

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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IMPRINT

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THE FUTURE OF PEACEBUILDING



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In our times, it is not easy to talk about peace.

We seem to have entered a new era of unpredictability. The increasing rivalry between the great powers, partially sparked by the war against Ukraine, the worsening loss of livelihoods driven

by the climate crisis, and the effects of rapid technological change, continue to dramatically impact security and stability around the world.

Those on the European continent working for peace and conflict resolution found themselves in quite a commotion, when many of the assumptions we had been working on, many of the initiatives we were putting our hopes on were shattered within a brief period of time in February 2022.

The Austrian Centre for Peace has been showing ways towards peace for 40 years. In doing so, the Peace Centre offers an impartial platform for dialogue and mediation, whether in the Peace Castle Schlaining in Austria or on site. Our courses prepare experts for conflict-sensitive work in crisis areas. ACP's research provides the groundwork. Peace education sensitizes the younger generations of our own society in Austria.

Of course, in our work, unpredictability is an almost permanent condition. Working for peace requires continuous transformation, a constant endeavour to rethink previously established answers.

So when the moment came and it was time to celebrate 40 years of peace-work at the Peace Castle in Stadtschlaining, we took the opportunity to take some steps necessary to gear up for transformation in these times of unpredictability. These steps culminated in the 40-Years Anniversary Conference in Stadtschlaining in October. Approaches were di-

scussed to identify exit-strategies from the spirals of escalation in ongoing armed conflicts. While the climate crisis increasingly fuels many of these conflicts, approaches of environmental peacebuilding provide solutions that open new doors to conflict resolution. Technological developments are too often abused to cause harm; however, a proactive Peace-Tech approach takes advantage of these developments for the sake of peace-work.

To reflect of the centre's transformation, its new name "Austrian Centre for Peace" was adopted to bring our work into its fifth decade. New support structures will guide this work, including the newly established Advisory Board, where national and international personalities offer their advice in these times which are so challenging for the idea of peace.

Completely new initiatives were launched in the Persian Gulf Region, Lebanon and Libya, and new priorities were set in Sudan and South Sudan. In response to the crisis on the European continent, an initiative was launched to support the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

There is no magical solution to reach peace in the complex settings of our times, it is a long-term project, constantly facing obstacles and setbacks. Peace needs endurance and patience, and the awareness that the alternatives lead to greater suffering and destruction.



Moritz Ehrmann, ACP-Director

OUR FIELDS OF ACTIVITY

Contents and insights into our work at the ACP

AC4P WEBSITE



www.ac4p.at

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

- Developing a Complex Understanding and Engagement with the Conflicts over the Holy Land
- Iraq
- Iraq – Ninewa
- Libya
- Communal Peace and Conflict Work in Burgenland
- South Sudan & Uganda
- Sudan
- Dialogue in the Gulf Region
- Civil Peace Service in Lebanon

RESEARCH

- Research projects
 - The Peace and Conflict Resolution Evidence Platform - PeaceRep
 - Peace Processes in South Sudan and Sudan
 - Complexity in Conflict Transitions
 - Research on Resilience
- Events
 - EAPTC-Conference
- Policy Advice
 - Network Peace and Conflict Research in Austria - NeFKÖ

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

- Training Programmes
 - Trainings in West Afrika (HAWA)
 - International Civilian Peacebuilding Training Programme - IPT
 - European Union's Civilian Training Initiative - EUCTI
 - EU Police and Civilian Services Training – EUPCST
 - EU Aid Volunteers-Trainingsprogramme – EUAV
 - Integrated Training Programme for Civilian, Police and Military Experts – ESDC
 - Strengthening Social Cohesion in Teknaf (Bangladesh)
 - OSCE Expert Workshop
- Peace Education
 - 7 Days for Peace - Conference
 - Peace Weeks
 - University course Global Peace Education
 - Holocaust History Workshop
 - Putting the Unbelievable into Words

PEACE MUSEUM

Cataloging and archiving (analog & digital) of the poster collection

● Dialogprojekte - Konfliktbearbeitung

● Präsenztrainings

PODCAST

Inside Conflict

40 YEARS

Campaign 40 Years Peace and Conflictwork
40 Years Anniversary Conference

ANNIVERSARY: 40 YEARS FOR PEACE

The Austrian Centre for Peace celebrates its 40th anniversary with a new name and an outstanding advisory board



Anniversary celebration on 3 October 2022
© Foto Andi Bruckner

The peace centre was founded in 1982 with the aim of contributing to the reduction of the East-West conflict by addressing the question of what role cultural policy could play during the Cold War in a region that seemed to be at the edge of (democratic) Europe. Schlaining Castle in southern Burgenland became the home to the peace centre. Since its founding, the peace centre has grown steadily and has an additional office in Vienna.

