

## MEPS – Master of Science in Economic Policy

In the winter semester of 2011/2012, the University of Siegen welcomed the first group of students into the international Master's program of Economic Policy (nicknamed MEPS). Currently, there are 67 students from 28 countries all around the world studying in the MEPS program. This is an enormous success, showing that the MEPS program is an interesting and stimulating Master's program not only for Germans but also for international students.



The MEPS program is structured as any other Master's program with a standard period of studying of four semesters (two years). Within the program come eight compulsory and two elective modules, with the combination of the most important economic topics- for example advanced micro- and macroeconomics, econometrics as well as monetary economics and public policy and governance.

The MEPS program is directed by Prof. Dr. Günter W. Beck, who is not only head of the Chair for European Macroeconomic Studies but also very passionate about the wellbeing and economic education of all students. In accordance with the newly established Academic Advisor system of the University of Siegen, the MEPS students are moreover intensively supervised and mentored by the Academic Advisor of Economics Ms. Kristin Bernhardt.

To enhance the daily lives of the MEPS students by getting in touch with German and European culture, the MEPS team is eager to supply a diversified program. Some examples should be given in the following:

## MEPS goes on tour

### *MEPS trip to the ECB (European Central Bank) in Frankfurt*

On January 9th, 2012 the “Class of 2013” MEPS students went to Frankfurt, where they had the opportunity to attend the European Central Bank.



Early that morning, at 7:30 a.m., the packed bus left Siegen to bring the MEPS team to Frankfurt. Around 9:50 the group arrived at the ECB. Then the class went through the security checks and registration procedure, before they were warmly welcomed by ECB staff. The ECB team provided beverages and snacks and the class was given two very interesting presentations by some ECB representatives. The students were not only impressed about the heartily welcome but also about the presentation and therefore were given the opportunity to ask questions to the two presenters afterwards. This trip was especially nice for non-European students because it gave them the opportunity to get an insight of the Euro-System. Given the current economic state in Europe the visit was very interesting for all students.

After leaving the ECB, the MEPS group sauntered through the Financial District of Frankfurt. Prof. Dr. Beck had lots of stories to tell, trying to convince the students about him being not just a good teacher but also a very ambitious city guide. On the way the group passed by the

Old Opera of Frankfurt and took a lot of funny pictures. Unfortunately the weather was very poor- grey with lots of rain. However, this did not influence in any manner the very good mood of the MEPS group. We had lunch at the Kleinmarkthalle, where the international students were very impressed by the introduction to the very tasty traditional German Wurst.



Subsequently to this little break the students were shown some more of Frankfurt's most popular attractions; the 'Römer', the town hall and the imperial cathedral St.Bartholomäus. Before the students would close this interesting day by drinking a 'Bembel Äppelwoi' in a traditional Frankfurt pub the group took a final picture on the 'Eiserne Steg' in front of Frankfurt's skyscraper skyline.



Everyone was pretty happy and the whole group had a very fun day - it was heard that even the trip back home was some kind of party on the bus..... 😊

## MEPS goes Media

*The Welcome-to-Siegen city rally got media attention.*

The MEPS summer semester 2011 started again with an introductory week for the incoming MEPS students, which included a city rally of great fun and enjoyment.

This time it was even more fun, as a group of students was accompanied by a TV-team of the local TV station. On the same day the MEPS city rally clip could be seen on the local news (the clip is still available on the MEPS website).



The screenshot shows the WDR Mediathek website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for WDR.de, Fernsehen, Radio, Programmvorschau, and Un. Below this is the 'MEDIATHEK' logo and a search bar with the placeholder text 'Suchbegriff eingeben'. A breadcrumb trail indicates the current location: 'WDR.de > MEDIATHEK'. Below the breadcrumb, there are several menu items: 'Sendungen A-Z', 'Themen', 'Kalender', 'Regionen', and 'Livestre'. The main content area features a video player with a play button and the text 'Video'. The video thumbnail shows a group of five people walking down a city street, holding yellow folders. The text 'Lokalzeit Südwestfalen' is visible in the bottom left corner of the video frame. Below the video player, there is a headline 'Siegen für Anfänger' and a short text snippet: 'Bergauf, bergab: So anstrengend hatten sich die neuen Studenten des Master-Studienganges "Economic Policy" ihre Stadttour durch Siegen wohl nicht vorgestellt. Trotzdem hatten die internationale Studenten-Gruppe Spaß daran, ihre Heimat für die nächsten zwei Jahre kennen zu lernen.' At the bottom right of the text, it says 'Ein Beitrag von Gerrit Saßmann, 22.03.2012'.

The new MEPS students as well as the TV-team had quite some fun by experiencing Siegen and its attractions, attended by the warm spring sun. The inhabitants of Siegen did all their best to welcome the international students to their new home.



## MEPS goes running

### *Students, staff and lectures attain the 9th Siegerländer Firmenlauf (company run)*

The most recent event; which took place in the previous term, was the participation of the MEPS team at the 9<sup>th</sup> annual company run throughout Siegen city. On Wednesday July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 the MEPS team started with 42 registered attendees, consistent of teachers, teaching assistants and of course lots of students.



No runners-wishes was left undone as Siegen presented itself with sunshine and 25 warm degrees, but all runners managed to reach the finish line with a healthy smile. Afterwards well-earned refreshments and healthy snacks were given to the group. They enjoyed a relaxed evening after their sportive peak performance and wonderful end to the semester.

The attendance of the MEPS group at the run next year has already been decided; suggestions for a theme/motto are highly welcome!



At the end of the semester and exams, the MEPS students had a big closing party – but we are not allowed to publish any pictures here ☺