

„If you want peace,
prepare peace.“

At the beginning of the 1980s the Cold War, which most affected the countries along the Iron Curtain, was at its peak. It was from this situation that the idea emerged to found an institute to promote peace research and peace education in Schläining castle to help reduce east-west tensions. This objective took as its starting point a vision of a world in which war would no longer play a role.

The world changed dramatically over the following twenty years. Whereas in the 1980s the goal was to overcome Cold War, today what is at stake is global peace, we have civil and intervention wars and the North-South conflict to handle, we are fighting against terrorism and for (energy) resources, we are fighting against hunger and poverty, against the gap between the poor and the rich, we have to eliminate the threats menacing the ecological system and finally we are nowadays talking about the political dimensions of economic globalisation (including re-distribution).

The end of the Cold War was a step towards a peaceful resolution of conflicts. September 11, 2001, and the subsequent “war” waged by the United States against terrorism is a step backward, as it has once again made war (the war in Iraq) an obvious instrument of politics. Although the number of wars between independent states has dramatically declined since the 1990s, the tendency for structural violence as well as violence within one and the same society is increasing. China and India have established themselves as new players on the global political and economic stage, the role of the EU in the international community is ambiguous.

Are we yet again facing a situation where reason is thrown to the wind, in which there are only good and bad people, friends and enemies without a dialogue, in which there are solutions forced on one party by the other? Do the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 mark the beginning of a new irrationality in politics whose victims are peace, international law, and human rights? Are we confronted with the menace of a permanent world war, in which the word “peace” will be transformed into a post-modern label for “war”? Or will those who sacrifice freedom for the sake of security lose both in the end? All these questions can not be addressed in a foreword. However, the questions put forward should point out the complexity of the problems that confront peace science and peace politics.

History teaches us that peace is a fragile thing and that there have always been wars. Can we therefore conclude that there will be always wars in the future? Not only the abolition of slavery but also European development since 1945 and the so-called OECD peace refute the notion that war is an inevitable result of human instinct or the power dynamics of politics. The history of mankind does not justify falling into the paralysing fatalism, that may bring our efforts for peace to an end. A post-modern attitude refusing to get engaged would definitely be the wrong way to go as it leads to complacency only. It is high time that a new way of thinking evolves, one which takes a U-turn from such selfish thinking. Egoism is over-valued both by society and by politicians. One should not define wellbeing in terms of possessions or properties, but a good life is to be sought through communicating with others.

Compared to scientific and technical progress, politics as a whole seem outdated. This political backwardness manifests itself particularly in an anachronistic security policies that attempt to solve conflicts by military means – i.e., with military superiority. Politics are thus confronted with the following choice: either development towards a world community based on global solidarity, good governance, and democracy or to vanish like sand on the beach, to employ a variation of Michel Foucault’s famous dictum.

What can a small institute like the one in Schläining contribute to a more peaceful and just world? Just the flapping of a butterfly’s wings, as the proverb puts it. We must not allow ourselves to become discouraged by setbacks in world politics. We have to believe in the possibility of peace, and reflect on strategies to identify social and political forces that are in a position to change politics. Most of all, however, we have to continue our successful work for peace. History does not have a predetermined plan, but we can try to contribute to more peace and justice in the world by our personal and collective actions. In security policy this would mean: “*Si vis pacem, para pacem*” – “If you want peace, prepare peace!”

Gerald Mader

History and Infrastructure

On September 6, 1982, the nongovernmental organization “Austrian Institute for Peace Research” was founded. It later developed into the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR) and the European University Centre for Peace Studies (EPU) that now constitute the Peace Centre Burg Schlaining. Gerald Mader, who was the initiator of the centre, was appointed managing president. It was the aim of the Schlaining peace project to provide a forum for meetings dedicated to peace research and peace education, as well as a peace university. This aim required a corresponding infrastructure that could be realized with the help of unemployed members of the workforce provided by a project of the Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, with financial support by the Federal Office for the Care of Monuments and private donors, as well as a loan by the Province of Burgenland.