For the first ten years of its existence, its activities were concentrated on research, publications, and the associated organization of research conferences. As early as September 1987, the then UN Secretary-General, Javier Pérez de Cuellar, awarded the peace centre with the distinction of „Peace Messenger“. In the early 1990s, driven by the desire for peace and considering the war in the former Yugoslavia, the world's first training program for civilian experts in crisis areas was offered by the peace centre; in 1995 it received the UNESCO Peace Prize. During the 2000s, the peace center contributed to fostering a conflict resolution-oriented generation of tomorrow by establishing a peace education programme.

In 2009, Schlaining became a City of Peace with the arrival of Sadako's crane. Since then, the symbol has been part of the logo of the peace centre, underlining its role as a meeting place where peace negotiations are organized and accom-

panied. Since 2020, it has been expanding its engagement as a peacemaker with conflict management projects in Iraq, Libya, and Sudan.



Anniversary celebration on 3 October 2022
© Foto Andi Bruckner

However, 2022, the year in which the peace centre celebrated its 40th anniversary, has shown that great power conflicts are more relevant than ever, and war is not a thing of the past - even in Europe. A return to the status quo ante is hardly imaginable, for this reason, peace work must also be rethought. Against this background, after a high-profile anniversary celebration with emotioingted contributions from a range of speakerson October 3, 2022, a two-day expert conference entitled „Peace Work in Transformation“ was organized around peace and security in Europe, focusing on



Anniversary celebration on 3 October 2022
© Foto Andi Bruckner

connections between the climate crisis, digital technologies, conflict and peace.



Advisory board meeting on 3 October 2022
© Foto Andi Bruckner

As part of a reorientation of the peace centre, the anniversary conference brought together various aspects from the previous State of Peace Conference and Summer Academy. Against this backdrop, the peace centre announced its name change and will henceforth operate under the name „Austrian Centre for Peace (ACP)“. In order to further realize its potential as an Austrian peace actor in the future, the ACP announced a new conference format - the Austrian Forum for Peace - inaugurated in 2023.



ACP-team, ACP-board und ACP-advisory board
© Foto Andi Bruckner

In addition to the name change, a new advisory board was established. This consists of 13 renowned personalities, who came together for the first time in Schlaining on October 3, 2023. For more information on the advisory board, please see page 10. The anniversary celebration on October 3 kicked off a two-day conference that took place from October 4 to October 5 and was attended by many supporters, friends, and long-time companions. The conference included lively and inspiring discussions as well as a film screening of the award-winning documentary „Dear Future Children“. The ACP welcomed around 150 guests to Schlaining Castle for these events.



Discussion at the anniversary conference from 3 to 5 October 2022



PODCAST

Inside Conflict
www.insideconflict.com

1.416 Downloads & Streams

f Reach: 56.822
t Impressions: 48.168
in Followers: 2.472

SOCIAL MEDIA

A NEW BOARD OF ADVISORS

Support in challenging times

In times so challenging for the idea of peace, the ACP invited a group of nationally and internationally esteemed and experienced personalities to advise its strategy and development. With their networks from across diplomacy, including the United Nations, the OSCE, the EU, the League of Arab States, as well as from academia and peacebuilding practice, they contribute to building partnership necessary for the work of the ACP.

With their expertise on conflict dynamics in different parts of the world, as well as thematic knowledge on relevant issues such as environmental peacebuilding or Peace-Tech they contribute to the development of innovation and new thinking in the work of the ACP. They contribute to its practical work by contributing their knowledge and experience at the ACP events and workshops, as well as by directly contributing to projects and initiatives.

During their meetings in 2022, the Advisory Board discussed issues of strategic importance with the management team of the ACP such as the possibility of developing offers for tertiary education in Stadtschlaining. Moreover, building on the successful experience of the 40-years Anniversary Conference, the Board discussed first conceptual ideas for a regular conference format called the "Austrian Forum for Peace" to be held in July 2023 for the first time.

