

E.M.B.L. - HSG
Alumni Association
19-22th September 2019

22th Annual E.M.B.L.-HSG Reunion in Kyiv



The E.M.B.L.-HSG Alumni Reunion 2019 took 30 Alumni to one of Eastern Europe's cultural centers and probably the most underestimated Kapital in Europe: Kiev. Our local alumna Anna Vovchenko and Nadezhda Serova had arranged a sparkling and amazing program – which, in terms of content, culture and culinary fully measured up to the high standards of the E.M.B.L.-HSG Alumnae and Alumni.

On Friday the reunion kicked off with the E.M.B.L.-HSG Alumni Conference, starting at the Kyiv City State Administration. We learned about the political reforms, developments in the labor- and housing markets as well as the setup for foreign direct investments. This insight was followed by another optic - the Swiss Embassy enlightened us about Switzerland's diplomatic work and the conflict in the non-governmental controlled areas within the Ukraine.

This meeting was a perfect preparation for our next stop: the delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the Ukraine. We learned about international humanitarian law and the basic principles of the work of the ICRC, which is, above all, to keep unconditioned political neutrality and impartiality in order to get access to the areas where the help of the Red Cross is so desperately needed. The intensive knowledge intake of the conference was followed by a delicate dessert - the Swan Lake and the Ukrainian National Opera House.

On Saturday the motto was „Culture and Exchange“. Accordingly, we started to discover the old town and the cultural jewels of Kyiv in the finest autumn sunshine. The gold-domed blue church of St Michael's was on the plate as St Sophias Cathedral, Kyiv's oldest standing church. Many of the mosaics and frescoes are dating back literally a thousand years. The visit of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Monastery of the Caves „Kyiv Pechersk Lavra" was clearly another highlight.

The traditional E.M.B.L.-HSG Alumni gala dinner at „VINO e Cucina“ peaked the crescendo of previous days with fantastic food, intensive conversations and an ABC wine tasting (ABC: Anything But Chardonnay).

On Sunday, we enjoyed our General Assembly in a very relaxing atmosphere, where the golden domes above the city passed by in tranquility, while we were discussing the associations future. And there will be one – a prosperous one, as the general assembly decided: next year's E.M.B.L.-HSG Alumni reunion will take place in the heart of Piemont, in Torino.

For the E.M.B.L.-HSG Alumni, Nils Günther & Matthias Schmid-Huberty

„The church is near, but the way is icy. The tavern is far, but I will walk carefully.“ - Traditional Ukrainian saying