

# Vienna EUDC Final Report to EUDC Council

11/08/2016

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Vienna EUDC was a success from the organizational point of view. The final tournament budget vastly corresponded to planning. The tournament reached its team-cap, drop-outs were moderate. A certain number of external spectators visited Vienna EUDC. Media coverage was satisfactory, even though the reach of the event did not spread considerably beyond the debating scene. There was only one incident that required proper trouble shooting, namely a fire-alarm during the semi-finals. Overall, the competition ran smoothly and innovative electronical tabbing was a major time saver. We thank our sponsors and everyone who contributed!

## 1- BUDGET

### a) Data

Final Vienna EUDC Budget Comparative							
Income	June 2 values			Expenditure	June 2 values		
Registration Fees incl Travel Fees	182833,13	185684,85	-1,54%	Accommodation	151346,00	161406,00	-6,23%
Public Funding	13605,00	12000,00	13,38%	Food	42538,64	57603,00	-26,15%
JEF Austria/EU Funding	20297,94	20000,00	1,49%	Administration Cost/Legal	4590,25	4605,85	-0,34%
				Independents/Travel Support	6333,68	7570,00	-16,33%
				Print	3590,64	1000,00	259,06%
				Venues	3000,00	3000,00	0,00%
				Prizes	297,94	500,00	-40,41%
				Team	5947,53	1925,00	208,96%
				Video and Media	500,00		100,00%
Contribution of the DKWien EUDC GmbH	1408,61						
<b>Sum</b>	<b>218144,68</b>	<b>232684,85</b>	<b>-6,25%</b>		<b>218144,68</b>	<b>237609,85</b>	<b>-8,19%</b>

### b) Assessment

The final changes to the budget were very minor. Public funding increased slightly, as the estimates we had used in the Council Budget were based on conservative values. Similarly, the cost for food and accommodation decreased, since we could negotiate better prices than anticipated. Our success in obtaining goods by sponsorship also contributed to the lower amount spent on food.



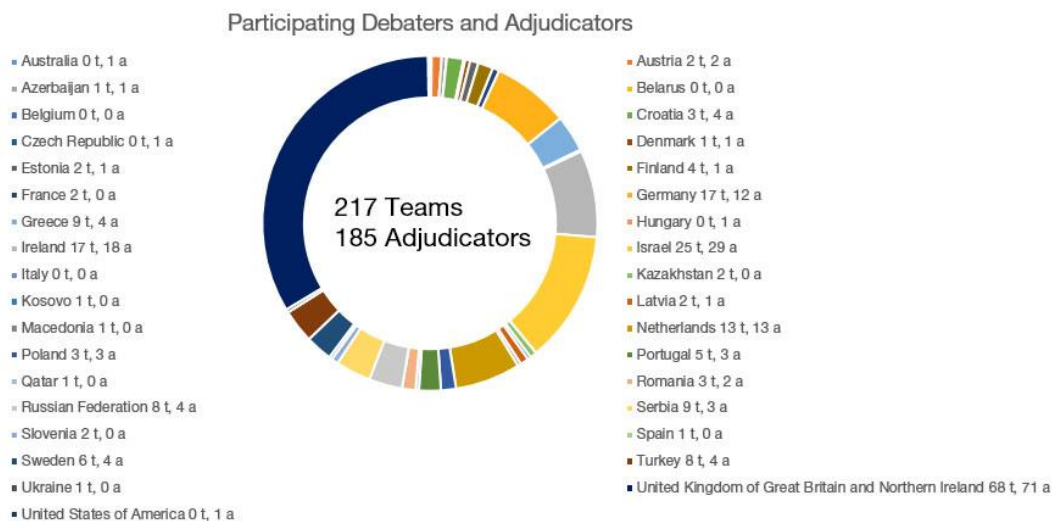
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On the expenditure side, there were considerable deviations from the planning budget in terms of cost for the team and printing cost. The higher cost of printing is due to our choice to print badges and the brochure in a better quality than we had anticipated in the planning budget. The increased cost for the team on the final budget is mainly due to a change in accounting compared to the planning budget: While the planning budget only listed food explicitly dedicated to the team as a separate expenditure, the final budget proportionally accounts for team-members consuming meals at the socials with the participants.

Overall, the tournament ended on what we consider a balanced budget. The contribution by the revenues of the Debattierklub Wien EUDC GmbH to the tournament was slightly smaller than foreseen originally.

## 2- PARTICIPANTS

### a) Data



Additionally, to the 434 speakers and 185 adjudicators, we counted 65 volunteers/observers/crew and 288 external spectators at the finals.

### b) Assessment

Firstly, we were happy about the high diversity of teams represented at Vienna EUDC. Vienna's geographical location was ideal in this regard. Moreover, our subsidies were supported by the Austrian foreign ministry, which allowed us to attract a certain additional number of adjudicators with direct travel subsidies.

Secondly, Vienna EUDC was filled up to almost exactly the team-cap. Three factors contributed to this very positive outcome:

