

# **Alumni News**

#### Our Topics...

- Management and Advisory Board Meeting, 25th-27th of January, Stuttgart
- New Leaders Conference AIE-SEC, 10th of May, Serbia
- Regional Manager Meeting, 7th-9th of June, Madrid
- General Assembly and Strategy Workshop, 18th of May, Berlin
- Leadership Summer School, 4th-9th of August, Stuttgart
- Prague Regular's Meeting, 12th of August, Prague
- Management and Advisory Board Meeting, 7th of September, Frankfurt
- Culture and Economy Seminar, 20th-22nd of September, Bucharest
- Discovery Trip in Transylvania, 22th-27th September, Romania
- Board and Management Team Meeting, 20th of October, Cologne
- YouthSpeak Forum, 17th of November, Belgrade

#### Save the Date!

- 5-Year Anniversary, 8th-10th of May 2020, Budapest
- Leadership Summer School, 2nd-9th of August 2020, Stuttgart
- Business and Economy Seminar, 2020, Prague

#### To become a member

If you are not a member yet, write an email at: dombi@mummert-alumni.de.

Dear members, partners and friends of the Alumni-Association,

Dear readers,

Herewith we would like to proudly share with you our newest newsletter edition. As usual, with this year's newsletter we would like to inform you about activities and latest developments in the association. This year we managed to create new conceptual ideas, drive forward various content-related topics, as well as nurture and expand our alumni network.

The year 2019 started well with the general assembly that included a strategy workshop. This workshop had the overarching aim to stimulate exchange on long-term course of our association. More concretely, the topics that were addressed and discussed prove that our association reached a stage in which a very stable foundation for our main activities is given. That allowed us to think out of the box, question our patterns and anticipate future challenges we might encounter.

Moreover, we identified the regionalization of our activities as an important topic in order to intensively drive forward our vision in defined target countries. We are convinced that Leadership Summer School as one of our yearly highlights facilitates gathering of international, young and motivated people in Germany. Furthermore, throughout regionally tailored activities that address specific political, economic and social topics in the target countries, we have been able to create an even more comprehensive framework. In this sense we appointed a responsible manager per region and developed a plan to further advance with the regionalization idea in a structured manner. Nevertheless, fall seminar remains a successful format that we are eager to cherish. So this year we met in Bucharest to discuss the challenges in the political, economic, technological and entrepreneurial arena.

Looking back, we achieved a very successful and dynamic year, we should be proud of and I would like to use the opportunity to say a big thank you to all active members and contributors for their engagement. However, interesting topics and gatherings on our agenda for the next year also look very promising. We are particularly looking forward to the reunion for the very special occasion, our 5-year anniversary in May.

With the year-end approaching, in the name of the Mummert Alumni-Association, I would like to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Nevenka Subakov

Chief Member of the Board in the Alumni-Association

## Management and Advisory Board Meeting, 25th-27th of January, Stuttgart

Between the 25th and the 27th of January 2019, the first management and advisory board meeting took place in Stuttgart. In this meeting, the various activities of the whole year were discussed.

The participants looked back at 2018 and spoke about the results of our strategy. The redistribution of the responsibilities of the board members was also an important part of the meeting.

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Participants at the meeting

#### New Leaders Conference AIESEC, 10th of May, Serbia

New Leaders is a project of AIESEC Serbia, which has been running since 2006, bringing together young leaders from across the country to give them the opportunity to exchange ideas in person.



Participants at the Conference

By partnering with AIESEC on this project, the Mummert Alumni-Association wanted to make sure that the desired positive changes in Serbia are being made, be it in the private or professional environment.

The New Leaders Conference was facilitated by 12 partners and more than 800 delegates represented and promoted the main idea.

Nevenka Subakov took part in the event in Novi Sad, Serbia, in the name of the association. More than 200 participants have significantly increased the reputation of the Mummert Alumni-Association after the event in comparison to the previous levels.

The Mummert Alumni-Association is looking forward towards further cooperation with AIESEC Serbia.

## Regional Manager Meeting, 7th-9th of June, Madrid

The Alumni-Association has sharpened its own vision and strategic projects towards targeted activation in each specific country (region). The overarching objective of the Alumni-Association, the level of well-being in the target countries by supporting young motivated people in their home-countries, remains unchanged.

The regional activities include the projects that are to be carried out by locally active members of the association - regional managers, in the target countries (grouped in regions, where applicable). These activities have regional specific characteristics and objectives and are intended to address the region-specific issues. This approach anticipates that different regions face different economic, societal, and political challenges, and that accordingly, regional activities should be tailored to address precisely these challenges.

