

SILVER JUBILEE

25th Summer Academy on OSCE

6-13 September 2025

Discussing the OSCE & the challenges of rebuilding security is more relevant than ever.

Since 1997 the purpose of the “Summer Academy on OSCE” has been to expand and deepen knowledge about the OSCE. A number of Alumni have gone on to become OSCE diplomats or OSCE field staff, contributing to various OSCE activities. As the OSCE celebrates its 50th Anniversary, the Summer Academy celebrates its silver jubilee in 2025.

Organised by



**Austrian
Centre for Peace**
SCHLAINING • VIENNA



Supported by

the Republic of Austria
and other participating
States of the OSCE

Background & Purpose of the Summer Academy on OSCE

Discussing the OSCE and the challenges of rebuilding security in Europe are more relevant than ever.

In 2025, the Summer Academy on OSCE in Stadtschlaining celebrates its Silver Jubilee. It has trained a generation of diplomats, OSCE field staff and other practitioners in understanding the Helsinki Process and the OSCE, its methods of work and its relevance in preventing and dealing with security threats in Europe. In the process, the Academy has stimulated debate on the OSCE and its work and developed a network of practitioners who have shared the unique Schlaining experience and have retained their interest in the organization.

The war in Ukraine has destroyed the pan-European security order, and created an existential crisis for the OSCE and, more broadly, the idea of cooperative security. In such challenging times, discussing the OSCE and the challenges of rebuilding security in Europe are more relevant than ever, especially in the year the OSCE celebrates its 50th Anniversary.

The 25th Summer Academy on the OSCE will take place at Austrian Centre for Peace in September 2025.

The executive-level course has adapted to changing circumstances, thus:

- The course will provide a more focused and cost-effective program.
- 1-2 online lectures will provide introduction to the key topics and initiate interaction between the participants and the Academy directors already ahead of the Academy.
- During the program, there will be less of a focus on the OSCE and its executive structure and a greater focus on how to address security threats and challenges in Europe, and developing the skills to anticipate emerging threats, facilitate dialogue, and manage relations in a highly polarized security environment.

Program Overview (draft)

25th Summer Academy on OSCE

6-13 September 2025 at the Austrian Centre for Peace (ACP)

	SAT, 06 Sept.	SUN, 07 Sept.	MON, 08Sept.	TUE, 9 Sept.	WED, 10 Sept.	THU, 11 Sept.	FRI, 12 Sept.	SAT, 13 Sept.
9 - 10.30		Cooperative security and the OSCE in a time of crisis	The OSCE toolbox	Preparation for simulation	Simulation of crisis management in OSCE Permanent Council	<i>Traveling to Vienna</i> Visit to OSCE in Vienna	Leadership in a time of challenges Panel Discussion	Individual Departure
11- 12.30		What is the OSCE? History, Principles and Institutions	The OSCE in the field	The Human Dimension	Continued	Permanent Council Meeting	Wrap-up and evaluation	
15 - 16.30	Arrival of Participants	Decisions, legal personality and rules of procedure	The OSCE's engagement in Ukraine	Exit strategies out of the crisis Group work	Continued	Media freedom under fire Representative on Freedom of the Media	Free time Vienna	
17 - 18.30	Welcome, introduction of participants, directors, and programme	Workshop 1: "Icebreaker" Teambuilding – Working in multinational Teams	Rules of procedure Introduction to simulation	Let's <u>discuss</u> : interactive session on the future of the OSCE & cooperative security based on group work	Wrap-up and reflections	Perspectives on the OSCE and its future Panel discussion	18:00 Closing, Farwell Dinner, award of certificates	
19.00	19:45 Welcome Dinner			Social Event Vinothek				

Curriculum & Methodology

A carefully balanced mix of lectures, workshops and a study visit to the OSCE in Vienna.

The methodology of the Academy is based on lectures, workshops, a study visit to the OSCE in Vienna, completed by background readings. Basic information about the OSCE and its executive structures are made available in advance to help participants prepare for the lectures.

- Lecturers use primarily case study approach and focus on recent developments and activities of the OSCE.
- Working groups give participants the opportunity to discuss the subjects dealt with in the lectures and to further consolidate and apply their knowledge.
- Participants practice communication, mediation and negotiation skills and gain experimental knowledge of different concepts through interactive exercises, such as role-plays and simulation exercises.
- The Academy includes a 2-day excursion to the Hofburg/Vienna to visit the Permanent Council and meet OSCE representatives.

The 25th Summer Academy on OSCE will be implemented in Stadtschlaining and Vienna from 6-13 September 2025.

The Academy will start with a 2-day excursion to the Hofburg/Vienna to visit the PC and meet OSCE representatives.

