

A FIGHTER FOR THE CIVIL WAYS TO PEACE HAS LEFT US

Mag. Ing. Arno Truger 20.08.1947 - 15.03.2022

Long-term director of the Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution

The bedrock

In addition to Gerald Mader, Arno Truger was undoubtedly one of the most influential personalities at the Schlaining Peace Center. As the legendary director, he played a key role in shaping the work of the institute for more than two decades. The training area and the projects abroad were his core activities, the commitment to civil ways to peace his passion.

The stormy one

Arno was sometimes a real hurricane. As the first in the office, he got us all going crazy with his many ideas and orders as

soon as we entered the castle. And he fought so hard for the idea of peace - Arno's strength and fearlessness, his spirit, his expertise and his deep conviction were impressive.

The teacher

He influenced me and many of my predecessors. He was not just a boss, but also a teacher – it was important to him to convey content and attitudes, it was important to him to burn for an idea and to stand up for peace!

Giving up was never an option. Arno was a very strong person with a strong character, and he always found the strength to continue – until the end. And even though it was challenging sometimes, we have grown together over the years. From the bottom of my heart, I am grateful to Arno for many lessons learnt!

The cordial

As demanding as Arno could sometimes be at work, he was just as cheerful outside the office. You could laugh, dance, celebrate, be happy with him. Anyone who got to know Arno privately will remember him as a caring, empathetic and warm person. Until recently, we often laughed out during conversations.

To have met Arno Truger,
learned from him
and worked with him
– it was a gift and
a great enrichment on many levels.

Ursula Gamauf-Eberhardt
ASPR Project Manager



Mag. Ing. Arno Truger on the castle bridge in Stadtschlaining

We owe Arno Truger a lot:
he devoted his life to promote
new ideas and values
to promote peace worldwide.

Andrea de Guttry
Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna/Pisa

Curriculum Vitae

1970 – 1974

Engineer in Vienna and Berlin. Then studied journalism and political science at the Freie Universität Berlin and communication science at McGill University Montreal.

1980 – 1983

Co-founder and manager of the autonomous youth center in Oberwart (predecessor of OHO)
Afterwards he became research assistant at the newly founded peace center in Schlaining

1990 – 2011

Director of the Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR)



Arno Truger at the ASPR Summer Academy 1999 at Schlaining Castle

The main focus of his work at the Peace Center was researching and analysing conditions for international crisis operations, the development and management of training programs for civilian crisis operations and projects in crisis regions.

Arno Truger was responsible for developing training courses for civilian crisis management. In 1990, the Schlaining Peace Center was one of the first institutions worldwide to offer specific training courses for civilian experts (the still existing IPT program) in response to UN Secretary General Boutros-Ghali's call.

The curricula that Arno Truger developed together with other experts in the 1990s had a major influence on relevant curricula of the UN, EU, OSCE and still serve as the basis

for many training courses worldwide! In the field of civilian crisis management, Arno Truger was undoubtedly a pioneer.

Arno Truger was passionately involved in adult education in Austria and abroad. In the 1980s he engaged in adult education centers (VHS) in Burgenland, primarily as a speaker in the field of political education in many communities in the region. In the 1990s, his focus was, among other things, on the development of peace education teaching materials. Under his leadership, numerous peace projects were implemented by the ASPR in various conflict and post-war areas. Arno Truger always understood training as key to sustainable change.

As the long-term director of the ASPR, he has influenced the institute's policy and developments side by side with President Gerald Mader.

Arno Truger will be dearly missed.