

Editorial

Dear readers,

In November this year we celebrated our 30th anniversary! WUS Austria started with providing humanitarian aid and the implementation of the right to education in the 1980s and was mainly run by volunteers until the 1990s. Today WUS Austria has 15 employees in three offices in Graz, Prishtina and Sarajevo. We currently implement approx. 30 projects in over 30 countries in South Eastern Europe, Central Asia, Caucasus and worldwide. Read the thematic article below to find out more about what we do.

Furthermore, the new year 2014 will bring a variety of new initiatives and the continuation of well working collaborations. To this end we would like to announce a **new call within the frame of the project PATTERNS Lectures** to develop university courses in the fields of art history, cultural theory and cultural studies that aim to research and understand recent cultural history in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe. The project PATTERNS Lectures supports the development and implementation of courses that analyze the period from the 1960s to the present day, deal with cultural phenomena including aspects of popular, marginal and counterculture, examine interdisciplinary and cross-cultural history in Central and South Eastern Europe, and involve critical methodology and innovative and interactive teaching practices. Furthermore, it encourages international academic exchange by enabling lecturers to go on international study visits and invite guest lecturers.

The call for submissions is open from **16 December 2013 to 23 February 2014**. The project PATTERNS Lectures is initiated by ERSTE Foundation and implemented by WUS Austria. For further information on the call check the project website at <http://www.erstestiftung.org/patterns-lectures/>.

Last but not least we wish you a **happy holiday season** and a good start into the new year 2014!

Michaela Handke

and the team of WUS Austria

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Thematic Article

WUS Austria celebrates its 30th anniversary!

In November 2013 WUS Austria celebrated its 30th anniversary! The celebration was opened with a speech by Executive Director, Almir Kovacevic, followed by speeches by Xhavit Rexhaj, Senior Advisor in the flagship project **Higher KOS - Promoting Institutional Development in Higher Education and Research in Kosovo**, and Ravi Gupta, associate executive director of **WUS Canada** which is also the base of WUS International, including WUS committees all around the world.

Xhavit Rexhaj highlighted the significance of WUS Austria and other Austrian stakeholders such as higher education institutions, NGOs and authorities, for the higher education system in Kosovo and the role of Austria and its support to quality in higher education in Kosovo until today. He also pointed out that shortly before the war in 1999, WUS Austria was one of the few organizations active in Kosovo. During the war the office was operating from Tetovo, Macedonia, and re-located to Prishtina after the war where the office was re-established and has been supporting the University of Prishtina, as well as other state-owned and privately owned institutions ever since in their endeavor to provide quality education in Kosovo.

Ravi Gupta talked about the international movement of WUS committees worldwide, which had not been active since the late 1990s. He also emphasized plans of WUS Canada, WUS Germany, WUS Mediterranean and WUS Austria to revive the international movement in order to strengthen the impact of committees worldwide.

Later in the afternoon the birthday cake was cut by Wolfgang Benedek, former executive director and face of the organization for two decades. Other guests included long-term partners, friends and family who have all supported WUS Austria in the past.

Today WUS Austria provides expertise inter alia in the areas of quality assurance, curriculum development, and linking higher education, labor market and society, and provides technical support in project management. WUS Austria currently implements approximately 30 **projects** as partner or coordinator and has implemented projects in over 50 different **countries**. A historical overview on 30 years of WUS Austria and the international movement can be found **here**.

We would like to thank our guests for taking the time to celebrate with us!

Recent News & Events

16.12.2013

PATTERNS Lectures - Call for Submissions



PATTERNS Lectures has launched a new call to develop university courses in the fields of art history, cultural theory and cultural studies that aim to research and understand recent cultural history in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe. PATTERNS Lectures supports courses that analyse the period from the 1960s to the present day, deal with cultural phenomena including aspects of popular, marginal and counterculture, examine interdisciplinary and cross-cultural history in Central and South

Eastern Europe, and involve critical methodology and innovative and interactive teaching practices. Furthermore, it encourages international academic exchange by enabling lecturers to go on international study visits and invite guest lecturers.

[read more](#)

09.12.2013

Tempus project KIKT - final conference took place in Prishtina



Prishtina. The final conference of the “Kosovo Interdisciplinary Knowledge Triangle Center - PhD based Education, Research and Training for Medical and Natural Sciences” was held at the premises of the Rectorate of the University of Prishtina.

[read more](#)

05.12.2013

PATTERNS Lectures Final Event: Workshops and Talks, November 2013, Vienna

The final meeting of PATTERNS Lectures 2012/2013 took place from 15 to 17 November 2013 at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna and was entitled “PATTERNS Lectures Workshops and Talks”. It brought together some 30 participants from the partner universities (lecturers and university representatives), PATTERNS Lectures advisors and experts from the area of higher education,



mostly specialising in arts and culture. This was the second meeting within the project schedule and aimed to promote networking and exchange between partners as well as help gain insight into new teaching practices and learn about innovative research methods. [read more](#)

02.12.2013

QUADRIGA_ study tour and consortium meeting at the University of the Algarve



Faro. A study visit and consortium meeting took place in Faro, Portugal with participants from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, including also partners from the European Union (University of Koblenz, WUS Austria). The project contributes to the development of National Qualification Frameworks in the partner countries in Central Asia. [read more](#)

23.11.2013

WUS Austria celebrates its 30th anniversary!



Graz. On Friday 22nd November WUS Austria celebrated its 30th anniversary. WUS Austria started with providing humanitarian aid and the implementation of the right to education in the 1980s and was mainly run by volunteers until the 1990s. Today WUS Austria has 15 employees in three offices in Graz, Prishtina and Sarajevo and provides a [wide range of services](#). [read more](#)

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