**The winner of the 8th year of the MUNISS inter-university student competition has been announced**

On Wednesday 6 June Bratislava hosted the festive announcement of results of the 8th year of the MUNISS international student competition. The ceremony was opened by the Mayor of the City of Bratislava Ivo Nesrovnal and was attended by the Deputy Mayor of the City of Brno Jaroslav Kacer, representatives of the City of Brno, Czech and Slovak students, representatives of universities, Deputy Mayor of Bratislava Ľudmila Farkašovská and Chief Architect of the City of Bratislava Ingrid Konrad. Students of Brno universities and Slovak University of Technology have taken part in the competition.

MUNISS is an inter-university competition that has been taking place in Brno since 2011, with Bratislava joining in 2016. Students may test their ability of team cooperation in an international team and discussion with experts on selected topics. The city gains new views and innovative ideas on issues that are addressed in its development, reflecting a broad spectre of fields thanks to participation of different universities and faculties. The international cooperation is of great benefit to both cities as the MUNISS project makes it possible to look through students’ eyes and see situations from a new and often completely different point of view.

Five mixed teams of Czech and Slovak students worked on the topics selected by both cities from January till May this year. MUNISS 2018’s central topic was planning over time and so-called location manager. Students were to define the use of the Špitálka and Kraví Hora locations in the horizon of 5, 10 and 15+ years and to deal with the economic balance and description of the so-called location manager. This is a person that is responsible for the area, intermediates negotiations between individual plot owners in the location and thus facilities and accelerates its transformation. The students’ work will serve as a base for further development of both locations. In case of the Špitálka area, future smart district that is being addressed also within the Horizon2020 RUGGEDISED project, the work will form a part of planned urban design competition.

Bratislava assigned the students to solve the transformation of the Obchodná street in the city centre and the area in front of the Crown Plaza hotel which is next to the street. Students had to include a social and environmental dimension in their proposals, therefore they addressed e. g. rainwater management or mitigation of the negative phenomenon of homelessness.

The competition works were judged by expert commissions consisting of representatives of cities, universities and other experts in both cities. “I personally appreciate and consider very beneficial to use the students’ works for the sake of the city. It is inspiring to see the work of young people who have not been deformed by real life yet, which allows them to be more creative in their proposals and projects. In this eighth year two parameters were evaluated primarily, and that is the involvement of the so-called location manager and use of the area over time. Kraví Hora in the city centre and Špitálka post-industrial zone were selected as model locations. All presented student proposals will be further used in the development of these locations. Namely at Špitálka they will serve as a base for international urban design idea competition,” said Jaroslav Kacer, Deputy Mayor of the City of Brno.

The winner of the Brno topic is the team No. 91 consisting of Marek Maloň, Kateřina Vítková, Petra Kovalíková, Petra Klumparová, Iveta Pavlíková and Matúš Prizinec, who focused on further development Špitálka area, the future smart district. According to their idea, the large part of the former power plan should be used as an industrial park with some preserved elements, like overhead pipeline, a turntable, tracks, and a footprint of the cooling tower. Those parts should bring unique atmosphere to the place and because there is a lack of green areas nearby, it will be a great attraction for the whole district. Another part of the area would be surrounded by buildings (with apartments and offices). Smart solutions could be applied and further monitored to provide valuable data for other areas. Student received the prize of CZK 30,000 (c. € 1,140).

“Brno has already got the idea of the topic for the next, already 9th year. It will concern housing, but I do not want to reveal any details at this moment. I firmly hope that the number of participants will increase in the years to come and apart from Czech and Slovak universities, also students e. g. from Austria or Hungary will take part,” added Jaroslav Kacer, Deputy Mayor of the City of Brno.