



THE IBA-VIAC
CDRC
COMPETITION

VIAC || Vienna International
Arbitral Centre



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VIENNA
THE IBA-VIAC MEDIATION &
NEGOTIATION COMPETITION

**10th IBA-VIAC CDRC VIENNA
MEDIATION & NEGOTIATION COMPETITION**

Celebrating a Decade of Mediation and Negotiation Excellence!

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HISTORY

**10 years of CDRC Vienna -
a decade of leading mediation excellence!**

The CDRC Vienna was launched in 2015 by the International Bar Association (IBA) and the Vienna International Arbitral Centre (VIAC). It aims to revolutionize dispute resolution by promoting mediation and negotiation as powerful alternatives to litigation.

Our mission is to:

- Promote and develop mediation and negotiation in domestic and international business.
- Foster skill-building and practical experience among students and professionals.
- Connect students with world-leading experts, creating a global network.
- Provide a forum for exchanging best practices and innovative techniques.



Teaming up with leading universities and institutions worldwide, the CDRC Vienna offers students hands-on training through near-real mediation and negotiation scenarios for which we use the Willem C Vis Arbitration Moot cases.

Participants gain rare exposure to industry leaders, building a bridge between academic learning and professional practice. Join the CDRC Family and experience the unique CDRC Spirit — where the brightest students compete, learn, and grow into the next generation of dispute resolution experts.

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COMPETE

The IBA-VIAC CDRC has grown into one of the largest mediation and negotiation competitions globally. It is held annually in Vienna, Austria, and we now welcome more than 230 top students, leading international commercial dispute resolution experts, and volunteers to the CDRC. Our participants hail from almost 50 countries, representing all continents and many legal traditions. We are proud to call the IBA-VIAC CDRC a truly global event.



We base the IBA-VIAC CDRC on the current case of the world-renowned Willem C Vis Moot. The background story is: the VIS Moot arbitration has been stayed after the appointment of the arbitral tribunal so that the parties can attempt to mediate a settlement agreement. The case of the Willem C Vis Moot is augmented by additional confidential information that allows our Negotiator Teams to develop their strategies, best offers, and red lines.

The combination of these features results in the near-real mediation and negotiation experience for the competitors.

World-leading dispute resolution experts assess the Mediator and Negotiator Teams. Our Expert Assessors help us score the performances of the competing Teams and provide each student with in-depth, valuable, individualised feedback after each session. This feedback is key to helping the students learn, improve, and grow during the IBA-VIAC CDRC.

The Expert Assessors also share their knowledge and experience in form of learning opportunities and they attend our networking events. Many lasting professional relationships have been forged during the IBA-VIAC CDRC.

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LEARN

In 2023, we hosted the inaugural **IBA-VIAC CDRC Pre-Moot Conference**, and its theme “Reframing Dispute Resolution: Moving beyond Adversarialism and Optimising Outcomes by Melding Mediation and Arbitration” reflected not only the proud tradition of our cooperation with the Vis Moot, but also addressed very current affairs in dispute resolution. In 2025, we will take our 10th anniversary as an opportunity to explore the next decade of mediation. Leading experts will look into the crystal ball and discuss the road ahead, including the challenges and opportunities mediation may face and offer.

Each year, the IBA-VIAC CDRC also organises a **Masterclass, seminars and workshops**. Led by very experienced experts, the **Masterclass** examines the Vis Moot case from different angles and demonstrates how economic analysis can shape the negotiation strategy.



Our **seminars and workshops**, hosted by global law firms and featuring leading international experts, provide specific insights on topics such as mediation techniques, cross-cultural communication, or mediation strategy.

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NETWORK

We connect people. We connect ideas. We connect potential. We create opportunities.

Networking is an important part of the IBA-VIAC CDRC and we organise **receptions, lunches, breakfasts, and dinners** so that participants can meet, exchange and expand their networks. These side events are vital conduits for nurturing professional growth, fostering invaluable connections, and expanding one's horizons within the field of consensual dispute resolution. As we transcend geographical boundaries, they also create a global tapestry of dispute resolution expertise and participants forge professional relationships and friendships that span continents, enabling cross-cultural collaborations that enrich both their personal and professional lives.



And our social events serve as gateways to career opportunities. Sponsors, industry leaders, and legal experts attend, presenting a golden opportunity for seasoned and budding professionals to make an impression and even explore potential job openings or internships. Our social events celebrate the spirit of community, where like-minded individuals come together with shared passions and goals. They are the cradle of the **#cdrcfamily** and the home of the **#cdrcspirit**.



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CONNECT

Thank you for your interest in the IBA-VIAC CDRC, the pre-eminent global competition for top students who aspire to become leading future mediators and negotiators.

If you wish to participate as a Team, become an Assessor, or join us as a Volunteer, or you are considering becoming one of our valued supporters, and you have questions, just contact the directors of the IBA-VIAC CDRC.



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