



Austrian Forum for Peace 2025 “Peace in Crisis” Concludes with Positive Outcome

The international conference organized by the Austrian Center for Peace (ACP) outlined new perspectives for peacebuilding and is set to return in 2026, from June 30 to July 3.

Today, on July 3, the Austrian Forum for Peace 2025 comes to a close. Over the past four days, the ACP team welcomed guests from more than 25 countries to Schlaining Castle – among them, in addition to Austria, participants from Australia, Egypt, Côte d'Ivoire, Germany, Georgia, Ghana, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lithuania, Mali, Nigeria, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, Senegal, Slovakia, Hungary, the United States of America, and many others.

ACP Director Tobias Lang stated: *“We are pleased that representatives from the Arab League, the EU/EEAS, the OSCE, UNESCO, the United Nations, and the World Bank took part in the conference.”*

Participating scholars and students also represented institutions including the University of Haifa, Coventry University, the University of Manchester, Andrásy University Budapest, the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, the University of Graz, the University of Applied Sciences Burgenland, and numerous other Austrian universities and higher education institutions. Also in attendance were many members of the diplomatic corps.

“The participants exchanged views in discussions and workshops on current challenges in peacebuilding,” explained ACP President Norbert Darabos. Yesterday's conference day (July 2) focused on the topic of disinformation. During the panel discussion *“Peace in the Age of Disinformation – Rebuilding Trust*

in a Fractured World”, speakers emphasized that internal destabilization can only be addressed through education, awareness-raising, fact-checking platforms, and transparent communication.

In the afternoon, the documentary *How to Build a Truth Engine* was screened — a film about the fight against fake news, propaganda, and disinformation using tools such as counterterrorism, big data analysis, and artificial intelligence. In the subsequent Q&A, director Friedrich Moser emphasized that public trust in traditional media can be strengthened, among other things, by making investigative journalism methods more transparent — as far as possible.

Closing and Outlook

In today's closing discussion, the key insights from the past days were reflected upon and used to sketch out new perspectives for the future of peace work.

“The absence of violence is only the starting point; our goal is positive peace — a peace that creates just structures and protects people,” said Bernadette Holzer, Program Director of the Austrian Forum for Peace 2025, in her concluding statement. *“With that compass, we take five key tasks into the future: putting people at the center, promoting peace education, anchoring multilateral solutions where they hold legitimacy, securing trust both online and offline, ensuring that every measure is climate-sensitive, and keeping channels of dialogue open — even with difficult partners.”*



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Last but not least, a culture of mutual listening must be nurtured and trust continuously strengthened. The next Austrian Forum for Peace is scheduled to take place from **June 30 to July 3, 2026**.

The Austrian Forum for Peace is made possible by the Province of Burgenland and supported by: Bank Burgenland, BDO, Burgenland Energie, Kalchbrenner IT Services GmbH, OSG, Siemens, Ströck, and Wiener Städtische.

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<https://www.peaceforum.at/#gallery>

OTS-Link:

https://www.ots.at/presseaussendung/OTS_20250703_OTS0099/austrian-forum-for-peace-2025-peace-in-crisis-endet-mit-positiver-bilanz

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Weitere Informationen: www.ac4p.at

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