



AUSTRIAN STUDY CENTRE FOR PEACE
AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION – ASPR

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



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Imprint

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Cover photo: Renate Graf

Dear Readers,

In the year 2017, it was once again plain to see that Europe is not immune from global upheavals. We face complex challenges that give rise to numerous opportunities and risks, internally and externally. It seems that we are undergoing a transitional period of great complexity and uncertainty, for which conventional diagnoses and prognoses are hardly applicable anymore.

Precisely in such times, it is essential to foster a constructive handling of differences and conflicts, as well as to discover and creatively employ opportunities for agency within the crises.

We also need to become more aware of global interdependencies and can not limit our responsibility to what is good only for Europe. Therefore, the ASPR continued striving in 2017 to contribute to the promotion of peace and constructive conflict resolution through its broad portfolio and multi-tiered approach.

Over 400 people from 87 countries who are or will be active in crisis areas received training in 16 courses covering various thematic emphases. It is also important for us to deepen the understanding and cooperation among different stakeholders (such as between representatives of international and non-governmental organisations, or between civilian and military personnel). In this regard, we are especially pleased that in 2017 we executed a cooperation agreement with the Kommando für Internationale Einsätze (Austrian Armed Forces International Centre) Götzendorf, which supports us by providing training courses on personal security in crisis areas.

Of special concern to us is educating the younger generations in order to provide youth the tools to solve conflicts actively and non-violently in their social environment, to reflect upon rather than repress their fears and insecurities. In the context of our peace education programmes, we were able to welcome over 2,000 students and their teachers to our medieval castle. The feedback from the teaching staff is impressive: increased solidarity in the classes; active support for the weaker participants;

strengthened mutual trust in the group; and more open discussion about feelings. In short: our programmes significantly promote the social skills that are so important for professional and private life.

At our office in Vienna, it was important for us to bolster our research and political consulting activities in 2017. We are currently in the process of deepening our cooperations and networks with peace-research institutions and universities. We are especially thrilled to have established a cooperation with the University of Edinburgh's Political Settlements Research Programme, which has in recent years compiled a comprehensive database of all peace treaties since 1990 – a very valuable resource for future research, which can provide important insights for our practical work mediating between belligerents. Over the past year at the castle, we have continued to facilitate dialogues with and between conflict parties. The necessary confidentiality and sensitivity required by such processes prevent us from sharing details. However, we have had (in part high-ranking) representatives of conflict parties from East Europe and the Mideast as our guests. In order to strengthen our effectiveness in this area, we have entered into a strategic partnership with the Herbert C. Kelman Institute for Interactive Conflict Transformation in 2017.

Our diverse activities have placed huge demands upon the energies of our small ASPR team over so many days and weeks this year. I am thankful for their dedicated work. Without the enthusiasm and the empathy with what we are doing, we would not achieve these outcomes, from which we ultimately replenish our strength. My thanks also go out to the ASPR Board, our colleagues in the Conflict-Peace-Democracy Cluster, and all of our partners and backers who value our work and share our goals.

With kind regards,



Gudrun Kramer

THE 21st SUMMER ACADEMY ON OSCE

Austrian OSCE Chairmanship 2017

In 2017 Austria chaired the OSCE. Sebastian Kurz and, later in the year, Karin Kneissl became Chairpersons-in-Office of an organisation consisting of 57 countries with 1.2 billion inhabitants. In doing so, the foreign ministry could count upon its trusted cooperation with the ASPR and its time-tested, closely cultivated relationship with the OSCE.

The "Summer Academy on OSCE" was held for the 21st time during the Austrian Chairmanship year. The Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs and the Austrian OSCE delegation have been the main sponsors of this event since its debut in 1997. This annual training programme targets young diplomats from the OSCE circle, scholars who research OSCE topics, representatives from NGOs that cooperate with OSCE, journalists covering OSCE areas, as well as young experts in human rights, conflict transformation and international politics. 25 people from 15 OSCE member countries and two partner countries participated in the 2017 Academy.

Although the Academy is in fact held under the auspices of the OSCE, it is an independent event that constructively and critically engages this international organisation. The patron governments (Austria, Ireland and Germany in 2017) finance stipends for participants from non-OECD countries. High-ranking staff of the central OSCE departments are present not only to deliver lectures, but they also stand ready to receive critical commentary from the international audience. This gives participants direct insight into the OSCE's complex objectives and challenges. During supplemental workshops led by international experts, current problems are examined and approaches to solving them are worked on.