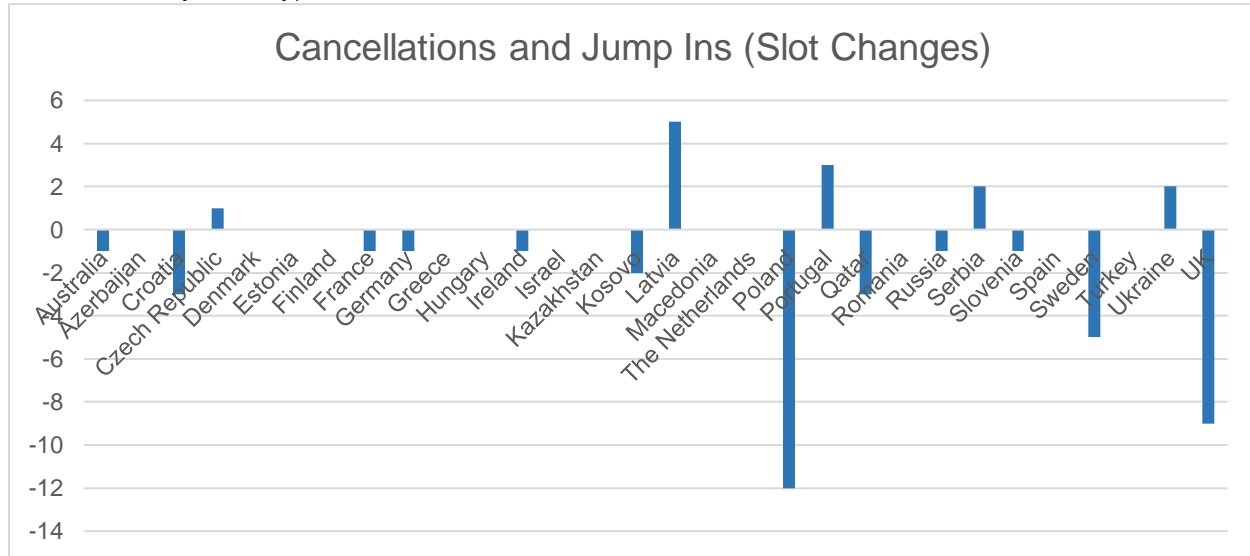
- 1) The registration system Debreg allowed us to keep a good overview on the teams registered and allowed us to replace teams dropping out quickly.
- 2) Based on the drop-out data we had from previous Vienna IVs, we overbooked the tournament up to 4%.



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- 3) We used very strict guidelines for payment extensions. Rather than to negotiate extensions on individual basis, registration was orientated on standardized deadlines. The fact alone that no team could negotiate more favourable deadlines based on personal negotiation skills, decreased the drop-out-rate considerably, compared to Vienna IVs where this policy had not been in place.

Please find below an overview on the last minute drop-outs and jump-ins (within 36 days before the tournament; by country):



Thirdly, the Vienna EUDC final rounds attracted a number of external spectators. Media coverage (see below) as well as our cooperation with schools and the WU Summer University lured spectators especially to the final in the aula of the WU, which was filled up to the last place for the Grand Final.

### 3- MEDIA COVERAGE

Vienna EUDC used social- and conventional media coverage to appeal to the public. Our social media campaigns positively resonated in with the debating community, which was the main focus of the campaign. However, Vienna EUDC also appeared in conventional media. Two TV channels covered Vienna EUDC as well as 7 newspapers, and a certain number of blogs.

All the resources of Vienna EUDC, as well as the media articles can still be checked out at:  
<http://www.viennaedc.eu/competition/resources/>

### 4- TROUBLE SHOOTING

Besides minor issues with the specialties of the buildings at WU Wien, the only incident that required trouble shooting was a fire alarm during the semi-final. While this event certainly disturbed the flow of the tournament, we managed to avoid a knock-on effect in the time plan. Several factors proved beneficial in the trouble-shooting response:



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- a) The internal separation of competition and supply activities allowed the team concerned with the organization of lunch and the final to carry on smoothly, even when the Competition Manager had to handle major logistical questions. This in turn enabled us to rapidly come up with a new time plan.
- b) The CA team had a back-up motion ready. Thus the repetition of the semi started immediately.
- c) Due to good links to the university administration, the incident (a false alarm) could be resolved very quickly.
- d) Due to the familiarity of the volunteers with all buildings, no further delays occurred.
- e) The independently working social media team disseminated all necessary information quickly among the participants.

Additionally, there were two minor medical incidents which could be handled by the crew.

## 5- COMPETITION

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The competition at Vienna EUDC ran under the supervision of the Competition Manager Melanie Sindelar and her team. Generally, the schedule was kept throughout the tournament and no major disturbances occurred. The adjudication core lead by Christine Simpson and Michael Shapira was relatively well staffed with 3,36 adjudicators per room.

The tab team ran the newly developed Tabbie 2 programme for the first time in a major competition. While there were some hiccups in the sign-up process, the programme helped the speediness of the competition. Whereas the volunteers still collected printed results as a backup, the online entry of the results worked very well.

The final tab can be found here: <https://www.tabbie.org/Vienna-EUDC-2015/>

## 6- ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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We thank particularly the WU for the venue and the team of the WU Event Management, who were very helpful. Further thanks go to our sponsors, the Vienna Convention Centre and Red Bull Austria.

We were very lucky to receive a team of most dedicated volunteers for Vienna EUDC. Thank you again, I hope you enjoyed heaps!

## 7- LEARNINGS

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- We learned everything from Vienna IV 2014. Thus, we recommend future teams to hold larger tournaments in the year before EUDC.
- Separate competition and background work. Instead of one tournament director, we had two teams (lead by Melanie Sindelar and Christoph Jäger) working in sync. This enhanced our capacity to enforce schedules, while not overburdening volunteers.
- The incorporation of the tournament into a GmbH turned out vastly beneficial for the organisation. It led to a clear separation of accounts as well as responsibilities from DKWien's day to day activities. Thus, the clear legal framework was worth extra cost and effort.



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- Caring for volunteers paid off. As our Chief of Staff was concerned more or less exclusively with the wellbeing of the volunteers, the tournament became a more pleasant experience for them. In turn, this had positive effects on the working ethics and the organisational experience at the tournament.
- Two major timesavers improved the tournament considerably: Firstly, digitalization with Tabbie 2 and Debreg smoothed up otherwise time consuming data entry processes. Secondly, the short connections to the hotels and on campus reduced transition times.

Stefan Zweiker