



Verband der Akademikerinnen Österreichs

Graduate Women International, GWI

VAÖ memberships:

Graduate Women International, GWI
University Women of Europe, UWE
Bund Österreichischer Frauenvereine, BÖFV
Österreichischer Frauenring, ÖFR



Sissy Györfy (left), VAÖ President and
Maxie Uray-Frick, Chairwoman of the VAÖ Styrian division.

The VAÖ, Verband der Akademikerinnen Österreichs (Federation of University Women Austria), is above party and confessional lines. The members have various academic backgrounds such as science, economy, management, media, education and politics. Therefore, the federation is proud to initiate and to host very diverse scientific and functional activities. Another important aspect of the VAÖ's work is the support of social programs and institutions.



The support of aspiring young academic talents is one of the most important goals of our federation. We operate a dormitory for university students, which was completely renovated in 2005. This newly constructed complex offers a very high standard and quality of living and has excellent public transport connections. This co-ed dorm is home to 120 Austrian and international students per year and provides generous common rooms, a gym including a sauna and a solarium as well as a roof top terrace for students to relax. This VAÖ project was granted an award for "exemplary living" in 2008.

Our association also supports the older generation. As many elderly people nowadays live on their own, the VAÖ initiated a social program called "senior citizens house". The unique idea behind this project is that the residents live very independently, but are also looked after, if need arises.

The following activities have recently been organized by the VAÖ:

We are pleased to host the D-A-CH meeting this year, an annual friendship meeting of the German speaking associations of UWE and GWI from Austria, Germany and Switzerland. This year's meeting will take place in Graz from October 23rd to October 25th and will be characterized by 70 years of freedom after the Second World War.

A major project since the last conference in Istanbul has been to point out the serious deficits in the labor situation of university women. After a budget cut of research funds to private research institutions in the year 2010, the job situation for young female university graduates has drastically changed to their disadvantage. To stress this fact, the VAÖ wrote a letter to the science speakers representing the parties in the parliamentary. Thereupon the club was asked to initiate a survey about the issue. Many women affected by this problem were asked about their labor situation after the reduction of the research funds. Following the survey, a discussion about this topic was organized in the main VAÖ office and the results were sent to specific public authorities.

In addition to this, our association organizes frequent meetings where members are informed about recent and current issues and where they can discuss their various experiences. We provide qualified and motivated women with multinational contacts and mentoring programs. The VAÖ encourages women to quality, responsibility, respect, and tolerance.