



**Young
BPW Europe**

Report from my visit to (Young) BPW Prague, April 20-22 2007

Young BPW in Prague is a group of currently five young women, students, headed by Veronika Oudova. For us fortunately: the average age may be at only about 24 years!

These Young BPW did create the concept of Workshop-Events at their University to present (Young) BPW to other students. The content is some short lectures and an interactive part round about the topics of BPW.

Planned twice in the first semester, I was able to join them in April at their second Workshop and loved to follow Veronika Oudovas invitation.

As the Young **BPW Europe Representative** I had a presentation in **about Young BPW, the services of BPW like Mentoring and IDP. Further I presented international Success-Stories of BPW members to validate the need and power of Networks.**



Afterwards, Ms. Šabatová informed about a Mentoring Project JAPM, which connects women in southern Czech Republic and Eastern Austria.

Also very interesting the presentation from Zuzka Kubíková: she works at Business Leaders Forum, and they do offer shadowing project in Big and Small and Medium Sized Companies in Czech Republic. This is crucial to them to add praxis experience to the theoretical training of young professionals.

Ms. Kazmukova, at BPW Prague responsible for international relations, also did follow this Workshop.



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At the interactive part, the participants did work out presentations on their own to show/explain the advantages of Mentoring and Shadowing:



Shadowing: preconditions and advantages for each the company and the student!

Mentoring: find someone to help you, when you are expecting a baby but would love to stay in the job!



I was impressed by the professionalism and genius of both presentations!

We finished this Workshop with a discussion about what young women expect from a Network like BPW. These are the key findings:

- Bridge from University to Economy and Companies
- Exchange about profession specific details
- Internationality and international corporation
- Exchange-Program
- Find Role-Models; find advices, what to do after finishing studies
- Contacts
- Meeting not only students but also people doing something different than me
- Learn new things
- How to handle the CF-Question: Career and/or Family?
- Develop skills, especially presentation skills and organisational skills
- Become more self-conscious

This Workshop was over, and Veronika, Anna and Martina – three young BPW from Prague joined me for Dinner. Here we immediately drop into discussion about how to communicate the advantages of a Network and we realized:

Veronika made the great experience of the BPW Europe Congress in Stockholm last year. Meeting all the other (Young) BPW really kicked her.

So this was a very important point: Come to a Congress – and get infected by real BPW spirit – enjoy the Network and its advantages!



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And of course we did find immediately a Networking-task: I did present Martina to Young BPW in Australia, as Martina will do her studies in Sidney for a year.

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The next day, I had the chance to meet some members of BPW Prague:

Ms. Holcmanova

Ms. Rychtarova

Ms. Ludmila Dvorska

And my "Guides" Martina and Veronika

Together we exchanged latest BPW-news, I pointed out the importance of the Valencia hearing in October. Further we had some ideas of cooperation:

- **BPW Prague and BPW Dresden** are only 2 hours of distance. Women from BPW Prague would be interested in having contact with women from BPW Dresden (I will send this information to Edda Neumann from the Board of BPW Germany)
- For the next semester, the **Young BPW Workshop session** could deal with the topic "**Communication**". Local Manager from Vodafone, O2, T-Mobile Czech etc. could be invited. Possibly, from BPW Bonn the T-Com and T-Mobile-Manager could come as well to present their companies.
- BPW Prague usually has a St. Barbara Party in December. As they do not have a **Candlelight Ceremony** up to now, it was agreed that this could be a good event to integrate the BPW international Ceremony.

In general this was a very fruitful visit to encourage (Young) BPW Prague with their work and to initiate and fortify the exchange from member to member.

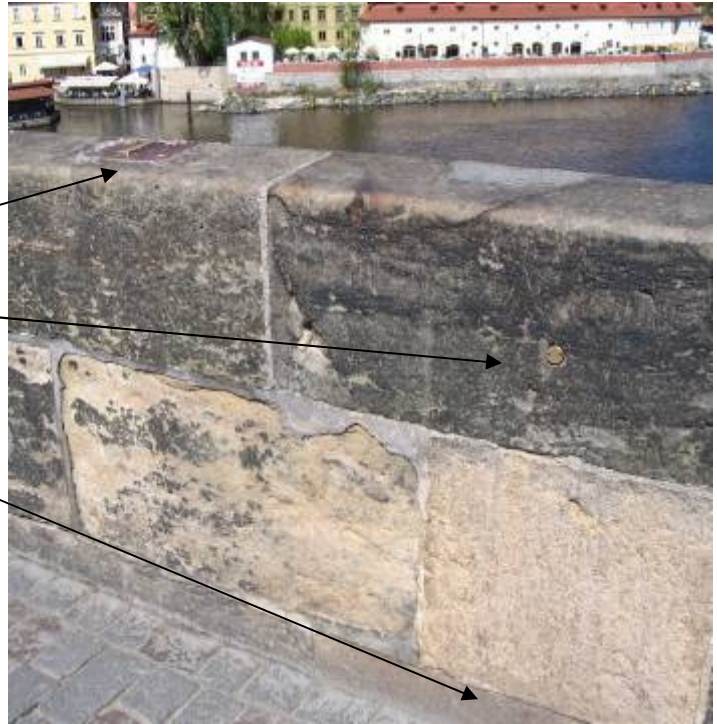


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Let me show you here the “official place” at the Charles Bridge where you can make a wish. And this is the “Wishing instruction”:

- Put your left hand on the Cross
- Russians – ONLY Russians – press with their right hand the button on the right
- Put your right foot on a small button
- Make a wish

Of course I made a wish! I tell you later if it turned out to become true ☺



All in all – this was a very good trip! Thank you!

Special thanks to Veronika Oudova, Anna Kurisova and Martina Ondrusova, for your wonderful preparation and guide during the stay!

With best regards from Bonn,

Viktoria Balensiefen
Young BPW Representative for Europe
2005 - 2008