

A nighttime photograph of the Colosseum in Rome. The ancient amphitheater is illuminated from within, showing its iconic tiered arches. In the foreground, a road curves through the scene, with long, bright white light trails from moving vehicles. To the right, modern city buildings and streetlights are visible against the dark night sky.

# FS MUN — Rome Final Report 2014

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# Preface

It is more than five years ago that FS Model United Nations was founded and since then, the initiative has enabled more and more students from the Frankfurt School of Finance & Management to experience the spirit of Model United Nations and to participate in its very special simulations. After five years of growing and becoming more professional and successful, we felt that FS MUN was ready to take the next step. A couple of our most experienced delegates decided that one Model UN per year was not enough and wanted to check out one of the more regional simulations conducted in Europe on a regular basis. For the first time ever, FS MUN participated at another conference in addition to NMUN New York – the traditional destination of the initiative – and thereby this will be the first MUN-Year (typically lasting from the beginning of the winter term to the end of the summer term) for which FS MUN will have taken part in not only one but two of the most important conferences worldwide. Within this report we would like to share our experience of participating at NMUN Rome 2014 and outline our vision for the future development of FS MUN.





# About MUN, NMUN & NMUN Rome

**M**odel United Nations conferences are academic simulations re-enacting sessions of principal organs and agencies of the United Nations. Such simulations are as old as or in some form even older than the United Nations itself, since they already date back to simulations of the League of Nations – the predecessor of the United Nations – that evolved in the United States in the 1920s. Model United Nations conferences aim to educate students about the UN System, current issues of international politics, the UN Member States and the art of diplomacy.

Among the best-known and most professional MUN conferences are those organized by the National Collegiate conference Association (NCCA) – the National Model United Nations (NMUN) conferences. The NCCA is a recognized NGO and associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information, which is why NMUN conferences portray real-world UN conferences particularly well and accurately.

Despite NMUN New York being the largest and most famous NMUN conference, there are several other NMUN conferences organized by the NCCA, not only in the US but also around the globe. This year's international conference took place in Rome and was co-organized by Consules, an Italian non-profit organization providing international training and education programmes. NMUN Rome 2014 took place from 23rd until 29th November and hosted over 200 delegates from around 40 universities.

# Our Delegation & Vision for Rome

**O**ur Delegation for NMUN Rome 2014 was made up entirely of experienced delegates who have taken part in at least one Model United Nations conference before. Among the delegation were several former and current initiative Heads as well as delegates who have functioned as part of the media and research team before. This enabled a professional organization even though no financial or other resources of the initiative were put into the organization of our participation in NMUN Rome 2014.

Our aim with participating in this conference was twofold. First, we aimed to explore another conference outside New York, to evaluate it and to find out if it could be a worthy supplement to the initiative's participation in NMUN New York. This is one of the reasons for why it was helpful to have only experienced delegates with us, since all were able to compare their experience in Rome with the one they enjoyed in New York. Second, we went to Rome with the ambition to perform especially well and better than before, benefiting from our previous experience. Our evaluation of past years with FS MUN has shown that the vast majority of delegates winning awards have been delegates who have had previous experience and this is why we selected the delegation for this year's conference in a way that should enable it to be especially successful.



## Preparation

Since the delegation for NMUN Rome 2014 was smaller and more advanced than the delegations for NMUN New York have been, our preparation differed in some ways from that for New York. Instead of starting all over again, we could rely on our knowledge of the UN system as such, the Model United Nations' Rules of Procedure and requirements for MUN delegates which we had acquired in previous years.

We further benefited from our close ties to the delegation which is at the moment preparing for NMUN New York. We did not separate the preparation of the two delegations but understood ourselves as one initiative, preparing for two conferences together. Thus, we were able to participate in mock sessions together, mock sessions being "simulations of the simulation." This was advantageous for us as well as for the current delegation preparing for New York. We benefited from their questions that helped us think about things we believed to know again and further from a large group which made the mock sessions more similar to real MUN sessions, which we could not have been able to simulate with only nine people. We believe that the rest of the initiative, on the other hand, benefited from the NMUN-Rome Delegation's experience and expertise in return and thus believe our joint preparation to have been very favourable.

One further and perhaps the most important part of our preparation has been the well-known Position Paper writing. A Position Paper is a two-page paper summarizing the position of an assigned country on the issues that will be discussed at the MUN conference. We organized the Position Paper writing process as a system of peer reviews, each position paper being reviewed by one of our fellow delegates.