The "Summer Academy on OSCE" is conducted in cooperation with the General Secretariat and the respective OSCE-Chairmanship. In addition to the programme at Schläining Castle, a two-day excursion to Vienna includes visits to the Permanent Council and an Ambassadors' Panel at the Hofburg palace, the headquarters of the OSCE.



In addition to the Summer Academy on OSCE, the ASPR supported the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship within the scope of its conflict resolution programme. This included consultations, workshops and conferences in the Black Sea region, as well as the Middle East and North Africa. The goal of all of our conflict-management projects is the dialogue between people with radically opposed viewpoints and ideologies during, between and after outbreaks of violent conflict.

2017:

- Experts' Consultation Meetings on Ukraine, since April 2017
- Women's Dialogue Meeting, June 26-30, 2017
25 attendees from 15 participating OSCE countries
- Moderation of the panel "Early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution and

post-conflict rehabilitation: Lessons learned and the way ahead" during the OSCE security conference "Strengthening Security through Dialogue", June 28, 2017

- Moderation of the panel "Improving the Governance and Reform of the Security Sector by Including Civil Society" during the OSCE conference "Security Sector Governance and Reform", September 19, 2017
- Experts' Consultation Meeting on a Regional Mechanism for Dialogue and Cooperation in the Middle East and North Africa, November 26-28, 2017
- Assessment Mission to Georgia, October 26 to November 2, 2017
- Support for a SSR training for the OSCE mission in Serbia, with a contribution to the theme "Needs Assessment", December 15, 2017

THE EU AID VOLUNTEERS INITIATIVE

A broad portfolio of European training programmes

Since autumn 2016, the ASPR has been actively involved in the European Commission's EUAV initiative, which offers European NGOs the possibility to propose capacity-building projects that serve humanitarian aid and disaster management. These projects are targeted at providing support for volunteers from the EU and beyond.

The ASPR is part of a consortium of five renowned organisations, which are responsible for the conception and execution of a preparatory training programme for the aid volunteers. The training took place for the first time at the ASPR from July 28 to August 12, 2017, and has since expanded our portfolio of European training programmes. During this period 67 volunteers were trained, evaluated and prepared for their future missions.

The volunteers had to familiarise themselves online with the training content prior to attending the nine-day long training at Stadtschlaining, where they developed skills required for humanitarian aid, security in the field, intercultural competencies, communication and project management. Finally, the theory could be put into practice and validated during a challenging three-day mission simulation. Since then, most of the participants have been deployed to locations in West and Central Africa, Central and Southeast Asia, South America or the Caribbean; some have already completed their missions.

The EUAV initiative and the training at Stadtschlaining received significant media attention. With extremely positive feedback from the volunteers and our project partners, we look forward to holding two more trainings in 2018.



1) ICF Consulting, MDF Training & Consultancy, GOPA Consultants and the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna.

In addition to the EU Aid Volunteers initiative, the ASPR offers two additional European training programmes: Europe's New Training Initiative for Civilian Crisis Management (ENTRi) and various courses from the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) training programme.

For the ESDC, the following courses took place in 2017 with a total of 139 participants from 54 countries:

- ESDC Course on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (POC), January 29 to February 3, 2017
- ESDC Pre-Deployment Training, February 28 to March 3, 2017, Brussels
- ESDC SSR Core Course, March 29 to April 6, 2017
- ESDC Course on Peacebuilding, May 7-12, 2017
- ESDC SSR Core Course, September 20-28, 2017
- ESDC Course on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (POC), November 19-24, 2017



WORLD IN TRANSITION

34th Summer Academy

The procession of crises, upheavals, and conflicts in recent years not only has caused many European citizens to question their presumed status quo, but also has shaken their confidence in European political and public institutions. This July 2017, we have come up hard against dynamically complex realities resistant to civil discourse: the disappointing management of refugees and migration; the rise of right-wing nationalism, populism and violent extremism; struggles for independence, Brexit and similar campaigns to withdraw from the often divided and indecisive European Union; financial and banking crises; looming state bankruptcies; hotly contested free-trade agreements; the rise in social inequality; advancing global warming; terror attacks in European cities; conflicts at the EU's gates; the constant nuclear menace – and all this against the backdrop of the new US administration. Debate has become increasingly polarised, spreading uncertainty and feelings of powerlessness.