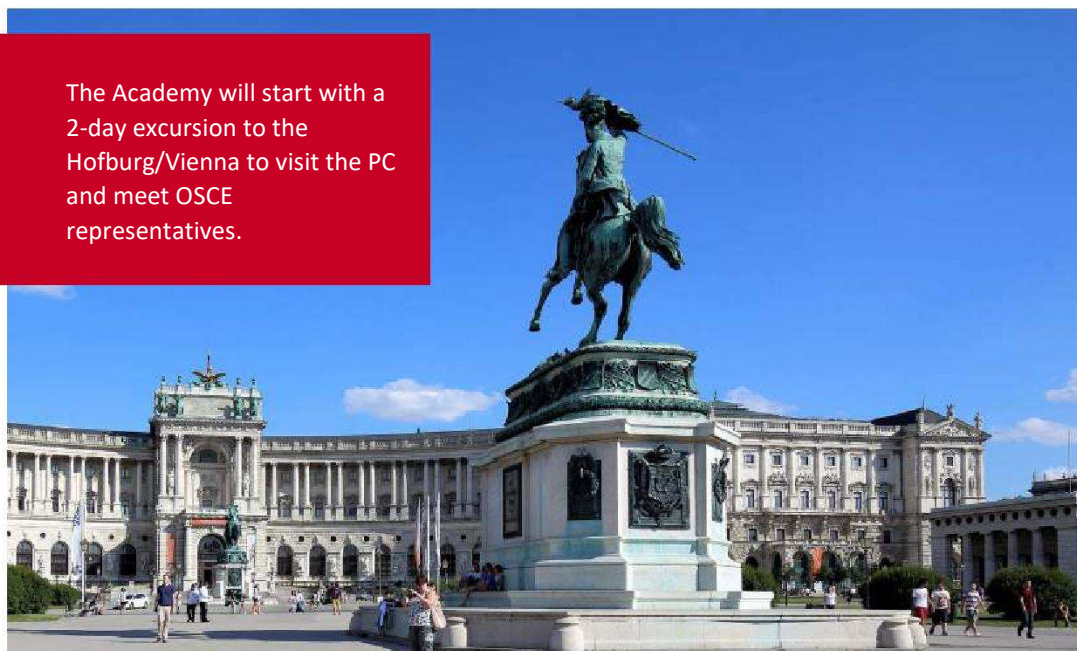


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Application Requirements & Procedure

Scholarships are available for selected participants from non- OECD countries.

The cost of participation will be € 2.500, - per participant. This amount covers tuition, educational materials, and full board accommodation in a single room with bath as well as all expenses linked to social events and excursions of this 7 days-training-event.

For participants coming from non-OECD member states, a limited number of scholarships will be awarded. Applicants who would like to apply for such a support should indicate this in the respective section of the application form. However, there is no possibility to get financial support for travel expenses from the organisers.

Application Requirements

- ✦ Master's degree or the equivalent in working experience.
- ✦ working knowledge of English.
- ✦ submission of the application form and the required accompanying materials – please contact gamauf@ac4p.at

Applicants for admission will be selected on a competitive basis. Preference is given to applicants whose participation is supported by their Foreign Ministry or one of the OSCE institutions. Applicants will be informed on the decision of the admissions committee in June 2025.

Application is possible via the [SAC on OSCE - ACP](#) only!

The Summer Academy Course Directors

Arie Bloed has been involved in CSCE/OSCE matters since the end of the 1970s, both as a scholar and as a practitioner. He has published extensively on OSCE issues. Arie Bloed is Co-Founder, Director and Lecturer of the Summer Academy on OSCE since its foundation 1997. In the past decade, Arie Bloed has been actively involving in Security Sector Governance and Reform in a large number of countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, South-East Asia, the Pacific Region and the Middle East.

Ursula Gamauf-Eberhardt is managing the Summer Academy on OSCE and other OSCE related projects at the ACP since 2005; 2010 she took over the responsibility as the Academy Co-director. Ursula founded the Programme on Peace Education at the ACP and is heading this constantly evolving portfolio ever since.

Walter Kemp is Director of the Global Strategy at the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, a strategic adviser at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, and teaches at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna. He has worked in several senior positions at the OSCE, as well as Spokesman and Speechwriter at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Vice President of the International Peace Institute. He is author of *Security through Cooperation: to the Same End* (2022).

Austrian Centre for Peace (ACP) – Peace Castle Schlaining

The ACP was founded in 1982 and is located in a medieval castle in Southern Burgenland, with a second office in Vienna. The ACP holds the status of UN “Peace Messenger” and a UNESCO “Prize for Peace Education”. The ACP is an independent, non-profit and non-partisan organization. It is engaged in research, education/training/capacity development and practical conflict transformation.

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