Finally, we had to prepare specifically for the countries we were assigned, dealing with their history, political system, culture and advocated views on issues of international politics. Here again we benefited from our experience since we once again managed to be assigned the Russian Federation, which we already represented in 2013. Since we were a relatively large delegation in relation to the size of the conference in New York, we got assigned one more country, namely Saudi Arabia. The preparation for these country assignments included research on facts as well as opinions. We looked at speeches of the representatives of these countries delivered at the UN and finally had a nice little Arabic dinner in the tradition of FS MUN in order to get a better impression on some part of the culture of this country.

## Country Assignment

After already representing the Russian Federation during National Model United Nations New York 2013, we once again had the opportunity to represent this fascinating nation. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was our second country assignment and the first monarchy Frankfurt School ever represented at a Model UN.

The Russian Federation is one of the most interesting countries we were able to represent so far, not only because of its fascinating history and remarkable diversity but also because of its geopolitical position as a transcontinental country. Russia's role as an energy superpower with the world's largest natural gas reserves and 8th largest oil reserves made it an interesting country to represent in the ECOSOC, where energy security was discussed. Its controversial politics, especially with regard to the crisis in Ukraine, and its veto-power as one of the P5 members in the Security Council made it a challenge and an experience to represent, but also helped us to better understand the Russian point of view.



In terms of energy importance Saudi Arabia did not fall short of Russia but also had to tackle its very own problems especially in the FAO. As a country that is abundantly endowed in oil reserves but facing increasing desertification and inability to feed its population, food security was one of Saudi Arabia's top priorities. In the GA, Saudi Arabia was determined to avoid discussing the second topic on the agenda concerning the legal status and rights of gay people and thus content with discussing small weapons in the Americas, a topic which was not directly targeting one of the more controversial Saudi politics.

Although it was not always easy to portray Russian and Saudi Arabian political perspectives taking into account our own personal convictions and opinions, representing these two fascinating countries helped us to, overall, better understand their culture and mindset translated into their politics.





## When in Rome

This year NMUN Europe took place in Rome, a very convenient destination taking into account the length of the journey and other organizational aspects. We stayed at the Best Western Hotel Universo close to Rome's main station Termini and the vibrant San Lorenzo quarter, which is characterized by the proximity to Università Sapienza, the biggest university in Rome. The conference itself took place in the renowned luxury Hotel Boscolo Exedra, which provided a sharp contrast to the student quarter we lived in. We got to discover even more interesting places within the conference, since the opening as well as the closing ceremony both took place at different locations. The conference was declared open in the LUISS Guido Carli University, where Emma Bonino, former Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs and former EU Commissioner impressed the delegates with delivering a very honest and critical keynote speech on the work of the UN and particularly of the Security Council. The closing ceremony was held in yet another university, the aforementioned Università Sapienza, which offered a great atmosphere for the final hour of our conference. This time we were addressed by Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director of the UN World Food Programme. She encouraged the delegates to become responsible global citizens and congratulated them on the work of the

past days.

With all the work and committee sessions, the conference took up most of our time, but we still tried to see as much of the Eternal City as possible and soak up the Italian "dolce far niente". With countless kilometers of walking around on cobblestone streets and marble steps we are proud to say that we managed to see almost all of Rome's famous sights, including the dome of St. Peter, the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Spanish Steps and the Piazza Venezia, to name only a few. As the weather was unusually nice for the end of November, even for Italian standards, we also enjoyed a considerable amount of real Italian Gelato and more than one meal outside in the sun.





# Committee Work

## Economic and Social Council Plenary:

Representing the Russian Federation in the Economic and Social Council Plenary (ECOSOC) proved to be a very challenging yet exciting experience. The 43 attending delegations decided almost unanimously to discuss the topic “Achieving Energy Security in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa”, in the hope of coming up with solutions to problems such as over-dependence on one energy source or energy provider, lack of proper infrastructure for energy production and distribution, and absence of incentives for the development of environmentally friendly energy provision strategies. Being highly reliant on revenues from oil and gas exports, the Russian Federation primarily sought to protect its trade relationships with other Member States, but recognized their inevitable withdrawal from fossil fuels towards renewable energy in the future. The Russian Federation thus adopted a two-pronged approach, pushing for the protection and support of oil and gas producing nations to ensure uninterrupted supply and guarantee energy security in the short term, and proposing the creation of an open platform for the global sharing of research and technology on renewable energies, that would help Member States develop appropriate green energy infrastructure in the long term.

Many fellow delegates congratulated us for being “very Russian” in our negotiation goals and style.

