” (Bertold Schweitzer, EPU, Tue, 04 Dec 2012, 2:00 pm, Haus International)

Term Dates

- Fall term 2012 ends: 16 December 2012
- Spring term 2013 begins: 27 January 2013



EPU Group Photo

On November 20, 2012, making use of the unexpectedly sunny weather, we took the official group photo for the EPU Fall 2012 trimester. A great group deserves a great photo :-)



Project work at EPU

Interactive lectures, intense discussions, group work, renowned instructors from all over the world, and an excellent student-instructor ratio are some of the hallmarks of EPU

Interested in Studying at EPU? Apply for Fall 2013!

Starting in Autumn 2013, the European Peace University will be offering two additional MA programs for a total of three:

- Peace & Conflict Studies
- European Peace & Security Studies
- Peacebuilding

“European Peace and Security Studies” focuses on the EU system and Europe’s responsibility for global peace.

“Peacebuilding” connects academic peace studies with the professional and personal challenges peacebuilders are

facing in the field.

More details about all of EPU’s MA programs may be found at <http://epu.ac.at/study/>.

Applications for fall 2013 in all three MA programs are open now!

We are looking forward to hearing from you and are happy to answer any questions you may have. Please contact Ms Anita Flasch at epu@epu.ac.at.

In addition, applying for the EPU certificate program – i.e., studying selected terms or modules of any of the EPU programs – is possible any time. For term dates please visit our academic calendar at <http://epu.ac.at/admission/academic-calendar.html>.