- Restoration of the destroyed parts of the castle (bastion and granary) now used as Conference and Seminar Centre 1986/1987
- Reconstruction of the castle’s smithy and arsenal now used as Hotel Burg Schlaining 1987/1988
- Restoration of the former synagogue now used as the Peace Library 1987/1988
- Newly-constructed House International 1991/1992
- Restoration of the castle’s small gallery now used as seminar rooms 1991/1992
- Adapting of Schlaining Castle for the purposes of a European Peace Museum 2000

Peace and Conflict Research

Peace Education

Peace research

sets out to explore the causes of violence and peace and attempts to come up with answers for questions like how to contain on violence, abolish wars and realize peace. ASPR uses a wide notion of peace and wishes to contribute to a dialogue about wars and peace. Peace and conflict research is value oriented and interdisciplinary.

Peace education is made up of the following basic elements: communication of competence in peace, introduction to peace culture and empowerment for peaceful action.

These are the objectives with which the centre's various research projects and events concern themselves. The results of these efforts are documented in numerous scientific publications.

International Summer Academy

This major event consisting of lectures, panel discussions, and workshops has been organized annually since 1983. It addresses a public interested in peace and is organized around topics associated with current events. Conclusions are published in the Dialog series.

State of Peace Konferenz

This meeting of international peace researchers, held annually since 1984, analyses political events of the previous year and publishes its results under the title "Peace Report: Peace Scientists' Statements on the State of Peace" in the Dialog series.

Peace pedagogy

Symposiums and workshops relevant to this topic are held, resulting also in problem specific projects carried out with certain schools or classes involving significant focal points such as conflict management, cross-cultural learning and education about human rights.

Research Project "Europe as a Peaceful Power?"

Systematic research on peace and security-related political conditions and developments after the conclusion of the East-West-conflict has been the subject of this scholarly project implemented during the period 1994 - 2002. Its aim has been the exploration of perspectives and possibilities for civilian peace policy in Europe. The research project was designed on an interdisciplinary basis, internationally organized and structured by a division of labour. The project is being published in nine scholarly volumes.

Research Project European Peace Policy

In 2005 ASPR launched a new, long-term research project under the working title European Peace Policy. The starting point of the European Peace Policy used here is a vision of the EU in which the Union safeguards and promotes its economic interests not via military instruments but via a policy of peaceful means.

The analysis and criticism of the current EU policy lie at the heart of the research project, including the Constitution drafted by the Council, but first and foremost drafting specific alternatives to a European peace policy, that is, how this European policy can be created in areas including politics/military policies, economic/development policies, ecological as well as human rights/culture; and how these alternatives can be translated into political practice in a coherent way. Therefore this is not merely about contributing to the UN and international law, to NATO and the imperial politics of the US as such, but about the importance the EU attaches to these questions and how the Union should be developing its relevant policies.

The research volume is designed among others as the underlying scientific basis for elaborating and drafting an alternative EU security policy and an alternative European Constitution.

The significance of this research project lies in the fact that

1. it helps us align various special areas with their numerous scientific investigations and forge them into one interdisciplinary process targeted at one and the same objective, namely at a European peace policy,
2. in the various scientific contributions the specific alternatives are elaborated so that analyses and criticism have a 50-50% proportion, and
3. the project as a whole focuses on the EU's role as a potential forerunner in terms of peace policy.

Advanced International Study Program in Peace and Conflict Studies (EPU)

The European University Centre for Peace Studies (EPU) is an NGO with UNESCO-status founded in 1988, in accordance with Austrian association law, and offers the framework for international courses in peace and conflict studies. These courses have been conducted by a faculty of international teachers and trainers since 1990. Professors and students come from different states, continents, and cultures.

Curricula are designed to equip students with the intellectual capacity to analyze conflicts and their causes, as well as to develop practical skills that will help students contribute to conflict prevention and peace building. The EPU adheres to the idea of integrated learning, taking into account the whole person. Life in a multicultural group in the Peace Centre creates an atmosphere of cultural exchange and experience, opens up new horizons and perspectives, and changes the way EPU students view the world by combining rich personal experience with sustained academic discussion. Since 1998, the EPU confers a Master's degree in Peace and Conflict Studies, accredited by the Austrian Ministry for Education, Science and Culture, now Master of Arts. In 1995 UNESCO awarded the EPU and ASPR with the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education.