The 34th Summer Academy at Schlaining Castle therefore sought to offer a critical overview of these complex challenges and to provide analytical insight into the underlying economic, social, political, civic and cultural framework of power and violence. We also wanted to face up to this critical historic moment in order to develop alternatives.

The Summer Academy 2017 was in many respects an experiment: Not only were a few new people involved in its genesis, but the interactive format of its discussions and resulting reports were innovative, as well. When it was all over, our hopes were fulfilled for not merely critical diagnoses of the present but also concrete utopian and creative plans for future action to develop further at the 2018 Summer Academy and beyond.

To this end, it was possible to draw many inspiring personalities to Stadtschlaining. Over the six days between

the 9th and 14th of July, 2017, up to 160 people were in concurrent attendance, 31 of whom held lectures, led workshops, or participated in panel discussions. Two external facilitators were responsible for striking a balance between creative chaos and maintaining an orderly discussion culture.

Content-wise, our theme of “World in Transition – Perspectives for a European Peace Policy” was addressed in four segments, one for each day of the Academy.

After Sunday's keynote speeches by Ulrike Lunacek and Christoph Wulf, who provided an overview and emphasised education as a tool for future generations, we began with Claudia Brunner, Alexander Neumann and David Becker in “Cultural and Social-psychological Challenges.” The first three inputs pointed to how tightly woven are “Europe” and colonialism, referred to the rediscovery of Critical Theory during the crisis, and repositioned the so-called “refugee crisis” as a self-inflicted one. In the evening, Oskar Negt and Christine Morgenroth interpreted their societal idea in response to declines in education and community.

Ulrike Guérot, Oliver Marchart and Andreas Gross delivered a lively debate on the “Challenges for Democracy and Constitution.” While Guérot advocated reestablishing the European Union as a republic, Marchart preferred the spontaneous use of free space at differing levels, while Gross called for, among other things, a European constitutional convention. Chantal Mouffe contributed an evening lecture in which she pressed for a return to opposition and agonism in politics.

“Socio-economic and Ecological Challenges” defined the third thematic topic, which Birgit Mahnkopf was first to tackle. Her call for fundamental change in our resource consumption was met with cautious optimism by Karl Aiginger – ultimately Europe still offers the best model



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for a prosperous, peaceful region. Andreas Novy also made an effort to be optimistic, but pointed out that this was only justified by simultaneous intensive reflection upon and transformation of one's own lifestyle. That evening, Gudrun Kramer and Hanne-Margret Birckenbach discussed approaches to migration policy following a logic of peace, citing practical examples.

The final panel was joined by: Andreas Zumach, who analysed the possible impending end of the American world order; Walter Feichtinger, who saw a closer defence cooperation in Europe as inevitable; and Andrea Warnecke, who doubted a straightforward approach to goals in peacebuilding processes inside and outside Europe. On the final evening of the Summer Academy,

the castle courtyard was devoted to grilling, drinking, game-playing, rhyming and dancing.

After the results of each day's numerous afternoon workshops were presented on the last day of the Summer Academy, Muna Duzdar commented upon the work of the Summer Academy from the viewpoint of the federal government and she called upon the participants to continue to fully exhaust all opportunities for peace politics.

A detailed report on the 34th Summer Academy is available online. The 35th Summer Academy will take place July 8-13, 2018.

NUMBER OF THE YEAR: 10,000

The ASPR's peace education programme

In 2007, the Austrian media reported extensively on the increased propensity for violence among children and youth. The ASPR saw this as an opportunity to enhance its peace education efforts. Together with Burgenland's Children and Youth Ombudsman (Kinder- und Jugendanwalt) and with support from the state of Burgenland and the education ministry, our "Peace Weeks" project was born. In October 2017, we were able to welcome the 10,000th participant.

The Peace Weeks' main focus is on violence prevention. Renouncing violence requires diverse skills that are taught at these trainings, including conflict and peace competency, appreciative communication, respectful manners, appreciation of diversity as opportunity, and team building.

With interactive and innovative methods appropriate for the respective knowledge levels of students from the third to thirteenth grades (ages 9 to 19), experts and pupils together work out problems such as: What rules are essential for non-violent cooperation? How should

classmates work together to ensure a good learning atmosphere? How do we deal with conflict? How can we give each other positive feedback? How do we envision a fair and just (global) society and what can we contribute to it?