In addition, individual members of the Advisory Board through their networks and advice contributed to developing new projects in the Persian Gulf and for the support of the OSCE. Others concretely supported initiatives in Sudan and Libya.

Angela Kane was High Representative of the UN for Disarmament Issues from 2012 to 2015. Previously, she had been Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs at the United Nations.

Annika Hansen is Head of Analysis at the Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF) in Berlin. From 2008 to 2016, she worked at the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

Ambassador **Bettina Muscheidt** has a long experience in EU

institutions, holding different positions in the EEAS, European Commission and EIB.

Ambassador **Christian Strohal** was director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the OSCE in Warsaw. He was also Austria's permanent representative at the United Nations in Geneva and to the OSCE in Vienna.

Cindy Wittke is the Head of the Political Science Research Group at the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies.

David Deng is a human rights lawyer who spent much of the last decade engaged in research and advocacy in South Sudan.

Emil Brix is an experienced Austrian diplomat and the Director of the Vienna School of International Studies since 2017.

Fatuma Ahmed Ali is an Associate Professor of International Relations at the United States International University – Africa (USIU-A), Nairobi, Kenya.

Ambassador **Hossam Zaki** is Assistant Secretary-General of the League of Arab States since 2016.

Jan Pospisil is Associated Professor at the University of Coventry.

Olivia Lazard is dedicated to environmental peacemaking and a fellow at Carnegie Europe

Mary Kaldor is Professor Emeritus of Global Governance and Director of the Conflict Research Programme at The London School of Economics and Political Science.

Werner Wintersteiner founded the »Centre for Peace Research and Peace Education« at Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt.

ABOUT US

The Austrian Centre for Peace (ACP)

The Austrian Centre for Peace (ACP) was founded in 1982 by Dr Gerald Mader and other like-minded people. We are located at Schlaining Castle in Southern Burgenland, with a second office in Vienna. Our work has earned us the status of UN "Peace Messenger" and a UNESCO "Prize for Peace Education".

Vision

Our vision is a world in which people with different backgrounds and circumstances are willing and able to recognise and address conflicts by non-violent, constructive, and sustainable means.

Mission

We support people so that they can engage in conflicts non-violently, constructively and sustainably. In doing so, we acknowledge the close interdependence between research on, education about, and the practice of conflict transformation. We conduct research projects on peace and security policy, are involved in mediation between conflict parties and engage in political consulting; we offer target group-oriented training programmes and advanced education for civilian experts and youth.

The ongoing advancement of innovative theory and practice is built upon a foundation of dialogue and cooperation with international institutions, networks, theoreticians and practitioners of conflict transformation.

Conflict Resolution

At the ACP, our conflict resolution team is dedicated to promoting peace through mediation and negotiation support, multitrack dialogues, and expert exchanges, focusing on the Middle East, Africa, and Eurasia. Our tailored peacebuilding initiatives aim to prevent conflict escalation and to facilitate conflict transformation in diverse settings, working with stakeholders from across divides and from all levels in society. Within Austria, we specialize in designing and leading inter and intracommunity mediation processes that seek to fur-

ther contribute to peaceful coexistence.

Whether at home or abroad, we are committed to transforming conflicts and facilitating peace processes that are adapted to the unique needs and circumstances of each conflict, guided by the values of human security and transformational peacemaking.

Research

In recent years, the environment and context for international actors engaging in violent conflict have changed considerably. The ACP research agenda aims to consider these changes and to focus on understanding possible consequences and shaping outcomes. Our research is also the basis for policy consulting. ACP publications include Policy Briefs and Reports.

Capacity Development

Our capacity development team focuses on two core areas: peace education and the training of civilian experts for peacebuilding and conflict transformation, who are or will be deployed in crisis regions. Every year more than 1,000 pupils participate in our peace education programmes, hundreds of civilian experts and humanitarian practitioners in line with the HDP-nexus approach are trained within our various training programmes including HAWA, IPT, the OSCE Summer Academy, and in the framework of the ESDC. On request we develop and offer tailor-made training courses.