Since 2019, Nevenka Subakov has been responsible for regional coordination, strategy and projects with the focus on realizing this vision through concrete actions and activities. With this in mind, the nominated regional managers from seven specific regions met in Madrid at the beginning of June.

The meeting in Madrid is to be understood as a kickoff event and the set-up objectives are as follows:

• To express and sharpen the regional strategy of the Back to top

Alumni-Association.

- Define expectations / responsibilities of the Regional Managers.
- Develop first drafts of the regional strategies and the regional roadmap.
- To bring together the regional managers and strengthen the network.

We will keep you up to date on further regional steps!



Dinner after the Workshop

# General Assembly and Strategy Workshop, 18th of May, Berlin

On the 18th of May, the General Assembly and the Strategy Workshop took place at the headquarters of the International Alumni Center Berlin.

Changing the tradition of organizing the general meeting simultaneously with the graduation ceremony of the Mummert Foundation in Cologne, the association now wanted to go symbolically new ways with this event in Berlin. As part of the meeting, the participants had the opportunity to meet again, network and exchange views and discuss topics that will influence the future of the association.

The following topics were discussed:

- 1. What are the common goals for the association members?
- 2. Why is it worthwhile to be an active member in the association?
- 3. What do we want to do in order to encourage existing association members to become more involved?

- 4. What do we want to do to attract new members in the association?
- 5. How do we want to highlight the association's statement?



Participants at the Strategy Workshop

## Leadership Summer School, 4th-9th of August, Stuttgart

In the beginning of August, the second edition of the Leadership Summer School took place in Stuttgart. The 18 master students with entrepreneurial and leadership aspirations came from 10 countries: Romania, Slovakia, Bosnia, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Estonia, Bulgaria and Serbia. The program opened with a get-together on Sunday evening.



Participants at the Leadership Summer School and Orga-Team

On Monday, the participants took part in a training session held by Holz Consulting, where they talked about personality and individual learning goals. In the evening they enjoyed the local cuisine in a traditional restaurant.

Tuesday was booked for the RIMOWA case study with Horváth & Partners and there was also an inspiring speech by Prof. Dr. Horváth.

On Wednesday a factory tour was organized in the Daimler plant and the participants got the opportunity to experience a small part of the German industry up close.

The two topics project and conflict management were addressed in the next two days by Holz Consulting. The Mummert Alumni, Adam Varga, Marcell Gáthy and Dorottya Bérci helped the participants dealing with the case studies and shared their own experience with them.

On Thursday evening a fireside-chat evening took place in the headquarters of the Vector Foundation. On the last program evening each participant got to know their future alumni mentor and had a personal or online exchange with them.

The Leadership Summer School consists of a fiveday training focused on personal development and entrepreneurial thinking. The workshop also provides participants with the opportunity for a long-term mentoring program and encourages them to engage in association activities.

After completing the program, the participants can apply for membership in the Alumni-Association.

We would like to thank the Orga-Team once again for their professional project implementation: first of all to the project leader Dorottya Bérci, for her tireless efforts and involvement. Also a big thank you to all members of the organization who helped the Leadership Summer School be successfully implemented in 2019. Notably Krisztina Gubicza, Brigitta Bóka, Anikó Szajkó, Marcell Gáthy, Jiri Waldhauser, Ilze Zumente, Domagoj Landher, Tereza Bilkova, Marko Jovanovic, Bence Harsányi and László Leitold.

Thanks again to Mr. Horras, who contributed with his experience and dedication to the content design of the program for the week.

Many thanks also to Mr. Baur for connecting us with the speakers and for his permanent help!

We are very grateful to Mrs. Hillens for planning her trip to Stuttgart for us and for preparing the team to take their first steps in the mentoring process.

Also big thanks to the alumni members Anikó Szajkó, Marcell Gáthy, Ádám Varga, who joined the Summer School in Stuttgart personally as speakers. But we also want to thank the alumni mentors who took the time to travel to Stuttgart.

## Prague Regular's Meeting, 12th of August, Prague

There are currently 5 Mummert Alumni living in Prague - Jirí Waldhauser, Petr Šimek, Zuzana and Stanislav Votrubovi and Tereza Bilkova. In August they decided to have a meeting in the beautiful Prague district Vinohrady, to exchange ideas over a beer.

As the majority of them works in the energy industry, they discussed a lot around this topic. Another topic was the recreational activities with children and also their travel plans.

It was a nice get-together! The next regulars' meeting will take place just before Christmas.