Our short term scheme was received with quite some opposition, but with the help of other oil and gas producers such as Kuwait, Brazil and Libya, we were able to convince the majority of delegations that considering the important role that oil and gas still play worldwide, it would be impossible to achieve energy security effectively without addressing them. On the other hand, our long-term project was received favourably and the draft resolution outlining it in detail was adopted by acclamation (no opposition nor abstentions) – a true feat in a committee of the size of ECOSOC. At the end of the simulation, many fellow delegates congratulated us for being “very Russian” in our negotiation goals and style, a compliment we take with gratitude, since it indicates that we succeeded at representing our country satisfactorily.

— Christoph and Katherine



## Food and Agriculture Organization:

This year Frankfurt School MUN was able to represent two quite important and yet very different countries in the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Representing the Russian Federation as well as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with their diverse opportunities and challenges in terms of agriculture and food availability was an extremely informative experience. The topic we discussed was “Beyond 2015: Addressing Global Food Insecurity”. Each of the represented countries was able to sponsor one resolution covering the different approaches of Russia and Saudi Arabia towards ensuring food security in their regions. While the Russian Federation kept a strong focus on smallholder farmers and their empowerment, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia chose to address the problem using FDI towards increasing production levels and ensuring sustainability. After three days of tirelessly working on our working papers, a merger of Russia’s working paper with another and achieving 100% support of the whole committee for Saudi Arabia’s working paper, they were finally accepted as draft resolutions on the last day of the conference. During voting procedure, Russia’s draft resolution was adopted by acclamation while Saudi Arabia’s draft was accepted by a strong majority with some countries abstaining from the vote. All in all, we are very proud of our work and will remember NMUN Europe in Rome as an amazing experience.

— Alexa and Evgenija





» In a night-session we read through statements by representatives of the Russian Federation to the UN and high-level politicians, ceasefire agreements and previous resolutions.





## General Assembly Plenary:

**F**S MUN also sent two delegations to the General Assembly Plenary, representing both our assigned countries, the Russian Federation as well as Saudi Arabia. The topics on our agenda were “1. Prohibition of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Americas” as well as “2. Legal Status and Protection of the Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) People”. It was in the inherent interest of Saudi Arabia to neglect the second topic on the agenda due to the fundamental differences in the interpretation of human rights between the Western world and Saudi Arabia. The Russian Federation as well was not very eager to discuss this issue and thus both our delegations were pleased when the committee decided to deal with the first topic. However, especially Saudi Arabia was neither fully committed to the first topic and despite the Russian Federation being one of the main players on the stage of international politics, the topic at hand did not belong to any of its major concerns and thus did not lead to an overly active role of our delegation. In the ongoing negotiations, Saudi Arabia decided to emphasize the already existing solutions, which the GA had mutually agreed upon in the past decade. Special focus was put on the collaboration with Kuwait, Pakistan, Indonesia and further countries with strong Muslim background. We were able to agree on a working paper mainly based on several voluntary incentive mechanisms, as well as national agencies to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons. Saudi Arabia was proud to be the sponsor of the only draft resolution out of ten that was adopted by acclamation. Out of the ten, eight further resolutions were adopted by a majority while only one failed to pass. As a final comment we would like to emphasize our astonishment by the creativity of our fellow delegates! Especially the Delegation of Iraq, who was also called the “clause dealer”, played an outstanding role in offering operative clauses for free; yes you might not believe it, absolutely for free!

— Adrian, Dominik and Sophie

## Security Council

**R**epresenting a veto-power country in the Security Council has always been one of the best experiences Model United Nations has to offer. In knowing, however, that the Russian Federation has traditionally been an unpleasant player for many in the Security Council we expected a very challenging time – and were proven right in each and every session. The

committee decided to deal with the topic of “Women and Peace and Security: Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict”. It was the smaller nations that took the lead in dealing with this topic while we saw our task mainly in inhibiting them from demanding all too ambitious measures that according to our view exceeded the responsibilities of the Security Council or endangered the principle of national sovereignty. As a result, the work of the Security Council on this topic was quite slow and somewhat unpleasant for most delegations, but eventually we managed to pass a presidential statement as well as a resolution on the matter. This was when the ‘real fun’ began, since we were then informed about a crisis to deal with that had not been on our agenda before. To our great pleasure (and we say this not as representatives of the Russian Federation but as MUN delegates wishing for as much suspense as possible) the crisis turned out to concern the critical situation in Ukraine. In a night-session we read through statements by representatives of the Russian Federation to the UN and high-level politicians, ceasefire agreements and previous resolutions. We were thus well prepared for verbal attacks from our fellow delegates and even managed to overcome some very critical situations when we learned about violent attacks that occurred on both sides of the conflict. Finally, we were even able to draft two resolutions ourselves, condemning the attacks of violence mainly from the Ukrainian government and demanding parties to consider a new ceasefire. To our great pleasure, both these resolutions passed while we ourselves saw the necessity to veto a resolution that had been proposed by the NATO states – something we, to be quite honest, always wanted to do. Is there any more you can ask for at Model United Nations?