The class as a group is very important, but so is the individual. Each participant comes to know and sometimes transcend his or her limits. Awareness of oneself and of others, as well as self-esteem, is fortified.

Against the unique backdrop of the castle and in the peace museum, the students experienced community as enrichment and diversity as opportunity. They learn how to interact with one another, to work together towards common goals, to support each other – but also to say "no" to perceived injustice. Conflicts are not experienced negatively, but rather as an opportunity for positive change. And: violence, in any form, is not an option!

Students as well as facilitators give positive testimony on the peace education project. Astonishment is often expressed about the positive change occurring in such a short time. The teachers themselves are trained in their own module (conducted in cooperation with the University College of Teacher Education Burgenland) and receive relevant know-how on methods and content, which they can in turn sustainably apply in their school pedagogy.

In this sense, the Peace Weeks – a UNESCO Decade Project – make an important contribution to society. They are an investment in a non-violent present and a peaceful future, in which community and careful interaction with each other (and with the environment, as well) are not only buzzwords but can actually become a reality.

In 2017, 82 Peace Weeks took place in which 1,791 students participated.





Being able to renounce violence requires the diverse skills taught in the Peace Weeks.

In addition to the Peace Weeks, the following peace education activities were conducted:

- Systematic competence training for 36 educators
- ASPR-PH-KiJA course “Global Peace Education” (2nd and 3rd Semester, 27 educators)
- Pilot project “SOS Peace NOW!” in cooperation with BMLV and SOS Kinderdorf Pinkafeld with 120 children and youth, as well as 140 staff collaborators
- Holocaust History Project, in cooperation with the National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism (287 students)
- peace education childrens’ workshops “Dornröschen tanzt mit Hans im Glück” for 120 students
- Participation on the UNESCO consulting committee “Education for Sustainable Development”



VENICE BEYOND THE GHETTO

The Peace Library as socio-cultural space

As part of the May 2017 “Klangfrühling” festival, the photo exhibition “500 Years of the Venice Ghetto – Stations of Jewish History” was presented at the Peace Library, located in the former Synagogue of Stadtschlaining. The exhibit attempted to create a connection between the histories of the Venetian and Schlaining Jews. Giulio Zannier curated the exhibition of photos by Luigi Ferrigno, which were shown publicly in Austria for the first time. “QuartArt” provided music during the opening event.

Gerhard Baumgartner, the scholarly director of the Documentation Centre of Austrian Resistance (DÖW) in Vienna, delivered an opening lecture to more than 50 attendees. In his historical summary, he impressively weaved the histories of Venice and Stadtschlaining together by showing the path of Jewish migration from Spain to Stadtschlaining via Venice.

The Klangfrühling event was produced in cooperation with the Association for the Future of Schlaining (Verein Zukunft Schlaining).

In 2017, the Library consisted of approximately 30,500 monographs and (along with over 150 journal subscriptions and a considerable amount of grey literature) provides an expansive repository of peace scholarship and specialist political literature. 663 (including 75 new) readers and 2,032 visitors used this offering in the past year, some of whom came during the 17 group tours. The “Lesesommer” and “Buchstart Burgenland” promotions also contributed to the additional profile of the Peace Library.



AFRICAN MIGRATION

A challenge for peace and security

Flight and migration are major challenges for the refugees and migrants directly affected, as well as for their homelands. At the same time, these processes also place significant social demands on the countries of origin, transit-route regions and the host societies. The latter must not only find answers to logistical and practical problems, but also grapple with the question of how and to what extent they intend to respond to the social challenges caused or exacerbated by migration and flight. How must different types of migration and flight be categorised? How can the given social and political interests and needs of the host societies be reconciled to the interests and needs of refugees and migrants? Should or can irregular (and occasionally mass) migration be prevented? If so, in what way? Where lies the potential for addressing the causes of migration or for exercising (external) control? To what extent is such control even possible and what are its associated political, legal and ethical challenges, and risks?

In dealing with these questions, there are various normative points of view, as well as dissenting thematic, institutional and departmental perspectives. Divergent security, humanitarian, legal and development policy perspectives of the affected stakeholders necessarily result in differing rationales.

Austria's migration strategy is a work in progress and shall provide an overall national response to migration and refugee matters: which goals should be achieved, with which means? What does "management" of migration mean, exactly? How can it be balanced with a human rights based approach?

In November 2017, the various positions of governmental and civil-society stakeholders were discussed within the scope of a workshop on security policy for migration within and out of Africa.

