

International Consultants Day celebrates successful premier: Professional association UBIT drives worldwide consultancy industry

International presidents of the consultancy and IT industry visited Vienna together for the first time. Experts from 20 countries demonstrated the importance of the steadily growing industry at the first International Consultants Day in Austria. They also spoke about the opportunities and challenges of digitisation.

Alfred Harl, Chairman of the Professional Association of Management Consultancy and IT (UBIT), is pleased to share that, "Representatives from 20 countries from all over the world as well as the presidents of the European and world-wide consultancy associations visited us in Vienna to celebrate the first International Consultants Day in Austria and to be part of the success story of the management consultancy, IT and accounting sectors". On 6th June 2018, the first International Consultants Day took place in Austria with the slogan "Shining A Light On Management Consulting" in the WKO Sky Lounge of the Austrian Chamber of Commerce. Experts and industry representatives from Bulgaria, Canada, China, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Netherlands, Turkey, the United Kingdom (UK) and Austria accepted the invitation from the professional association UBIT and took part in the premier.

The consultancy industry betters economic performance and increases sales

"The International Consultants Day is an opportunity to demonstrate how our industry improves the economy, presents best practices, exchanges knowledge and promotes innovation. In addition, we give our work centre stage in order to emphasise its importance to the general public and in politics", emphasises Harl. We know that the consultancy industry contributes to the success of the domestic economy as the impressive figures show: Within the EU, profits from European management consultancy have increased by 7.5%, employment has increased by 6.5% and average revenue has risen by 6.4% in the last 5 years (FEACO study 2016). In Austria, sales have risen by more than 85% in 10 years, particularly within the IT sector.

Top speakers, winners of the Constantinus Award, CSE course and consultants of the future



Special guests of high-calibre honoured the International Consultants Day 2018. Among them were international presidents **Sorin Caian**, ICMI Chair (The International Council of

Management Consulting Institutes) and **Ezio Lattanzio**, FEACO Chair (European Federation of Consultancies Associations). Both emphasised the importance of digitisation as well as the challenges that come with it in their speeches. Businesses have to learn to work with new technologies such as IoT (Internet of Things), AI, automation, and others. They must recognise the benefits of these technologies for their own use and view them as a chance for progress, not as a problem. Worldwide solidarity and continuous exchange is hugely important, especially in times of disruption and challenges at European level.



Winners of the 2018 Constantinos Awards for Excellence in Management Consulting.

One programme highlight was the **keynote address** by **Karim Taga**, Managing Director of Arthur D. Little - the world's oldest consultancy firm - on the topic of "The Future of Consulting". According to him, management consultancy is to be seen as an industry embracing the same trends as Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, as well as other industries. He highlighted no-one should not be afraid of these trends, but use them and find the best talents for them. The credo is thus: "adapt to them, learn from them and implement them".

"We'll see each other again next year for sure. From now on, the International Consultants Day in Austria will be celebrated annually together with our international members and associations", was the announcement from UBIT Chairman Alfred Harl in his closing speech.