Curriculum

The EPU/ASPR Programme provides for a three-month autumn and a three-month spring term. From autumn 2006 on the ASPR programme provides for a university year with three terms, (autumn, spring and summer). The EPU programme is based on a modular, multilevel scheme: Students may graduate after one semester with a certificate or obtain a master's degree after two semesters and completion of a thesis.

Focal Points of the Curriculum

Introduction into Peace, Violence and Conflict Theory, Fields of Power: Politics, Army, Economy and Culture, Peace and Justice, Peace and Development, Ecological Threats, Governance, Participation and Human Rights, Culture of Peace, Asylum and Immigration Policy, UN and International Law, Peace, Education, Media and Communication, Civilian Conflict Management, Conflict Transformation, Crisis Prevention, Intervention and Post-Conflict Reconstruction, the EU's Role in World Politics.

UNESCO Chair for Peace, Human Rights and Democracy

This endowed chair in Peace, Human Rights, and Democracy was founded in September 1996 on the basis of a contract with UNESCO Paris. One of the main concerns of the Schlaining UNESCO Chair is education for a culture of peace, for human rights, democracy, and peace.

With the support of UNESCO itself, the EPU's UNESCO Chair has organized and conducted three world conferences of all UNESCO chairs from 1998 to 2002. Commissioned by UNESCO Paris Schlaining coordinates the UNESCO-Chairs and issues an annual bulletin.



Training for Civilian Crisis Missions

In 1992, through his “Agenda for Peace”, UN General Secretary Boutros Ghali called upon UN member states to train and provide civil professionals for peace missions, stating that such individuals need comprehensive training before deployment. ASPR with the support of the Austrian Federal Government has responded to this call and established a training concept called International Civilian Peace Keeping and Peace Building Training Program (IPT).

The training for civilian peace keeping involves a two-week foundation training preparing candidates for the situation in conflict areas in general, as well as a function-oriented two-week specialisation course qualifying candidates for a specific task in terms of peace building activities. The course is designed to develop a conflict sensitive behaviour in the candidates in conflict areas, a behaviour which recognises the specific needs of the particular nation/ethnic group, avoids negative impacts („Do no harm“), trains people to take over responsibility („Ownership“) and focuses on long-term impacts of the mission (sustainability). The courses are meant to help achieve a better understanding and cooperation between various governmental and non-governmental players and contribute to various focal working points and activities such as peace keeping, development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

International Civilian Peace Keeping and Peace Building Training Program (IPT)

IPT is a practically-oriented training programme for experts of various professional background who work (or intend to work) as civilians in conflict regions – be it for international organizations like the UN or OSCE, or for governmental or non-governmental organizations. Participants come from all continents, as do trainers who are experts in their field with their own working experience in crisis regions. The programme is subsidized by the Austrian Federal Government. Since 1993 it has been held three times a year (four weeks each course).

The thematic focus in foundation courses emphasizes intercultural communication, conflict analysis, the role of state, international and nongovernmental actors in crisis situations as well as a workshop on mediation. Every foundation course is followed by a specialization course. Specialization courses deal with topics such as Human Rights Protection, Conflict Mediation, Information Dissemination, Humanitarian Aid, Post-Conflict Reconstruction, Empowerment for Political Participation and Election Observation and Assistance.

Mission Preparation Training Programme for the OSCE (MPT)

Sponsored by OSCE and the Austrian Government and organised three times a year, from October 2000 on Schläining has special courses for OSCE missions on offer. Participants are offered foundation as well as specialization courses and cooperation seminars, the topics of which focus on key areas in line with OSCE interests. So 2005 saw the pilot seminar entitled Training of Trainers to Project Management in Field Operations conducted and for the year 2006 another pilot seminar entitled Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the OSCE Area is planned.

„EC Project on Training for Civilian Crisis Management“

Prompted by its previous experience the Commission turned to ASPR in 2001 under whose guidance and in cooperation with institutions of other Member States a standardised training module for expert training in EU Civilian Crisis Management was developed and implemented. First under the guidance of ASPR (up until end 2004) and then with its close and active cooperation, between 2001 and 2005, a total of about 1000 civilian experts were prepared for crisis management missions, which were carried out or supported by the EU. Besides the founding courses ASPR has special courses in the areas Organising Civilian Administration, Press and Public Information--Media Development and Conflict Transformation. In cooperation with the UN a course on Child Protection, Monitoring and Rehabilitation is planned for 2006.

„Network of Europeans for Electoral and Democracy Support“ (NEEDS)

Supported by the EU Commission, the network was established to promote the training of EU elections observers. ASPR is one of the five partners involved in projects coordinated by ERIS (Electoral Reform International Services Ltd) and plays an active role in in the development and implementation of training courses.

Region specific contributions to Conflict Management

By developing training programmes for experts dedicated to civilian missions in crisis areas, ASPR itself has become personally active in crises regions. Crisis consolidation projects have been carried out mainly in Eastern Slavonia, and in cooperation with the World Bank trainees from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina have been trained in project and crisis management. Then special programmes for crisis management were developed with a focus on crisis prevention in the entire OSCE area, especially for the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia as well as for Africa and south-east Asia.

Summer Academy on the OSCE

These two-week long seminars have been conducted since 1997, and are designed for diplomats intending to assume tasks concerning the OSCE. They are also intended to contribute to the activities of the OSCE, in particular in the newly-independent countries, and to support the development of new skills in preventive diplomacy and consolidation of peace for the OSCE. Co-operation partners of the Summer Academy are the Berghof Research Centre for Constructive Conflict Management in Berlin, the Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute in Budapest (affiliated with the Central European University), as well as the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna..

Southern Caucasus

As early as 1996 the ASPR began dealing with the South Caucasus and Central Asian region. With the support of the Austrian Federal Government a two-week seminar on conflict transformation and peace-building was held in Georgia for the first time in May 2002. Similar activities are planned for Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Central Asia in the years to come.

- The several seminars organised for participants representing parliamentary bodies and NGOs from Georgia and Abhasia have led to a better understanding of conflicts and have opened new dimensions in terms of their management. In cooperation of the United Nations Volunteers (Geneva), Conciliation Resources (London) and the Berghof Research Centre for Constructive Conflict Management (Berlin) and supported by Austrian Government, the seminars carried out are denoted by experts as the Schlaining Process.
- As of 2003 ASPR arranged several seminars on conflict management as part of the project Peace Building in the South Caucasus Region. Supported by the Austrian Government, the project is organised hand in hand with the Caucasian Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development (CIPDD).

Central Asia

ASPR is one of four Western European institutions which support the processes of conceiving and structuring of OSCE Academy Bishkek. The Academy has set the objective to act as a regional centre for research, training/education and dialogue, helping OSCE principles such as the necessity to come up with a comprehensive security policy for the entire Central Asian region to be widely disseminated and strengthened. Since its foundation in December, 2002 ASPR, supported by the Austrian Government, has been commissioning colleagues lecturing within the Academy's Master's programme to carry out trainings in crisis management and to contribute to mediation in the crises of the region.

Sri Lanka

In 2002 the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has commissioned ASPR to support peace processes in Sri Lanka. For this purpose the representatives of the Sinhalese Government and the opposition, as well as the representatives of governmental as well as non-governmental organisations (prominent religious personalities, leaders of peace organisations and journalists) were invited to Schläining. What we were aiming at was to help them manage crises emerging between the two parties on the one hand, and to find ways and means to mediate the peace process, arranged and organised under the guidance of Norwegian diplomats, between the Sinhalese Government and the Tamil separatists, to the civil society on the other hand. The follow-up seminars arranged in Sri Lanka have contributed greatly to translate the results of the seminars in Schläining into tangible results. Since the tsunami ASPR has been running a project by the Government of the Province of Burgenland to reconstruct an ethnically mixed village in a conflict sensitive way.

Peace-Building in Africa

A series of seminars designed and organized by the ASPR have taken place in different regions of Africa since 1996. All of these seminars constitute elements of a long-term concept designed to support peace-building and cooperation in Africa. Since 2001, a three-year programme for the support of peace and conflict management in Southern Africa and the Great Lakes Region is being implemented. With the help of the seminars, a pool of experts familiar with the basic problems and instruments of peace-building measures will be created. The seminars include topics such as the role of the different actors, different fields of action and peace-building activities, the development of structural stability, democratisation, good governance, respect of human rights, and sustainable economic development. One of the focal points is a two-week long workshop in conflict transformation.

