

Dear Friends!

First of all I was really surprised by the existence of the House of Literature in the brand new building in Krems: modern, quite comfortably furnished studio; not only with a kitchen (with a filled up ice-box), and a shower but also with a washing machine (which I didn't use), possibility to iron, WiFi, lovely view of the gorgeous Danube River from windows etc. etc. A fantastic place for any writer! It was much more than I was awaiting for. But that all would be good for nothing if I didn't meet really friendly people there. First of all I must mention my friend Wolfgang Khun, with whom I embraced straight ahead in the front of the AIR Building when I arrived to Krems. The next day I was invited for a lunch downstairs into the office and I met other fantastic people – Sylvia, Veruschka, Michael! I suppose we had a great time with the excellent homecooked meal (Sylvia) and – naturally – with a georgeous Krems wine!

During my stay I took part in a Public Reading together with Julia Franck and Ilja Trojanow (Geschichten von der Welt). I read (in Czech) with Wolfgang (in German) from my book Weisenhausgasse 5. The last evening of my stay Wolfgang prepared another reading of my book in a bookstore in Vienna where I met my publisher Mr. Borovansky and the translater of my books Dr. Ch. Rothmeier and many other interesting people. Thank you, Wolfgang! In the meantime I was also invited to visit die Buchmesse in Vienna where I was introduced to several Publishers. See, I had quite busy social life. I didn't mention my visit in Karikaturmuseum and Kunsthalle and my everyday stroll through the romantic old town Stein, yet.

I came to Krems to finish my seven's fiction - A fence. The story has its background in my hometown Breclav in the Sixties when a political prisoner returns home after fifteen years in Uranium mines and the following amnesty (but his home doesn't exist anymore). I swear I worked hard everyday but unfortunately one month was not enough to finish my book. But it was a great push for me to go ahead!

I am obliged to all the people who organized my stay in such a lovely place as a Literatur House in Krems. Thank you very much.

Sincerely Yours

Edgar Dutka, Prag