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Mummert Alumni living in Prague

## Management and Advisory Board Meeting, 7th of September, Frankfurt

On 7th of September, the second Management Board and Advisory Board Meeting of 2019 took place, this time in Frankfurt.

Important topics on the agenda were:

- Discussion of the fixed and upcoming project-dates of the year 2019 and 2020.
- Gathering the experiences and feedback from the Leadership Summer School 2019.
- Discussion of the results of the regional meeting in Madrid (June 2019).
- Discussion of the findings regarding the strategic direction from the workshop in Berlin (05.2019) and discussion of the upcoming 5-year anniversary in 2020.



Participants at the meeting

## Culture and Economy Seminar, 20th-22nd of September, Bucharest

The culture and economy seminar has become a tradition of our association. This takes place every year in September. In 2019, it was Bucharest, the capital of Romania, where more than 40 participants met.

Ten speakers from a variety of fields such as start-ups, social entrepreneurship, tourism, politics, business, IT etc., have accepted the invitation.



Participants at the Culture and Economy Seminar

On Saturday, September 21, the lectures took place. The first speaker was the head of the Economic Department of the German Embassy in Romania. She offered the participants a first insight into the structure and development of the Romanian economy.

The program continued with a home-comer from Germany. The second speaker comes from the Romanian village Viscri (German: Weißkirch), from Transylvania. She talked about the hard work of the Foundation, in which she is involved. It was here that the historic Transylvanian heritage was united, protected and maintained by hard work and social commitment.

The third lecture was conducted by the president of the FIHR - Romanian Hotels Association. His talk was about the country's stereotypes, such as the stories surrounding Bran Castle (castle of Dracula), landscapes, Romanian food culture and hospitality.

Before the lunch break, three young start-up entrepre-

neurs were invited to the stage to share some insights on their work and projects. The three guests talked about tourism, IT and social entrepreneurship. Participants shared valuable experiences about Romania's start-up ecosystem.

In the second part of the program all participants were challenged to discuss in a round of debates on inclusion and integration.

Afterwards, Mummert Alumna, Diana Firican, talked about her new project, the adventure of "Moving Abroad". In her project, she gives valuable tips for moving abroad and talks about the challenges involved.

The penultimate speaker, a Romanian photographer and film director, showed an impressive documentary about the changes of the last 35 years, of the communist bloc.

At the end of the day, we learned from another homecomer and former Health Minister of Romania, what are the challenges in Romania's health system, and how civil society is committed to offsetting the systemic gaps.

With a traditional dinner on Saturday and a guided tour of the city on Sunday morning, the participants took the opportunity to discover the city. Thanks to the variety of events and festivals that took place over the weekend in Bucharest, the Mummert Alumni were also able to experience the vibrant atmosphere of the city.

In addition to the insight in the Romanian society, culture and economy, the Fall Seminar was also the perfect opportunity for the association members to exchange thoughts, but also to meet with some of the mentors, to inform themselves about the association's board strategies and to strengthen and expand their contacts in the association.

We would like to thank the Orga-Team once again for their professional project implementation: Sinziana and Radu Elisei, Nicoleta Proștean and Irina Dobrin.

## Discovery Trip in Transylvania, 22th-27th September, Romania

The discovery trip took place after the Culture and Economy Seminar. It enabled, those that chose to spend more time in Romania, the chance to explore the country with their own eyes, to have a glimpse in the life of the locals, to experience nature and to immerse themselves in the local history.



Participants on the Discovery Trip in Transylvania

On Sunday, 22th of September, the 12 participants and the organizer, Mummert Alumnus Silviu Dovăncescu, traveled together from Bucharest to Brasov. From there, day trips over short distances to various destinations in Transylvania were planned: national parks, medieval castles, fortresses or villages that are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

During the day trips, travelers immersed themselves in the history of the region, met Romanian, German, Roma and Hungarian-speaking locals, discovered traditions, understood the reality of the country and got to know each other better.

The program was drafted for 5 days, but was implemented modularly, so that each participant could opt for a stay between 2 and 5 days long. Unlike a round trip, this setup allowed some flexibility in the program.

We received some impressions from the participants:

"This exploration of Transylvania was a perfect combination of culture, history, nature and gastronomy. Whether a concert in the Black Church, hiking in the Carpathians, castle tours or "sarmale" - Mummert Alumnus Silviu Dovăncescu has perfectly put together our program as a local guide and thus made this autumn week unforgettable.

In addition to the beautiful cities, Braşov (Kronstadt) and Sighişoara (Schäßburg), I especially liked the fortified churches of the Transylvanian-Saxon villages." Krisztina Gubicza, Mummert Alumna (translated and adapted from German).

