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AN AUSTRIAN RENAISSANCE: DIALOGUE IN THE DARK IN VIENNA

DIALOGUE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE PROUDLY PRESENTS ITS FIRST EXHIBITION, FOUNDED BY BLIND COLLEAGUES :
THE NEW DIALOGUE IN THE DARK IN VIENNA DEMONSTRATES, THAT SELF-CONFIDENCE AND IDEALISM WILL PAY OFF.

On the 25th of September, a new Dialogue in the Dark Vienna opened its gates at "Schottenstift" in the center of the Austrian capital. This particularly is an enormous success for Reinhard Marth, Eva Kriechbaum, Helmut Schachinger and Mira Ostojic. These four founders - kind of addicted to Dialogue in the Dark as if there would be some hidden force that makes them spreading the idea - have been putting all their energy into their project which let them overcome all obstacles. And there were quite a few...

Reinhard and Helmut, both blind, joined the Dialogue community more than 17 years ago as international guides. Mira and Eva already worked as sighted employees at the last Viennese project in the city hall, which closed in June 2008. "We were deeply convinced that Dialogue in the Dark simply has to live on in Austria. There are so many things we have to tell and through Dialogue in the Dark we can do this in the most effective way. Idealism might have been both, a blessing and a curse, but finally we are pretty glad to be that idealistic," explains Eva. As a team, they made their professional dream come true.

The exhibition is planned for a minimum of three years and the start was more than satisfying. So far, ten blind guides could be employed. And many groups of students have already joined the guidance tours. In cooperation with "Hill International", Dialogue in the Dark Vienna also offers business workshops. Above that, an African room is integrated in the exhibition, which was planned and implemented in cooperation with their partner "Light for the World". This room gives an impression of blind people's life in Africa. Dialogue in the Dark Vienna also organizes a special programme during Advent season: Fairy tales, read out in pitch darkness, but cosy atmosphere.

Yes, Christmas is coming soon. And of course, Dialogue in the Dark Vienna team puts some wishes on their X-mas list: "More guests, more ideas, more events, more media, more, more..."

For more information about Dialogue in the Dark Vienna, please visit: <http://www.dialogue-in-the-dark.com/venues-worldwide/austria-vienna/> or www.dialog-im-dunkeln.at

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