From this workshop emerged a consensus-dissent paper, which attempted to present the current status of discussion about voluntary and forced migration within and out of Africa, as well as to identify both commonalities and disparate positions.

The workshop was organised in cooperation with the BMLV (Austrian Ministry of Defence) and the VIDC (Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation) and took place within the framework of the Austrian 3C strategy. The 3C approach is a concerted effort of governmental institutions in the fields of diplomacy, development policy, defence, finance, economics, police and justice; as well as non-governmental organisations dealing with development cooperation, humanitarian aid, and the protection and advancement of human rights. In the process, specific skill sets, tactics, working principles and multi-level approaches come into play. The Three Cs stand for a coherent, coordinated, and complementary approach.

In addition to the security policy workshop, the annual 3C conference took place December 11-13, 2017.



TRAINING COOPERATION IN WEST AFRICA

Education and advanced training programmes
from Southern Burgenland to Ghana

West Africa faces many regional challenges such as food insecurity, socio-political instability, violent conflicts, terrorism, environmental catastrophes and the effects of climate change. If several of these occur simultaneously, it can quickly result in dire states of emergency. The well-over 100 million people living in extreme poverty there are particularly vulnerable. In such situations, humanitarian support is of central importance – providing direct aid to affected people, saving lives and alleviating distress.

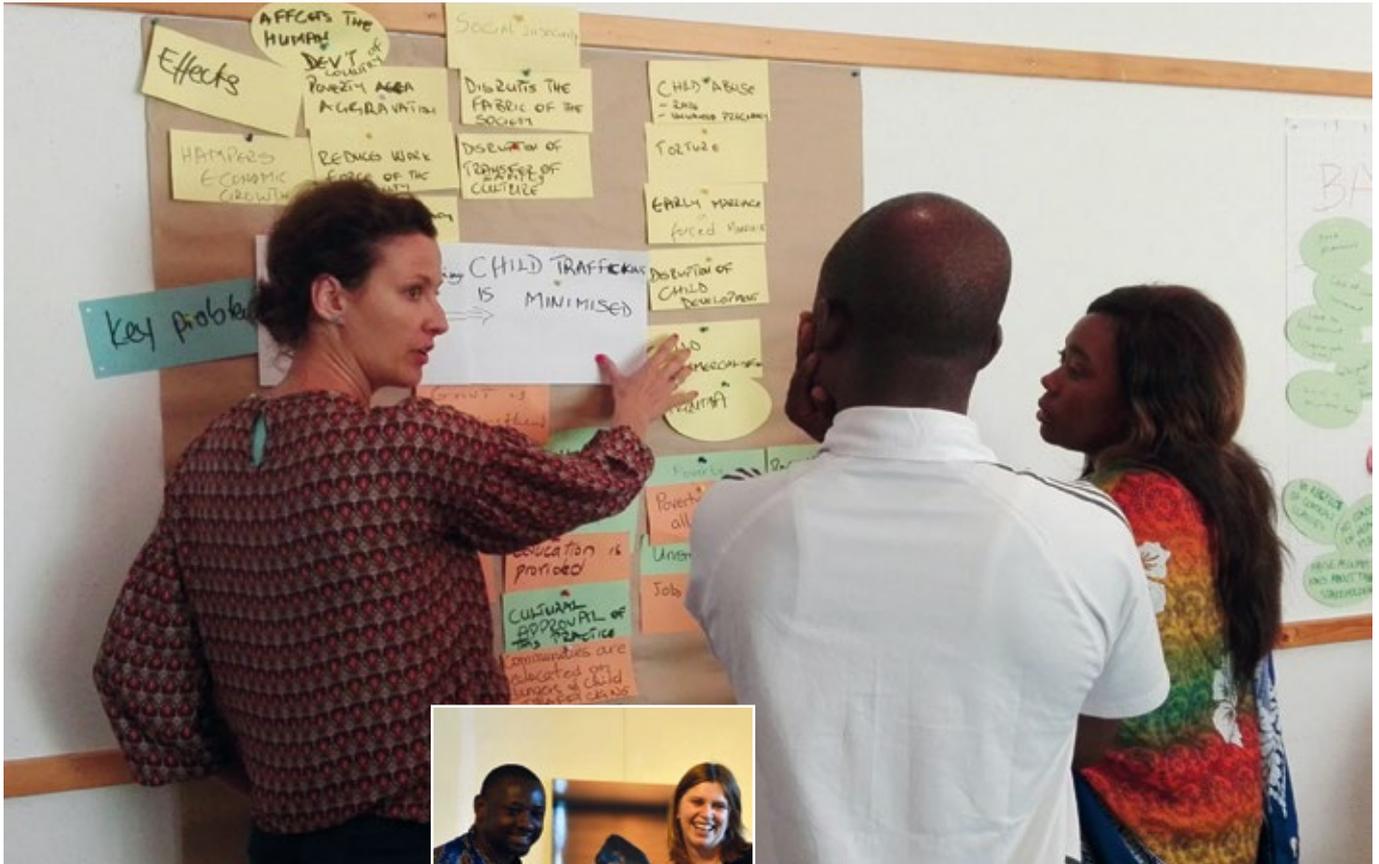
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In 2017, a pilot “Training of Trainers” (ToT) course was devised and introduced. 16 participants attended a week-long training session (June 19–23, 2017) and learned didactic methods for teaching the HAWA course curricula. The participants, in turn, become proponents who further disseminate their know-how throughout their respective workplaces. 21 additional people attended the HAWA Core Course from October 2–13, 2017.

