

CIF International Exchange Programme 2009 Austria and Czech Republic

A few decades ago invention of Internet revolutionized the IT and communication sector. It was instrumental in connecting people across the globe in a fast and economical way and also enabled easy exchange of information.

I found CIF and its programme to be another such significant invention that brought together development professionals from different parts of the world to share and learn more about the social work practices in other countries.

I was one of the seven participants for the CIF programme in Austria and Czech Republic this year. Our group was quite diverse and culturally rich and included social workers and psychologists. The four-week programme started in the month of April in Austria.

Austria is a beautiful country and its people have a golden heart. The CIFA team was extremely hospitable, benevolent, and zestful. The women power of the team was quite evident, as it did not leave any stone unturned in order to ensure the best for us. The team had efficiently planned the entire programme, which had been divided into two – general and individual. The former aimed at providing an overview of the social welfare system in Vienna. This mostly included visits to organisations like – Jugendamt (Child Protection Clinic under the municipality); Integration Haus; Social Welfare office and Domestic Abuse Intervention Center. The individual programme had been drafted keeping in mind our professional background and interest area.

The programme thereafter continued in one of the world's most beautiful, never-to-be-missed cities – Prague (Czech Republic). The CIF team had scheduled a line of visits to different social welfare organisations – government as well as non-government.

In both the programmes, the professional learning had been sufficiently augmented by cultural exchange between the CIF teams and us. Cultural events, parties and group outings spiced up the entire experience. Staying with the host families was one of the most enriching experiences.

The first-hand experience of learning about the social structure and issues of a developed nation and understanding the work methods and approaches adopted by various agencies to deal with these sensitive issues was no less than remarkable.

The fond memories of the programme will always be cherished.

CIF Austria



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India

CIF Czech Republic