MANAGEMENT
Moritz Ehrmann

TEAM
Adnan Baayo (until June 2022)
Anja Böck (September to October 2022)
Samuel Bahlisen
Bettina Beiglböck (since August 2022)
Mercedes Corrales (since February 2022)
Ilse Divosch
Ursula Gamauf-Eberhardt

Susanne J. Györög
 Jakob Herowitzsch (compulsory civilian service, since December 2022)
 Anna Hess (since September 2022)
 Claudia Hofer
 Walter Hofer
 Elisabeth Horvath
 Eva Huber
 Manuela Jerabek (until October 2022)
 Niklas Konrad (compulsory civilian service, until February 2022)
 Elke Marksteiner (until October 2022)
 Birgit Mayerhofer (until July 2022)
 Augustin Nicolescou
 Johanna Orthofer-Fichtner (until January 2022)
 Silvia Polster
 Jan Pospisil (until September 2022)
 Yerivan Pruscha
 Monika Psenner
 Julia Scharinger (until June 2022)
 Martina Tader
 Rebecca Trixa (since March 2022)
 Lukas Wank
 Wolfgang Weilharter

BOARD

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 Peter Kostelka (Honorary President)
 Christine Teuschler (1st Vice President)
 Johann Pucher (2nd Vice President)
 Markus Szelinger (3rd Vice President)
 Rudolf Luipersbeck (Cashier)
 Peter Steyrer (Board Member)

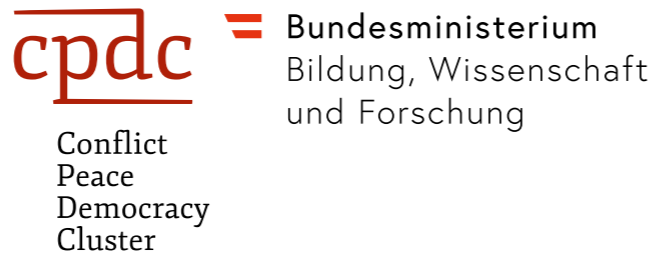
ADVISORY BOARD

Christian Strohal (Chairperson)
 Annika Hansen (Deputy Chairperson)
 Angela Kane (Deputy Chairperson)
 Fatuma Ahmed Ali (Member)
 Emil Brix (Member)
 David Deng (Member)
 M. H. Kaldor (Member)
 Olivia Lazard (Member)
 Bettina Muscheidt (Member)
 Jan Pospisil (Member)
 Werner Wintersteiner (Member)
 Cindy Wittke (Member)
 Hossam Zaki (Member)

CORE FUNDING



Sate of Burgenland
 Education, Culture and Research



OUR DONORS, CLIENTS, AND INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

Austrian Development Agency
 Austrian Federal Chancellery
 Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research
 Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs
 Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence
 Chamber of Labour Burgenland
 Diocese Eisenstadt
 Eidgenössisches Departement für auswärtige Angelegenheiten
 Energie Burgenland
 European Commission
 Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
 National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism
 Republic of Finland, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
 OSZE Österreich
 OSCE Delegations and Representations of Austria
 Travel Agency Taxi Sodl
 Royal Marechaussee Netherlands
 City of Graz
 City of Linz
 Community of Stadtschläining
 UK Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO)

OUR PARTNERS

Konflikt-Frieden-Demokratie-Cluster (CPDC)
 Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz
 Institut für Konfliktforschung
 Demokratiezentrum Wien
 Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt
 Aktionsbündnis Frieden, Aktive Neutralität und Gewaltfreiheit
 Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Friedens- und Konfliktforschung
 ARGUMENTO Kultur- und Kunstvermittlung
 Association for Historical Dialogue and Research
 Association of Researchers of EU Values in Education (AREVE)
 Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy
 B3 Bildung Beratung Begegnung – ÖAGG PD
 BAOBAB Globales Lernen
 Bildung2030
 Bildungsdirektion Burgenland
 BITrum - Research Group for the Interdisciplinary Study of Information
 British Academy
 Bruno Kreisky Forum für internationalen Dialog
 Burgenländische Forschungsgesellschaft
 CARE Österreich
 CARE Uganda
 Caritas Wien
 Centre for European Perspective
 Center for International Peace Operations
 Center for Science, Technology, and Society, Chulalongkorn University
 Challenge
 Club of Vienna
 Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability
 Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management
 Clingendael – Netherlands Institute for Internationale Relations
 Crisis Management Centre Finland
 Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO), South Sudan
 CONCENTRUM
 Conciliation Resources
 Department of System Analysis, Prague University of Economics and Business
 Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
 DETCRO Research and Advisory
 Die Werkstatt
 Diplomatische Akademie Wien
 Ecole Nationale d'Administration
 École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS)
 Egmont
 Economic Community of West African States
 Europahaus
 European External Action Service
 European Security and Defence College
 Europäische Union
 European Union Civilian Training Initiative – EUCTI
 FAS Research
 FH Burgenland - Department of Social Affairs
 Folke Bernadotte Academy
 Forum Computer Professionals for Peace and Social Responsibility (FlFF)
 Freuraum
 Fridays for Future Österreich
 Friedensbüro Salzburg
 Friedensbüro Linz
 Führungsakademie der deutschen Bundeswehr
 Geneva Academy
 Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces
 Geneva Centre for Security Policy
 Gesellschaft für Organisation, Planung und Ausbildung