The project is aligned with the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, the project complies with the OECD guidelines to be recognised as Official Development Assistance (ODA) for peace and security services, and was one of two of exemplary ODA-eligible Austrian projects included in the new OECD Handbook.





Humanitarian support is of central importance – providing direct aid to affected people, saving lives and alleviating distress.

In addition to our HAWA training programmes at KAIPTC, the ASPR also offers the International Civilian Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding Programme (IPT) to participants from around the world. IPT is an hands-on training programme for people of diverse professional backgrounds, who work (or want to work) as civilians in politically conflicted regions. In 2017 there were two IPT Core Courses and three IPT Specialisation Courses attended by a total of 93 participants from 44 countries.

- IPT Core Course for Peacebuilders, April 22–May 4, 2017
- IPT Specialisation Course on Conflict Transformation, May 5–14, 2017
- IPT Specialisation Course on Conflict-Sensitive Project Management, July 21–30, 2017

- IPT Core Course for Peacebuilders, November 4–16, 2017
- IPT Specialisation Course on Human Rights in Conflict, November 17–26, 2017
- In October 2017, the ASPR hosted the UN DPKO for 14 days. In the framework of this ToT, the DPKO trained 27 trainers from 24 countries.
- UN ToT in Protection of Civilians (POC), October 23 – November 3, 2017

Additional international training sessions: “Conflict Transformation”, as part of the GIZ project “Facilitation Social Participation for Palestinian Refugees” in Amman (June 29–July 3, 2017) and Beirut (October 19–20, 2017); as well as “Advanced Conflict Transformation” in Amman (December 3–8, 2017).



THE STATE OF PEACEBUILDING

Contributions to international discourse on peace and conflict research

“StoP”, the international peace researchers’ annual retreat for discussion of fundamental challenges, underwent a substantial renewal in 2017: “State of Peace” became “State of Peacebuilding”, thereby making explicit the connection to international discourse and the focus on international peacebuilding practices.

A few traditionally successful elements have nevertheless been retained: its intensive two-day setting at Schlaining Castle, which this time was combined with a high-profile event at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna; its orientation as a CPD Cluster event, with the strong participation of the University of Graz and the Democracy Centre Vienna; as well as the participation of leading international peace researchers such as Oliver Ramsbotham (Bradford), Nicolas Lemay-Hébert (Birmingham), Gëzim Visoka (Dublin) or Andy Carl, the founder of Conciliation Resources.

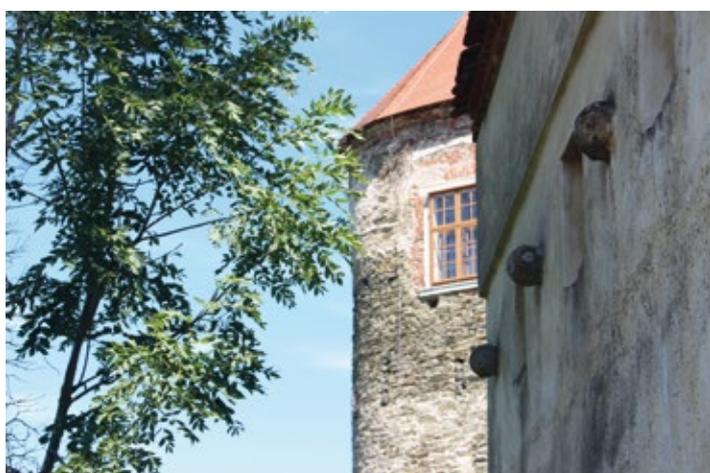
Thematically, the discussion focussed on the role of International Organisations (IOs) in peacebuilding processes and the respective changes they have undergone since the 1990’s. Facing a rapidly changing international environment – in particular, the structural weakening of global governance due to the evolution