"The tour through Transylvania was simply great. The very heterogeneous group of 13 got along splendidly, talked a lot and also had very individual discussions. There was Transylvania, with all its architectural and natural beauties, but also with all the horrors it has suffered, especially in the last century.

It is far from easy for a country like Romania to digest history while at the same time creating a just future for its citizens. And finally, there was Silviu, who combined all this for us participants into an unforgettable experience. Thank you very much!" Joachim Horras, Advisory Board Member of the AVRBMS, 19th of November 2019 (translated and adapted from German).

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# Board and Management Team Meeting, 20th of October, Cologne

On the 20th of October, the association board met vend hands over the tasks to the new board members. for the first time in the new configuration in Cologne. The tasks were redesigned and redistributed.

The new board members are: Nevenka Subakov (Chief Member of the Board), Brigitta Bóka (Executive Board Member), Dorottya Bérci, Tünde Dombi, Sinziana Elisei and the management team members are: Krisztina Gubicza and Laura Kelemen.

After five years in which she has been heavily involved in the development of the association, Ilona Sonne-

"... in the past 5 years, the Alumni-Association was very present in my everyday life. As for me the association has always represented more than just a leisure club for networking, I invested a lot of energy and a lot of time so that we also become more.

And we turned out to be more.

It took time, until we discovered the potential of this association and found a direction. But what emerged, especially the activities in the different countries

and our Leadership Summer School, makes me proud. Thus we make a very authentic - OWN contribution - to the integration of Europe. And that's more important today than ever. [...] Ïlona Sonnevend, 8th of October 2019, Chief Member of the Board of AVRBMS between 2014-2019. (translated and adapted from German)

We would like to thank Ilona Sonnevend for her work and engagement as the Chief Member of the Board in the past five years. We wish the new board a successful cooperation!

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New Board Team of the Mummert Alumni-Association on 20th of October 2019

## YouthSpeak Forum, 17th of November, Belgrade

"Look around!" – this is the slogan of YouthSpeak Forum 2019 Serbia.

On November 17th, for the third time in the row, the Mummert Association was part of the conference organized by AIESEC. YouthSpeak Forum is part of AIESEC's global initiative: Youth for Global Goals, and it is organized in more than 100 countries all over the world.

Its main goal is to make youth more aware about global trends and global issues, present them with wider perspectives, show them how to make the first step to self-improvement and how they can contribute to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

More than 100 young people and representatives from various companies visited the conference in Belgrade and actively took part in all the workshops and case studies.

On Mummert's workshop participants had an opportunity to learn more about verbal and non-verbal communication and also practice it. The main message they received from the workshop was that listening and talking to people is important in order to understand others and to improve human communication. Representing the Association, Sanja Vukanić facilitated the workshop.



Participants at the YouthSpeak Forum

Jelena Čolić, member of AIESEC Serbia, left a message for Mummert's members: "Mummert and AIESEC are organizations that aim to enable young people to develop on a personal and professional level. We are delighted to have made an impact together through the YouthSpeak Forum!"

Alumni-Association can only confirm it - the promotion of young people is certainly one of the most important and rewarding investments in the future!

## **Upcoming Events - Save the date**

5-Year Anniversary, 8th-10th of May 2020, Budapest

The Mummert Alumni-Association is five years old and that should be celebrated properly. The Organization Team is preparing an exciting program for the day and an awesome party for the night.

If you have questions about the event, please contact the organizers Silviu Dovăncescu, Marcell Gáthy, Marcell Surányi and Agost Szunomar at events@mummert-alumni.de.

Budapest, Hungary

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Leadership Summer School, 2nd-9th of August 2020, Stuttgart

The third edition of the LSS will open its doors in 2020 for the next generation of applicants.

The alumni members are welcome to personally meet the students in Stuttgart at the end of the summer school, 7th-9th of August 2020, and spend a weekend together with them.

Until then, if you are interested in organising, feel free to contact the project managers Roxana Maior, Joana Stefanova and Vanja Petkovic at summerschool@mummert-alumni.de.







Learning



Networking

Mentoring

Membership

Leadership Summer School 2020

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Business and Economy Seminar, 2020, Prague

In 2020 the colleagues from the Czech Republic are going to welcome the guests from the association and organize the Fall Seminar. We are looking forward to the exciting lectures and the reunion!

The exact date will be published in the next weeks.

If you have questions about the event, feel free to contact the organizers Tereza Bilkova under bilkova@mummert-alumni.de or Sinziana Elisei under elisei@mummert-alumni.de.

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Prague, Czech Republic

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