The participants of the German language refresher course in Vienna have by now reluctantly returned from that fabulous capital to their various occupations. There was however a consensus before we left that we should write a brief report in praise of the course and express our gratitude to the organisers from the Austrian region.

The week-long programme was packed with a wide range of presentations, excursions and culinary delights, including a visit to the Austrian Parliament and the Law Courts, a private tour of the Kunsthistorisches Museum, followed by a sumptuous dinner in the museum restaurant, and an evening with wine-tasting at a Heuriger.

The speakers made apparently dry subjects like the Austrian Trade Unions or education system truly fascinating. We were particularly fortunate to have inspiring presentations from Hannah Lessing, head of the Nationalfonds for victims of the Nazi era, and from Andreas Kohl, a former parliamentary Speaker.

I think I can say on behalf of all the participants that the course provided us with invaluable background knowledge about life in Austria and gave us a better handle on the Austrian brand of German. The local colleagues were unfailingly helpful, friendly and supportive in our struggle with Austrian dialects.

Let's hope that they recover soon from all their hard work and decide to organise another course next year!

Vielen Dank!

Recommended citation format: