

## Report: DIPCAT project Innsbruck 2021

On Monday morning, 13 September, around half past eight, a few fellow students met in front of the SoWi University in Innsbruck. The week ahead was oriented towards a project organized by the university on financial reporting and auditing, called Dipcat.

More precisely, the project has been structured according to European Union level content and is organized annually at a different university. The Dipcat project is conducted since more than 25 years and each year approximately 15 universities from different EU Member States participate. This time, the event should have taken place in Innsbruck. Due to the current restrictions concerning the pandemic, the project had to be adapted by some extent. The participating students from the University of Innsbruck were allowed to meet at the university as a face-to-face teaching, observing proper distance and current protection guidelines. The contact with the students from the other universities would have taken place virtually.

On Monday morning, as an introduction to the project and mainly as an "ice-breaker", all students were divided into international groups of four. Each group consisted of different students from various universities. The aim was to solve an online "Escape Game" together as a group and thereby collaborate with each other. In the afternoon, the first case study of the week was introduced and began, which dealt with international taxation. The students were always divided into small (virtual) groups and had to cooperate with each other to address different issues.

On the next day, as part of the evaluation, the results were presented to all students and academics in the main virtual room. During the first two days of the project, all students worked on a case study involving an international company, the Sophia's Dream Group. This exposed participants to international corporate taxation standards and legislation. Each working group represented a specific subsidiary, concerning the international company, operating in a different European country. This provided a wide exposure and representation of different tax laws on European level.

The weekly agenda included a social group activity on Wednesday. The project participants from the University of Innsbruck went for a hike to the Arzler Alm (1067 m.) together with their professors. Encouraged by the pleasant weather, the students could spend a pleasant afternoon all together. On Thursday, the planned and scheduled case studies concerning the Dipcat project were continued. In the morning, the students were again divided into international (virtual) groups. Until lunch break, all participants dealt with the topic of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). In the afternoon, the results of the study were presented again to all students and academics. Each presentation was self-assessed by the students.

On Friday morning, the final results were discussed and completed all together. At the same time, the best presentations concerning the CSR case study were awarded. Final words of thanks and congratulations followed in the afternoon, concluding the main part of the Dipcat project. The participating students from the University of Innsbruck were then awarded by Professor Dr. Sabine Graschitz with an individual certificate of graduation.

The Dipcat project was for all participants a very challenging experience and an engaging opportunity. The students were able to deal with new concepts and terminology. Despite the technical challenges, the flexibility and ability to work in different circumstances were highlighted. All of this has enabled the students to develop their teamwork skills and work on different topics all together.