of a fluid, multipolar world order – IOs are confronted with fundamental problems with their legitimacy and normative orientation.

In reacting to these new parameters, peacebuilding-engaged IOs tend to follow two trends: first, they grow in number, often with overlapping scopes of work and competing mandates. It is also generally beyond dispute that the role of regional IOs will continue to grow – a process desired by the UN. At the same time, it is questionable whether the normative leadership role of the UN and other traditional heavyweights like the OECD and OSCE will persevere.

The latter respond to this challenge with a normative offensive – which can be seen somewhat in the UN’s Sustaining Peace agenda (discussed at StoP by Priyal Singh, ISS), most notably in Great Britain’s promotion of the Political Settlements approach (keynote by Véronique Dudouet, Berghof Foundation) or in the complex negotiation processes surrounding the so-called “New Deal on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding” – however they simultaneously expose the strategic weaknesses of the traditional set-up of Global Liberal Governance (Jan Pospisil, ASPR).

The indisputable outcome of the conference was the recognition of the necessity for peacebuilding IOs to undergo profound transformation that should lead to an adaptation to the changed international parameters. Especially heavyweights like the United Nations must take on this needed transformation in order to sustain their global relevance.





In addition to StoP, the ASPR worked on the following scholarly and academic activities in 2017.

- StoP 2015 publication “Governance in Conflict”
- SAK 2016 publication “Um Gottes Willen” (“For God’s Sake”)
- Panel discussion at the conference “The Transformation of Intractable Conflicts III”, Harvard University, March 18, 2017 (Andrea Warnecke)
- Seminar: “Conflict Experts: Methodology, Authority, Impact”, Aberystwyth University, March 30, 2017 (Andrea Warnecke)
- Lecture: “How can we address fragility, conflict and violence more effectively with development approaches?”, delivered during the “A push for conflict preventions and peacebuilding” event held by Germany’s Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, together with the OECD, Berlin, April 26, 2017 (Gudrun Kramer)
- Lecture: “Paradigm change within European civilian and military foreign engagements?” delivered during the “International Crisis Management and Foreign Missions” event at the National Defence Academy, Vienna, June 1, 2017 (Gudrun Kramer)
- Lecture: “Preserving Israel’s Security through a Two-States Solution” delivered at the Diplomatic Academy, Vienna, June 6, 2017 (Gudrun Kramer)

- Lecture: “Dealing with Conflicts in Israel and Palestine” delivered at the University of Vienna, June 17, 2017 (Gudrun Kramer)
- Panel discussion: “Flight and Integration: In the Crisis Regions” at the “Women for Peace” conference, Seefeld, June 24, 2017 (Andrea Warnecke)
- Lecture: “Basis of International Law Applying to Flight and Migration” delivered in conjunction with the BMLV-organised Human Displacement Management Course, September 18, 2018 (Christian Wägli)
- Lecture: “Dealing with Conflicts in Israel and Palestine” delivered at the George Mason University, October 9, 2017 (Gudrun Kramer)
- Panel discussion: “Claiming impartiality. The role of norms in securing access, legitimacy, and cooperation in intra-state peacebuilding” at the BICC conference “Dirty Peace? The Political Economy of Peacebuilding”, Bonn, October 21, 2017 (Andrea Warnecke)
- Lecture delivered at the “Conference on the Development of a System for Seconding Civilians to International Missions of the OSCE, EU and UN”, November 7, 2017 (Christian Wägli)
- Lecture: “New Approaches for Old Conflicts – Experiences with Conflict Management in Israel and Palestine” delivered at the University of Graz, November 20, 2017 (Gudrun Kramer)



ABOUT US

Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution

The ASPR

The Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR) was founded in 1982 by Dr. Gerald Mader and other like-minded people. We are located at Schlaining Castle in Southern Burgenland, and we have established an office in Vienna, the nation's capital. Our work has earned us the status of UN "Peace Messenger" and a UNESCO "Prize for Peace Education".