— Paul and Sarah-Lea





# Achievements & Experience

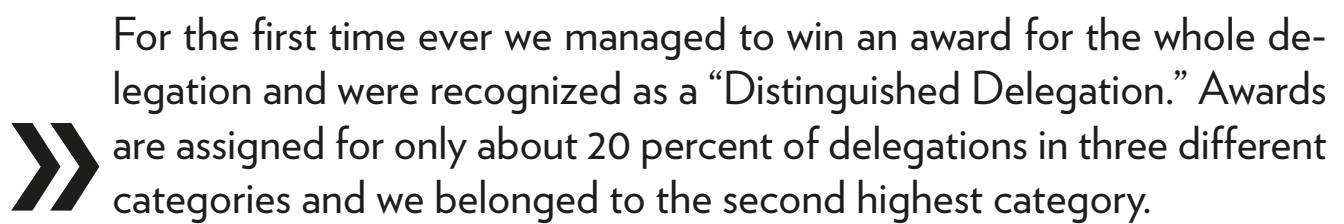
As the Committee Reports have shown, notwithstanding the experience our delegates have already had with Model United Nations, there is always something new to be learned at these conferences and without opposition we as a delegation can say that we made an overall valuable experience at NMUN Rome 2014. We are especially happy to announce that this conference has been an extremely successful one, if not the most successful conference, for FS MUN so far. For the first time ever we managed to win an award for the whole delegation and were recognized as a “Distinguished Delegation.” Awards are assigned for only about 20 percent of delegations in three different categories and we even managed to belong to the second highest category with our very first group award. It was a very special feeling when in the closing ceremony suddenly hearing among the award winners “The Russian Federation – represented by the Frankfurt School of Finance & Manage-

ment.” Taking into consideration that we are still a very young MUN initiative by international standards, this is an important step for FS MUN in becoming more and more advanced and professional. Additionally we are proud to have two delegates among us who were further presented with the award for being “outstanding delegates” in their committee, the Security Council, and who were honoured by delivering a speech on behalf of their committee in the closing ceremony of the conference. Still, we had to accept that this time we unfortunately did not manage to win an award for an “outstanding position paper”, even though we had done so in the past and this is something we would like to improve during future conferences.

We take the awards we won this time as proof for our hard work and together with those we could not win this time as an inducement for future and even stronger efforts.









# Prospects

In looking forward we look back to where we came from. By participating at NMUN Rome 2014 we aimed to deliver a very good performance and also to see if we could fit an additional conference in the activities of FS MUN. Our time as delegates in Rome has convinced us that we definitely could and should do so. The conference in Rome proved to be as professionally organized as the one in New York and we believe that participating in not only one but two conferences a year would enable FS MUN to improve in its performance and outreach even more. The second conference could be a worthy addition to our participation at NMUN New York in many regards.

First, it could function in a way in which it functioned this year. We could be sending a very advanced and experienced delegation to the additional conference that would bring the Frankfurt School recognition among the Model United Nations community and successful delegates some reward.

Second, it could be very worthy to give very ambitious new delegates the chance to participate in this other conference so that they can built up even more experience that might enable them to lead the initiative as possible head delegates in the future.

Third, we believe another format could be worth considering, since it might also be valuable to send a very diverse delegation to the second conference. Additionally to experienced and very ambitious delegates we could also give those students who are unable to attend the conference in New York – may it be due to time or financial constraints or simply because the number of applicants has by far exceeded the number of delegates we could take to New York during the last years – a chance to participate too.

Even though the exact strategy for the additional conference has yet to be developed in careful considerations, we are confident that we have identified a valuable addition for our initiative. After five years of steady growth we believe it is time to take it one step further and to no longer limit FS MUN to only one conference. In the very long-term we see FS MUN becoming an umbrella initiative that educates its members in all they need to know to participate at not only one but different MUN conferences worldwide.



Participating in not one but two conferences a year will enable FS MUN to improve in its performance and outreach even more.







**FS Model United Nations**  
Studentische Initiative der  
Frankfurt School of Finance & Management

