



NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER – iGEM BOKU Vienna

Collaborations

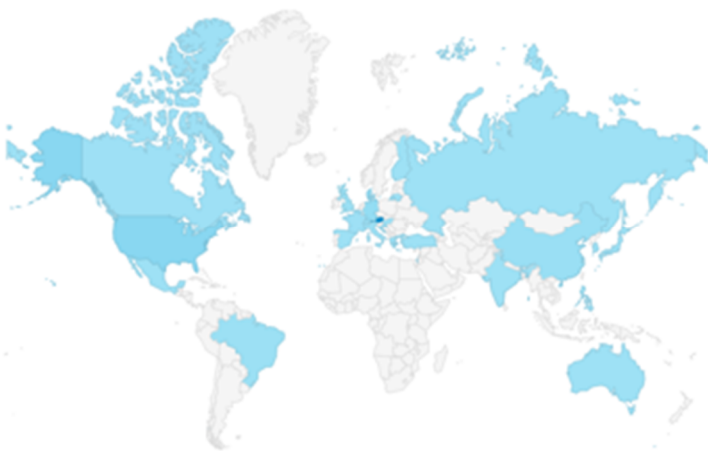
Collaboration is one of the criteria which must be fulfilled in order to be successful in the world of iGEM. Therefore, we formed two collaborations, with the teams iGEM Heidelberg and iGEM Toulouse, this month. For the former, we had to prove how well their mutagenesis plasmids developed resistance against various antibiotics, which was carried out according to their protocol. The latter needed some help with the integration of their RFP containing plasmid. We resolved this particular problem by following a high efficiency protocol.

Interviews

In September we went to the Ministry of Health and Women's Affairs in Vienna to talk to Mr. Dietmar Vybiral. His job is to represent Austria at the European Union (EU) in decisions regarding genetically modified organisms (GMOs). He explained the legal situation when someone wants to release a genetically engineered product on to the market in Europe. He concludes that organisms carrying genes mutated by D.I.V.E.R.T. should by law count as GMOs. Furthermore, we talked to Mr. Peter Weish, professor for environmental ethics at BOKU. We discussed the ethical aspects of releasing GMOs into the environment in order to tackle the problem of plastic waste in the ocean.

Wiki & Outlook

As time flies by and the end of the iGEM competition is getting closer, we are finishing up our last experiments in October. This does not mean that the work for us is over, because in the meantime we are busy with filling our [wiki page](#) with content and results. Everything we have done in the last months has to be documented and put into words. The hard work is already paying off, as we see people from all over the world are visiting our [wiki page](#) and reading about our project (see figure below). In the next two months we are going to prepare for the Giant Jamboree in Boston where we will present our results in form of a presentation as well as a poster.



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