Our Vision

Our vision is a world where people with different backgrounds and circumstances are willing and able to recognise and address conflicts by non-violent, constructive, and sustainable means.

Our Duties

We support people so that they can manage conflicts non-violently, constructively and sustainably. In doing so, we acknowledge the close interdependence between research on, education about, and the practice of conflict transformation.

We conduct research projects on peace and security policy, are involved in mediation between conflict parties and engage in political consulting, and offer target group-oriented training programmes and advanced education for civilian experts and youth.

The constant advancement of innovative theory and practice is built upon a foundation of dialogue and cooperation with international institutions, networks, theoreticians and practitioners of conflict transformation.

Our Principles

In executing our tasks we align ourselves along the following principles:

Pluralism and complexity: there are no simple answers, particularly for managing long-lasting conflict situations. Therefore, in our work we strive for pluralistic approaches that sometimes even result in contradictory findings. In the process, we are guided by non-linear complexity theory.

Partnership and violence critique: For us the conflict parties themselves are the experts for their respective conflict. We support them to take responsibility for their negotiations, meet our partners and clients on equal footing and consider ourselves "Learning Companions". In doing so, we are deliberately critical of violence. We pay particular attention to the inclusion and the integration of perspectives and stakeholders, who are often „forgotten“, marginalised or excluded during conflict transformation and peacebuilding.

Creativity and reflexivity: Working for peace and conflict transformation requires creativity. At the same time we constantly reflect upon our work in order to learn from our successes as well as our failures. For us, creativity and reflection are the foundations for innovation. The mutual exchange and cross-fertilisation of practice and theory is especially important.

Board

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Mag. Dr. Blanka Bellak, BA, MA (Director, until March 2017)

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Elisabeth Walser, BA (until June 2017)
Dr. Andrea Warnecke

In Memoriam Gertrud Mader

Gertrud Mader passed away on June 10, 2017, at the age of 77. Her life was marked by her readiness to help others, humility, and unbelievably positive energy. She was a loving and caring wife, mother and grandmother. As the spouse of the regional Minister of Culture, Gerald Mader, Gertrud worked hand in hand with her husband to sustainably shape Burgenland's cultural landscape. Over the last 30 years, she tirelessly and passionately dedicated herself, especially to the ASPR and Schlaining Castle. Usually working behind the

scenes, there was nothing that Gertrud could not organise, no problem she couldn't solve, no gaps she could not fill. Nevertheless, she always let others take the spotlight. She was at once a Lady of the Castle, a sunny soul and Grande Dame. Without Gertrud and Gerald Mader, Stadtschlaining would not be what it is today: an internationally renowned city of peace.

„The most beautiful monument for a human being is erected in the hearts of his fellow men.“ Gertrud Mader may no longer be with us, but she will forever be remembered in the hearts of all who knew her.

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Ombudsoffice for Children and Youths Burgenland
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(Teacher Training College)
Political Settlements Research Programme
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Republic of Finland, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
State of Burgenland
State of Lower Austria
Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
Travel Agency Taxi Sodl

Abbreviations

ASPR	Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution	ISS	Institute for Security Studies
3C	Coordination, Complementarity, Coherence	KAIPTC	Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
ADA	Austrian Development Agency	KiJa	Ombudsoffice for Children and Youths Burgenland
BICC	Bonn International Center for Conversion	NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
BKA	Austrian Federal Chancellery	ODA	Official Development Assistance
BMBWF	Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
BMEIA	Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration, and Foreign Affairs	OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
BMI	Austrian Federal Ministry for Internal Affairs	PH	Pädagogische Hochschule (Teacher Training College)
BMLV (BMLVS)	Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence (and Sports)	POC	Protection of Civilians
CPD, CPDC	Conflict-Peace-Democracy Cluster	SAK	Summer Academy
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States	StoP	State of Peacebuilding Conference
ENTRI	Europe's New Training Initiative for Civilian Crisis Management	ToT	Training of Trainers
ESDC	European Security and Defence College	UN	United Nations
EU	European Union	(UN) DPKO UN	Department for Peacekeeping Operations
EUAV	European Union Aid Volunteers Initiative	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	US, USA	United States of America
HAWA	Humanitarian Assistance in West Africa	VIDC	Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation
IO	International Organisation		
IPT	International Civilian Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding Training Programme		



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