

Report on the School Visit to Vienna and the United Nations Office in Vienna

(by Simon, Jure, Bor and Alen, 4th grade Mechatronics students)

We travelled to Vienna on April 24th 2024 courtesy of "IMAGINE 2023" - Ideas and Award Competition of active young citizens for sustainable development in Central European Initiative (CEI) and Adriatic Ionian Initiative, which gave us the award for a concept of green delivery vehicle we were working on last year.

Alltogether there were 22 students from SIC Ljubljana (Slovenia) and 10 students from partner school JUSSŠ »Ivan Uskoković« (Montenegro) travelling to Vienna together with 5 teachers.



The first day after a long drive to Vienna we went on a guided tour of the city. We walked through the streets and admired the architecture, such as the Hofburg, St. Stephen's Cathedral and the Ringstrasse.

We actually learned a lot about our shared history. The atmosphere was great as we explored the history and culture of the city.



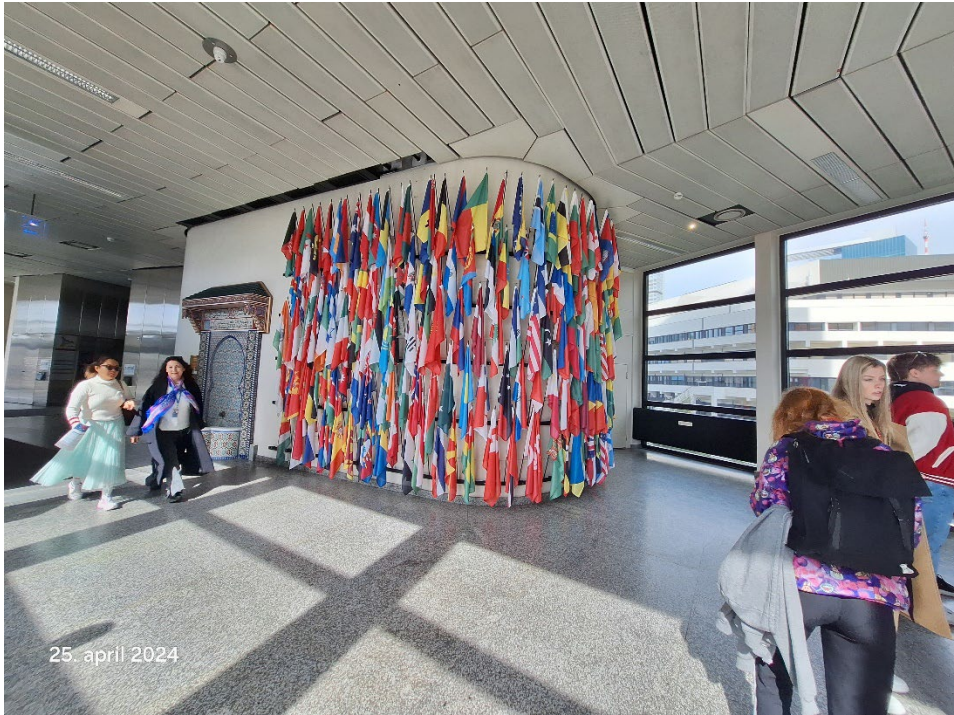
After the tour, we returned to the hotel where we were arranged in our rooms and socialised and had fun.

Next morning we had breakfast and then we got on the bus and drove to the United Nations.

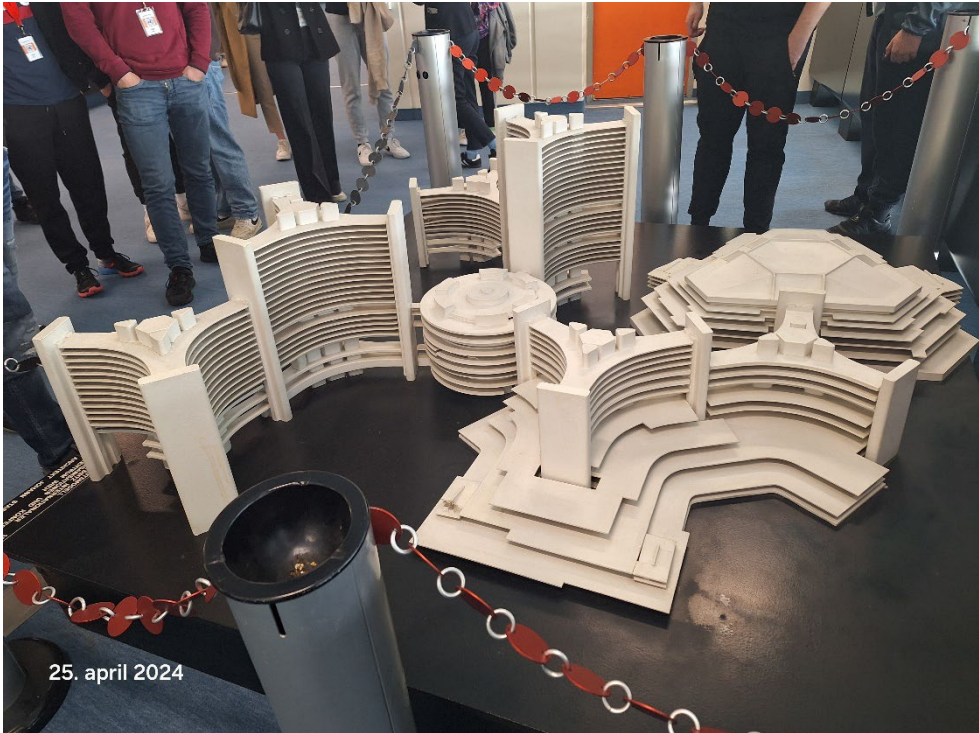
Right from the start, we were met with a thorough airport-style security check, as the facility is highly guarded. We were divided into 2 groups, as we were given a guided tour in Slovenian and our colleagues from Montenegro were given a guided tour in English.



The guide took us through part of the whole facility, as it would have taken us a whole day to see the whole facility.



We found out which UN agencies are located in Vienna, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).



The facility was really huge and, according to the information, it cost approximately EUR 580 000 000. The facility is like a small town in a city, with this arrangement that the Austrian authorities have no powers on the UN site, because the UN has its own security, fire brigade, health service, etc.

What really made a great impression was the Nobel Peace prize for 2005.



After the visit, we were given free time in Schonbrunn park to futher discuss the new information and start working on our presentations of the visit for our classmates



After touring the Schonbrunn Palace, its huge surroundings and the zoo, we continued with a visit to the Technical Museum where the brave could »touch« electricity!





Of course, because it doesn't go without a hitch, the bus broke down before we got back to the hotel. However, the driver quickly fixed it with the help of the mechanics students.

On the last day before heading home we convinced our teachers to make a quick visit to the Formula 1 exhibition, where it was possible to see and learn more about this type of motorsport.



The exhibition showed the formula as a vehicle, its components, the drivers' clothing and everything needed for the competition.

After the exhibition, the last stop of our trip to Vienna was the Prater (amusement park), where we had free time and could take part in various death trains, a haunted house, a free fall and many other attractions. After the tour, we first took our colleagues from Montenegro by bus to the airport and said goodbye. It was really interesting to get to know students from other country. We had a great time together and promised to stay in touch and visit each other on holidays.



Thank you for making this experience possible for our students.

Tine Verbole, project coordinator SIC Ljubljana