Library and Documentation

The Peace Library that is housed in Schlaining's former synagogue has taken on the task to collect and make accessible peace-related printed matters for academic researchers and the interested general public alike in the fields of peace research, military and security policy, peace education, world politics, peace and social movements, Austrian politics, political sociology and psychology, and development policy.

The library stock comprises at present of some 25,000 books and 340 different and foreign newspapers and journals published in Austria and abroad. A small video library and a collection of CD-ROMs round off the library stock. In addition, the complete stock of books and numerous articles can be searched and identified electronically. The entire library stock of books as well as a considerable number of articles can be researched via EDV or can be viewed on the Internet:

www.peacelibrary.opac.at

Peace Museum

The European Museum for Peace was opened in 2001 as an offshoot of the Provincial Exhibition on "War or Peace". Based on the long-standing experience of the Peace Centre, the Museum endeavours to adapt and present the breadth and depth of knowledge on violence and conflict, security and peace, to the broad public through a combination of scholarly rigor and sound pedagogical approaches.

Some of the most important themes addressed in the Museum are the causes and structures of violence and war, ways out of everyday violence, different dimensions and courses of individual and collective conflicts, as well as peace issues broadly considered – e.g., with topics such as peace research and peace work, peace activists and peace policies, human rights, and global peace.

Alongside the extensive permanent exhibition, changing special exhibitions complement the pedagogical activity of the Museum. In addition to the exhibitions, the Museum makes efforts to elaborate peace-related and thematic educational programs – especially for schoolchildren – in order to facilitate access to the complex issues treated by the Museum and to respond to the concrete demands and needs of the visitors.

Schlaining Castle and House International

Schlaining Castle was built in the middle of the 16th century by Andreas Baumkircher, a local mercenary leader. Later it passed into the possession of the family Batthyány for more than 300 years. Since 1980 it has been owned by the Province of Burgenland and in 2000 its administration was given to the ASPR.

House International was newly erected in 1991/92 with financial support from the Province of Burgenland. It comprises forty-four rooms, a kitchen, and three seminar rooms. It is primarily used as accommodation for students of the EPU and IPT programmes. Together with the Hotel Burg Schlaining, which has been sold to its former manager, House International provides the possibility to accommodate conferences of up to 250 participants in the town of Schlaining itself.



Peace Library

Organization and Financing

ASPR is a private, non-profit, non-partisan, and independent association. Organs of the association are the General Assembly, the Executive Board, the Board of Trustees, and the Academic Advisory Board. The General Assembly is attended by full and supporting members. The Province Burgenland and the municipality of Schlaining are also full members.

The EPU is an international NGO with UNESCO status, organized on the basis of Austrian association law. Its members are national European UNESCO commissions and international peace institutes. The EPU is headed by the Chairman of the Executive Board (President), the Academic Director and the Secretary General. Both associations are at present closely connected in terms of personnel, finances, and organization, and maintain a staff of more than 20 employees. In addition, external scholars, trainers and lecturers are employed on a contract bases. ASPR also has a branch office in Vienna.

Financing is based on subsidies from the Austrian Federal Government, the Province of Burgenland, and donations from supporting members. These sources provide approximately one-third of the total budget, which is supplemented by project-specific funds, participation fees, and other revenue.

Organs and Management

ASPR

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How to Become a Supporting Member

The creation of the Schlaining Peace Centre would not have been possible without the generosity of its supporting members. In the future we will only be able to attain our goals and safeguard our independence if we succeed in increasing the number of our sponsors and supporting members. Thus, we invite you to become a supporting member of our institute.

Donations to the ASPR may be deducted from one's taxable income according to the Einkommensteuergesetz 1972 (Law on Income Tax) §4 Abs. 4 Z.5 BGBl. Nr. 440.

The yearly membership fee is Euro 10,- (simple membership, including one-year subscription to the journal FRIEDENS-FORUM) and Euro 75,- (full membership, including subscription to the Dialog series). Application for membership is accomplished by transferring the membership fee to our account "Friedensfonds Schlaining, A-7461 Stadtschlaining, P.S.K. account number 7.965.100, BLZ: 60000."

