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Year One of the Werner Schlager Academy

multiversum
SCHWECHAT



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On 11 January 2011, the Werner Schlager Academy was officially opened in Schwechat: A World Table Tennis Training Center in the heart of Europe. After a year, we proudly look back at the Academy's sensational development from our point of view.

The Highlights of the Past Year:

- The ITTF, with its 215 member countries (the second largest sports federation in the world) recognized the WSA in the top category of training centers in the world, one of only four so selected in Category A, included with Guangzhou, Paris, and Ochsenhausen.
- Day by day the national and international practice group grows on the Academy's 35 tables, with the capacity load limits more and more challenged.
- The WSA and the Austrian Table Tennis Association have signed with the European table tennis governing body, the ETTU, to host the Youth Championships in July, 2012 and the European Championships in October, 2013.
- In 2011, the WSA successfully hosted the UNIQA European Youth Top 10 (January), the ITTF Hopes Week (June) and the ITTF World Tour (Pro Tour in September) with world-wide TV coverage of 14 ORF hours, with 108 million TV viewers in China alone.
- The Chinese National Women's and Men's teams prepared for the World Championships in Rotterdam (May) at the Academy and declared the Academy the best training center in Europe and comparable to any in the world!
- Prior to the Grand Opening, a ETTU Trainer Seminar was held at the WSA.
- An ITTF referee's seminar was also held.
- An ETTU workshop was conducted, including the European Championships League draw for the ladies and the gentlemen.
- To date, representatives from 90 nations have attended events at the WSA in Schwechat.
- The WSA-partner association STRÖCK SVS brought, in the first year of the founding, Austrian league title and the top crown in the cross-border Super League.
- In the second year (a season still running), the team is in the semi-finals of the European Champions League, Super League, and in the National Championships.
- The Werner Schlager Academy has also become a strong economic factor. For the city of Schwechat alone, the Institut Fedas M 24 in Graz has calculated that by 2013 the value added to be approximately 42.6 million Euros.



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The Highlights in the Coming Year:

No Christmas break occurred in the WSA. In January alone, representatives from 23 nations will train in the facility.

Already this week, alongside the stars of the WSA - Werner Schlager, Chen Weixing and the permanent WSA-training guests like Daniela Dodean (Romania), Joao Monteiro (Portugal), Mihai Bobocica (Italy), William Henzell (Australia), and Fan Ying (China) - the stars of the Russian Champions Leagues club Gazprom Orenburg, with the exceptional players of Vladimir Samsonov and Germany's 10th ranked World player Dimitrij Ovtcharov are guests in Schwechat.

The international feed will be larger by the day.

An excerpt from the other highlights of the year 2012

- The European Youth Championships (July 13 to 22) with some 1,100 people from 45 countries in accreditation.
- Eight top European nations (including Germany with Timo Boll, Valdimir Samsonov of Belarus, and Austria) will be preparing together in early July in the WSA for the Olympic Games in a training week with a weekend tournament to top it off.
- The Chinese National Team (open date) will once again train in the WSA.
- The ITTF will again hold a top-class junior course in the WSA.
- In parallel with all these activities, preparations for the European Championships in October 2012 are in full swing.



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THANK YOU

After a very successful year, the Werner Schlager Academy deeply thanks you, but also acknowledges its great need for the assistance it has received and continues to from our most loyal partners:

ITTF: ITTF President Adham Sharara and his development and training team, as well as ITTF Executive Mikael Andersson have shown the highest level of confidence in the WSA. The ITTF European Office is in the building complex of the WSA and often holds senior-level meetings and conferences here in the confines, as it did last weekend.

Butterfly: The same praise and appreciation for the ITTF is given to Butterfly, the Tamasu equipment company. From the very first moment, great trust, cooperation and a willingness to give the WSA a great opportunity, accompanied by a deep human sense of belonging.

We thank the Republic of Austria, the province of Niederösterreich, and the city of Schwechat for the great support, as the center would never have built and it would never have worked without them.

We thank our partners from the ETTU, the Schwechat Multiversum, Donic, Gerflor, ISS Facility Management, JOOLA, Orange, Raiffeisen, Relux Ströck, Tibhar, TMS, and Uniqua.

Special thanks also to the Austrian Table Tennis Association and all the national associations for the wonderful cooperation on sports and organizational issues, to the ORF and the Austrian media for their balanced, comprehensive and efficient reporting and media work.

Last, but not least, we want to thank the Werner Schlager Academy's own staff, without which our WSA would never have the development she has had, never had the direction she has taken, and cannot continue this way without this excellent group of people.

May the successful first year be followed by an even more successful second year!

Werner Schlager
Martin Sörös