

OPEC - VIENNA ENERGY SCHOLAR PROGRAMME (VESP)

OPEC Secretariat / 2021

General Information and Application Procedures

a) Objective

The Vienna Energy Scholar Programme (VESP) is an integrated knowledge and networking platform open to students and young professionals residing in Vienna and Austria.

Inspired by similar exchange programmes developed by other organizations around the world, **the VESP seeks to further develop mutual understanding between the OPEC Secretariat, its Member Countries and the Austrian and European citizens participating in the Programme.**

Participants will improve their knowledge about the most relevant aspects of energy policy and the energy industry, as well as of OPEC's Member Countries and the challenges they face. They will help designing and executing strategies for future cooperation between the mentioned countries.

b) About OPEC

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is an international organization comprising 13 members. It was founded in 1960 in Baghdad, Iraq, and has, since 1965, been headquartered in Vienna, Austria.

The Organization's objectives are to coordinate energy policies of its Member Countries and to work in stabilizing the global energy markets. In recent years, OPEC has increased its support to its Member Countries and the global community in matters of energy poverty, climate change, environment and energy transition.

c) Content of the Programme

The Programme will have a duration of two weeks, the first to take place at the OPEC Secretariat in Vienna in 2021, and the second in one of the OPEC Member Countries.

The topics to be covered in the Programme are:

Week 1 – October 2021

To be held at the OPEC Secretariat in Vienna

Monday – Day 1

- Inauguration and general presentation of the Secretariat's activities.
- General presentation of OPEC Member Countries, world energy and economic outlook.
- Reception at the Vienna City Hall.

Tuesday – Day 2

- Presentation on short-term energy perspectives and related discussion.
- Presentation on long-term energy perspectives and policies and related discussion.
- Definition of follow-up activities to be undertaken after Phase 1 – what can be done to foster the dialogue and mutual understanding between OPEC, Austria and Europe?

Wednesday – Day 3 (content organized by the City of Vienna)

- Discussions around
 - Energy planning in Vienna
 - Climate-friendly city
 - Geothermal sources
 - Hydrogen-generated energy
 - Ground water resources
 - Public mobility systems

Thursday – Day 4

- Environmental challenges and related discussion.
- Regulation of the energy transition – how to shape it, and related discussion.
- Visit to and discussion about energy sustainability and energy poverty at the OPEC Fund.

Friday – Day 5

- International cooperation – Declaration of Cooperation, Charter of Cooperation and other possible mechanisms.

- Discussion about follow-up actions to improve the dialogue between OPEC, Austria and Europe – presentation of participants’ proposals.
- Discussion with the Secretary General – The Future of Energy.

Week 2 – 2022

To be held in one of the OPEC Member Countries

- Dialogue with high-level energy authorities.
- Visit to energy-related facilities.
- Professional exchanges in energy institutions.
- Cultural activities.
- Exchanges with technical teams at the Energy/Oil Ministry and the National Oil Company, among other entities.

Expenses generated by the travel and participation in the Programme will be covered by the OPEC Secretariat (Week 1) and/or OPEC Member Countries sponsoring the Programme (Week 2).

At the final day of the Programme, participants will be required to make a presentation summarizing their experience and how they envision to contribute to a better understanding of the relevant stakeholders.

The OPEC Secretariat will provide an online platform for exchanges by the Programme alumni; participants can maintain communication among them and with the other parties involved.

d) Profile of the Candidates

The participants in the Programme should fulfil the following:

- Age between 21 and 27 years (in 2021).
- Residence in Austria at the moment of application, and citizenship from an European country.
- Studying to obtain a university degree (tertiary education or master level) at the moment of application, or working in a public or private institution in Austria, having obtained his/her university degree in the five years prior to the application.
- Good English knowledge.

- There is **NO** limitation regarding the area of studies of the candidate. Students from all careers are invited to apply.

e) Call for Nominations and Applications

Applicants should submit the following documents in English:

- Up-to-date CV (including contact information)
- Cover letter (1 page) explaining:
 - Past leadership, community engagement activities or interest in public service.
 - How the candidate's participation will enrich the discussion of energy- and environment-related matters.
 - How the candidate considers s/he can contribute to a better long-term understanding between Austria, Europe and OPEC Member Countries, especially in energy-related matters.

Applications should be submitted to the OPEC Secretariat, to the following email address: sgos@opec.org.

The Selection Committee will review all applications and select the delegates to participate in the VESP. The Committee will be composed of two members of the OPEC Secretariat and two members of the office of the Mayor of the City of Vienna. The Committee will evaluate the applications and prepare a list of recommended candidates (15) for final approval by OPEC's Secretary General.

f) Time Schedule

- Final date for receipt of applications: 30 June 2021
- Notification to selected candidates: 16 August 2021
- Programme Week 1 (Vienna): 4-8 October 2021
- Programme Week 2 (OPEC Member Country): 1H 2022

g) Information and Contacts

In case of queries and for submission of applications, please contact the OPEC Secretariat – Secretary General's Office (sgos@opec.org)