

Editorial

Dear readers,

First of all, we would like to use this opportunity to wish you all happy holidays and a good start into 2017!



(Photo credit: www.fanpop.com)

One of our focus working areas for next year and the upcoming period is the integration of a **human rights perspective** into our project work. But let's begin at the start.

As can be seen right from our logo, World University Service (WUS) Austria is committed to the promotion of the **human right to education**: Education is a fundamental human right and essential for the exercise of all other human rights. Education is a powerful tool by which economically and socially marginalized adults and children can lift themselves out of poverty and participate fully as citizens.

The **right to higher education** in line with international human rights standards includes the elements of availability, accessibility, acceptability and adaptability which are common to education in all its forms at all levels.

With the recently started E+ project INCLUSION, WUS Austria is partner in a project that **directly aims at the promotion and realization of the right to higher education** by enhancing access to, participation in and successful completion of higher education for persons from underrepresented and marginalized groups (e.g. persons with disabilities, persons from lower socio-economic backgrounds etc.)

In addition, WUS Austria is also committed to apply a **human rights based approach** in projects which are not primarily aiming at the realization of human rights: This is being done by incorporating and mainstreaming principles of participation, accountability, non-discrimination &

equality, empowerment and legality. These principles can be also summarized by the brief acronym PANEL. They describe the essence of a human rights based approach which is about **empowering people to know and claim their rights and increasing the ability and accountability of individuals and institutions who are responsible for respecting, protecting and fulfilling rights**. It goes without saying that applying a HRBA does not happen automatically - but requires time and dedicated resources.

We believe though that such an investment is essential, as applying a HRBA has many **added values** to offer: An HRBA promotes social cohesion, integration and stability; it addresses power inequalities and discrimination, deals with weaknesses in accountability systems and provides an objective framework to manage conflicts and seek redress.

In case you have any questions or ideas for collaboration on this topic, please feel free to contact us!

We also want to point your attention to the upcoming 7th Call for Applications of the APPEAR programme for Academic Partnerships and Advanced Academic Partnerships, which will open on the 1st of February 2017. For more information please visit the [APPEAR website](#).

Finally, we proudly present the first ever [PATTERNS Lectures](#) course from Bosnia and Herzegovina to you. This is really special for us as WUS Austria has intensely worked with BiH universities for so many years already. We are very happy to introduce this course and its lecturer, Irfan Hošić from the University of Bihać to you and are sure that this will also be an inspiration for other lecturers in arts and culture studies in the Western Balkan region to apply for the PATTERNS Lectures project: get ready and spread the word!

We wish you all some relaxing days before this year comes to an end and a fresh start into the New Year!

Enjoy reading!

Martina Handler and Louise Sperl

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Thematic Article

PATTERNS Lectures awarded course Design and Crisis at the University of Bihać, BiH

The development of the course also includes study visits to Ljubljana, Prague, Bratislava, Split, Zagreb and Sarajevo. Also, literature for the Institute's library will be purchased.

For the course implementation, guest lecturers from the USA, UK, Slovenia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina are invited, which will be a special highlight of the whole project.

More and up to date information about this specific PATTERNS Lectures course project can be found at this [blog](#), created by the lecturer.

(Author: Irfan Hošić)

Recent News & Events

14.12.2016

Novi Sad. Kick-off meeting CULTURWB project from 7th to 9th December 2016



The kick-off meeting of the project CULTURWB took place in Novi Sad from 7th to 9th December 2016.

University representatives from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Austria, Germany and the Netherlands came together at the University of Novi Sad to start a new Erasmus+ Project "*Strengthening Capacities for Tourism Changes in WB: Building Competences for Quality Management of Heritage and Cultural Tourism*"

[read more](#)

06.12.2016

INCLUSION Kick-off meeting in Yerevan, December 1-2, 2017



Yerevan. More than 20 professionals from Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Belgium, UK and Austria met in Yerevan from December 1-2, 2016 to kick-start a new, joint Erasmus+ Project - "**Development and Implementation of Social Dimension Strategies in Armenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina through Cross-regional Peer Learning/INCLUSION**". The meeting was held at the American University in Armenia (AUA) and gathered representatives from the fourteen members of the project Consortium.

[read more](#)

05.12.2016

UNESCO chair in Human Rights and Human Security

Graz. In 2016, UNESCO agreed to establish a UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security at the University of Graz to strengthen interdisciplinary teaching, research, academic cooperation and outreach in human rights and human security. The Chair supports UNESCO's objectives of life-long learning and human rights education as a means to promote global citizenship, create inclusive societies and foster peace and stability. The inaugural event of the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights and Human Security addresses the human right to academic freedom in Europe.

The inauguration takes place at the University of Graz on Monday 12. December. Find the info flyer [here](#).

[read more](#)

25.10.2016

WUS Austria takes part in the 7th DHG Forum on "Transformative Partnerships in Higher Education Cooperation"



Vienna. The 7th Annual Forum of the Donor Harmonisation Group took place in Vienna on 21th and 21st October and was organised by the OeAD. After introductory remarks by Andreas Obrecht on "Does knowledge emerge when knowledge is needed?" the forum continued with 5 sessions including vivid discussions. [read more](#)

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