On the 17th of March Local Organizing Committee (LOC) of France welcomed delegates from all over the world in the 65th Mid-Year-Meeting (MYM). Congress took place in one of the most beautiful places in Europe - Strasbourg. Everyone was very excited for the upcoming four days because we knew we will see our old friends after a long time, will have the opportunity to develop new skills during lectures and workshops as well as represent our ideas and future plans for the colleagues.

Pre-Congress

The IADS trip to France began, of course, in Paris. There, the pre congress group, guided by Marc-Antoine and Niko, visited the capital and its most famous landmarks like the Eiffel Tower, the Champs Elysees, Montmartre and Sacre Coeur.

Friday was a special day which we spent in Disneyland. There, we went on all sorts of roller-coasters and enjoyed a light show at night. “It’s a small world after all” was the perfect ride for our multicultural group, though the song was repeated so many times that it created an inside joke between the participants.

On the last night, we had fun in a Parisian bar, and we warmed up for the amazing meeting that was about to come.

General Assembly

In the 65th MYM General Assembly (GA) there were delegates or representatives from 16 different countries as well as special guests such as FDI Executive Director Enzo Bondioni, IADS President 2008 - 2010 Tomaž Špindler, EDSA President Alyette Greiweidinger and IFMSA VP for External Relations Marlan Sedlak. Both the first and second days of GA were quite intense as Executive Committee (ExCo) together with Constitutional Committee members presented changes in IADS Constitution and Bylaws. In order to seek non-governmental organisation (NGO) status and registration in Switzerland some updates had to be done. Also, IADS welcomed even 9 new members: Australia (full national membership), Chile (affiliate national), Libya (full national), Morocco (full local), Northern Cyprus (associate national), Rwanda (affiliate national), Senegal (corresponding national), Tanzania (affiliate national), United Kingdom (full national). Former IADS President 2008-2010, Tomaž Špindler for his dedication and hard work in Constitutional Committee was elected as an Honorary Life member. Last but not least, delegates voted upon the next host country of the 66th MYM - It Is Bosnia and Herzegovina!
Scientific Program

While the delegates were discussing important issues in the GA, other participants were acquiring new skills. They had the opportunity to listen to more than 10 interesting lectures, covering different topics in dentistry, including endodontics, teledentistry, pediatric dentistry, bone regeneration, cosmetic dentistry and others. There were several workshops we could choose from, namely face bow, oral health by Curaden, basic and advanced instrumentation for non-surgical periodontal therapy by Hu-Friedy and last but not least, workshop on interactive robot on management of complications during teeth treatment. Our trainers Ismail Rifai, Julien Issa and Shayan Darvish held training session to enhance soft skills, which are always useful. On the last day of the congress, the dental olympics took place. Contestants tested their skills in wire bending, suturing and soap carving. Members of the winning team were Nils Werner and Etienne Krohmann from Germany and Héloïse Hégo from France. For the first time in history of IADS, panel discussion took place where also high-profile experts participated. It was themed “Developing and Training the New Generations of Dentists.”

Social Program

Social program is a necessity to any IADS event. The first event of the MYM was the Opening ceremony, which was held in the Museum of Modern Art. It was a joyful time for the IADS family to get together again. After the first day of the GA and lectures, we gathered for the entertaining boat tour on the Rhine River. It was followed by dinner at Flam’s where they served us traditional Alsation tarte flambee. Afterwards, it was time to dance and party at Le Jimmy’s. The third night was reserved for the highly anticipated Exchange Fair where no traditional food and drinks were missing. During the last day of the congress, we had a chance to tour the clinics and visit hospital’s historic wine cellar, which is home to the oldest barrel-stored wine in the world. The congress concluded with ROCS Gala, where we all dressed our best dresses and suits, took the last photos with our IADS friends and simply enjoyed the last moments spent together.
Post-Congress

A post-congress in Strasbourg was a perfect time to chill after a rough week, organized by Rebecca and Jules. Our 3 post congress friends were Nils and Etienne from Germany and Esra from Sudan. The post congress started with “spaetzle” for lunch, a culinary specialty from Alsace, followed by an escape game. Afterwards, we rented bikes and saw the European parliament building and the “Orangerie” park. Later on, we played some bowling and spent the evening in a restaurant and shot bar, not tired at all from the Gala night. On Friday, we had lunch at a famous restaurant in Alsace, where we tried some alsacian cheese “Le Munster” and some “rognon blanc”, which are bull’s testicles. In the afternoon, we visited a wine domain at “Domaine des frères Bott”, we saw how they produce wine and of course we tried 6 of them! We visited Ribeauvillé, a beautiful and typical alsacian town. Then we drove to the famous chocolate factory “Daniel Stoffel” and where we learned everything about chocolate - how it’s made, the ingredients and how to taste it. In the evening, we had some tapas, drank beer and went to sleep early.

On Saturday, we had a very good brunch in Hotel Graffalgar, followed by a walk and shopping in Strasbourg. We saw Strasbourg’s Opera, National Students’ Library and the European parliament. In the evening we went to a basketball match and later to techno party at Le KALT.

On Sunday, our friends went back to their countries after brunch. For the organizers, it was a beautiful time to share our culture and the way of life in Strasbourg with the international friends. Despite being tiring, this project has motivated us a lot to continue with associative and student life and we are ready to prepare the next congress in Strasbourg: EDSA Congress in August 2020!

To sum up, the 65th MYM Strasbourg was a huge success. On behalf of all attendees and Executive Committee, we would like to say a big thanks to LOC team for amazing work! Also thanks to our sponsors: FDI, W&amp;H, 3Shape, Flajolet, Hu-Friedy, R.O.C.S, Curaden and University of Strasbourg. Hope everyone got home full of good memories and motivation for upcoming months. Congratulations to new members and see you all in Tunisia!

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