Gesellschaft für psychoanalytische Sozialpsychologie
 Ground Truth Solutions
 GOPA, Worldwide Consultants
 Global Campaign for Peace Education
 Global Citizenship Alliance
 Global Youth Climate Pact & Center Edgar Morin, EHSS / CNRS, Paris, France
 Globale Verantwortung, Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Entwicklung und Humanitäre Hilfe
 Globart
 HABAQ for Human Rights Training and Development, Jordanien
 Herbert C. Kelman-Institut für Interaktive Konflikttransformation (HKI)
 Hilfswerk
 HSE University; Russia
 Humanitas Unisinos Institute (IHU)
 ICF Consulting
 Information Ethics for Africa
 Institute of Advanced Studies, Kőszeg
 Institute of Higher Education of the National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine
 Institute of Social Cohesion Development
 Instituto Humanitas Unisinos
 Internationaler Versöhnungsbund
 International Committee of the Red Cross
 International Convivialist Association (ICA)
 International Crisis Group
 IIP International Institute for Peace
 International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)
 International Institute of Social Studies
 International Security Sector Advisory Team
 Iraqi Center for Negotiation Skills and Conflict Management (IQCM)
 Jugend eine Welt
 Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC)
 Karl-Renner-Institut
 Kiev National Shevchenko University, Philosophy and Methodology of Science
 Kinder- und Jugendanwaltschaft Burgenland
 Kommando für Internationale Einsätze Götzensdorf
 Kreativ für Menschen e.V.
 Landesjugendreferat Burgenland
 Landesverband Bibliotheken Burgenland
 London School of Economics and Political Science
 Macau Ricci Institute at the University of St. Joseph, Macau
 MDF Training & Consultancy
 Menschen für Menschen
 National Governance Institute of Huazhong, University of Science and Technology
 National Pedagogical Dragomanov University, Faculty of Management of Education and Science
 National Research University-Higher School of Economics, School of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities
 National Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv
 NGO Committee on Peace Vienna
 North Atlantic Treaty Organization
 Oberwarter Siedlungsgenossenschaft (OSG)
 OHO Oberwart
 Open Land Lab
 Organisation für Sicherheit und Zusammenarbeit in Europa
 OSZE Akademie Bishkek
 Österreichischer Auslandsdienst
 Österreichische Frauenföderation für Weltfrieden
 Österreichische Gesellschaft für Umwelt und Technik
 Österreichisches Institut für Internationale Politik
 Österreichisches Jüdisches Museum

Österreichisches Rotes Kreuz
 Österreichische UNESCO Kommission
 Ottawa Dialogue
 Pädagogische Hochschule Burgenland
 Peace Appeal Foundation
 PeaceRep - The Peace and Conflict Resolution Evidence Platform
 PEN Austria & France
 REFORM
 R.E.F.U.G.I.U.S.
 Rothlin International CSR Consulting firm Ltd., Hong Kong and Beijing
 Royal Institute for International Relations
 Sarvodaya
 Saferworld
 School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University, Washington DC
 Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna
 SFU Berlin / Wien
 Shabka - The Strategic Think & Do Tank
 Sir Peter Ustinov Institut
 SOL – Menschen für Solidarität, Ökologie und Lebensstil
 SOS Kinderdorf Pinkafeld
 Sumy National Agrarian University
 Swiss Expert Pool for Civilian Peacebuilding
 Swispeace
 Terre des Hommes
 The Institute for a Global Sustainable Information Society
 GSIS
 The International Center for Advanced and Comparative EU-Russia (NIS) Research, Vienna
 Uganda Red Cross Society
 Ukrainian Synergetic Society
 UNESCO Chair on Global Citizenship Education, Uni Klagenfurt
 UNHCR
 UNICEF
 Universität Edinburgh
 Universität Koblenz-Landau
 Universität Wien – Institut für Politikwissenschaften
 University of Aberdeen
 University of Economics and Business, Prague
 University of Edinburgh, School of Law
 University of St Andrews
 United Nations Department of Peace Operations
 United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner
 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
 United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
 United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
 United Nations Standing Police Capacity
 United States Institute of Peace
 Verein OpenLandLab
 Verein Zukunft Schläining
 Volkshilfe Wien
 Volkshochschule Burgenland
 Volkshochschule der Burgenländischen Roma
 Weindylle
 Welthaus Innsbruck, Klagenfurt, Linz
 West Africa Network for Peacebuilding
 Zentralverband der Kärntner Slowenen (ZSO)
 Zentrum für Friedensforschung und Friedensbildung
 Zentrum für Internationale Friedenseinsätze
 Zentrum für soziale Kompetenz

