

# 26<sup>th</sup> Summer Academy on OSCE

5-12 September 2026

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. Several Alumni have gone on to become OSCE diplomats or OSCE field staff, contributing to various OSCE activities.



Organised by  
**Austrian  
Centre for Peace**  
SCHLAINING · VIENNA



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## Background & Purpose of the Summer Academy on OSCE

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

The Summer Academy on OSCE in Stadtschlaining is a long-standing tradition (since 1997). 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.

The 26<sup>th</sup> Summer Academy on the OSCE will take place at Austrian Centre for Peace in September 2026.

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.

### 26<sup>th</sup> Summer Academy on OSCE, 5 – 12 September 2026 at the Austrian Centre for Peace (ACP)

	Saturday, 5 Sep	Sunday, 6 Sep	Monday, 7 Sep	Tuesday, 8 Sep	Wednesday, 9 Sep	Thursday, 10 Sep	Friday, 11 Sep	Saturday, 12 Sep
9.00-10.30		Setting the scene: European security and the OSCE in a time of crisis	The OSCE toolbox	The Human Dimension	Simulation of OSCE Permanent Council	08:30: Travelling to Vienna Visit to OSCE in Vienna	09:15 – 10:00 Leadership in a time of challenges	Individual Departure€
11.00-12.30		50 years after the Helsinki Final Act: what's left of the Decalogue and cooperative security?	The OSCE in the field	The OSCE and Ukraine	Continued	Security Check / 11:00 Meeting the OSCE Secretariat 11:45 The Economic and Environmental Dimension	10-10:45 The Conflict Prevention Center 11:00 – 12:00 Wrap-up &eval.	
€15.00 - 16.30	Arrival of Participants	The OSCE: how is it structured and how does it work?	Pathways to peace: How to manage and exit this crisis? group work	Preparation for simulation	Continued	15:00 – 15:45 Media freedom under fire	Free time Vienna	
17.00 - 18.30	Welcome, introduction of participants, directors, and programme	Icebreaker	Reality check: interactive session on options for the future of cooperative security and the OSCE	Time to prepare for simulation	Wrap-up and reflections	16:15 – 17:00 Is there still a space for cooperative security? Panel discussion:	18:30 Closing, Farewell Dinner, award of certificates	

## 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 is made available in advance to help participants prepare for the lectures.

- Lecturers use a case study approach and focus on recent developments and activities of the OSCE.
- Working groups allow participants 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 meet with the OSCE secretariat as well as other institutions and bodies of the OSCE.

The 26<sup>th</sup> Summer Academy on OSCE will be implemented in Stadtschlaining and Vienna from 5-12 September 2026.

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



## 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-person room as well as all expenses linked to social events and excursions of this 5 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 [online application form](#)

### Application Deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026!

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 2026.

Application is possible via the [online application form](#) 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.

**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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