

Cold weather, warm hospitality, heated debate: KSH at the MUNoM

Munich in November is a rare period of calm between the chaos of the Oktoberfest and the bustle of the Christmas markets, but between 11th and 15th November it became a hotbed of political debate, dispute and compromise for twenty members of the KSH Model United Nations Club.

At the two conference venues – the conference centre of the Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung and the European School of Munich, the MUMoM hosted around 400 students, from high schools in Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Spain, France, Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For all the students, the week-long conference was the culmination of careful research and preparation: in the weeks preceding the conference they immersed themselves in such complex topics as the trade in counterfeit pharmaceuticals, rights for migrant workers and children in conflict zones, reparations for colonialism and measures to prevent conflict in Gaza and the Red Sea region. Then, on Thursday evening, the party brought a welcome opportunity to let off steam and escape from the unsolvable conflicts of the world. The shared week of discussion, writing and socialising resulted in new contacts and friendships across various ages and nationalities.

Both long-term and first-time participants enthused about the experience both as a social and a learning opportunity. “It’s a lot more fun when you’re taking part,” commented one KSH delegate, whereas others appreciated the “great friendships” that had developed between people who were “open to making new connections”. A first-time delegate described the conference catchily as “a great opportunity to debate with the world about the world”. Perhaps the last word should be given to the delegate who summed up the value of MUN at a time when international and domestic politics seem to be dominated by conflict and disagreement: “You can’t cooperate with someone if you don’t know them”.