CONFLICT RESOLUTION AT THE ACP

Our work and projects in the field of dialogue, mediation and conflict resolution

Dialogue in Iraq

Since September 2020 the ACP has organized an ongoing dialogue between politicians from across the Iraqi political spectrum to support national cohesion in Iraq and encourage the collaborative development of common visions and policy recommendations. Participants have praised this process for providing a zone for frank, open, respectful, and private exchanges within a national context characterised by high political polarisation and tension. In the Summer of 2022, the participants jointly produced a series of unique policy papers addressed to the Iraqi, and other governments, providing their consensus recommendations on achieving mutually beneficial foreign relations while safeguarding Iraq's sovereignty, political stability, and economic well-being. As the process's confidentiality is among its most important characteristics, and strengths, additional details cannot be shared.

Dialogue in Ninewa Province, Iraq

From the summer of 2021 to the Summer of 2022 ACP organized a social dialogue in the Hamdanyah District of Ninewa Province in Iraq to support social cohesion among the local community. Hamdanyah is a post-conflict zone, and an area of high demographic diversity, the traditional home of the Christian community in northern Iraq. There are tangible levels of tensions between various social components, many of whom were victims of IS, targeted because they are religious minorities when it swept through northern and western Iraq. Displacement and destruction of local infrastructure pose difficult livelihood challenges for all residents, and the introduction of new arms carriers, and a persistent IS insurgency are consistent threats. ACP has brought together an ethnically, religious, age, and gender-diverse group of community members to work together to jointly identify and discuss the most pressing challenges the district's residents face. During the process, the participants identified

women's reproductive health, IDP returns, and local municipal services as priorities on which they wish to collaborate. Working with residents the participants jointly developed recommendations for local authorities on these priority areas and implemented a 3-month advocacy campaign that resulted in approval from the Governor and health authorities in Ninewa province to re-open a delivery room of a health clinic, approval from Ninewa provincial and the Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government for the return of approximately 240 IDPs, and approval from provincial authorities to establish new localities administrative units to facilitate the provision of local services and reduce social tension. All the while, the participants built relationships, social capital, and networks across ethnic and sectarian lines, as they pursued common goals.

Conflicts around Water in Libya: De-escalation through Environmental Peacebuilding

The situation in Libya since the fall of the Gaddafi regime and the country's fragmented governance from that point on have further complicated infrastructure development and related social conflicts. IPCC reports confirm that Libya is one of the countries hardest and fastest hit by the climate crisis. After more than a decade of war and conflict, there is no adaptation plan in place. The climate crisis is therefore likely to increasingly become one of the most important causes of conflict, with rising water scarcity at the centre.

Libya's two western provinces, Tripolitania and Fezzan, are linked by the Man-Made River Water Infrastructure Project. Over the past decade, this essential lifeline has been undermined by fighting, theft, sabotage and neglect, a reflection of great frustration among southern communities and other unresolved conflicts.

From November 2020 the Austrian Centre for Peace (ACP) has been conducting a dialogue initiative with stakeholders in western Libya, supported by the Austrian Development Agency and the Austrian Ministry for European and Inter-

national Affairs, with the goal of mitigating conflicts around access to water, with a particular focus on the Man-Made-River water pipeline system.

Nine workshops were held with representatives of central and local authorities and communities, academics and civil society in southern and north-western Libya. Over 50% of participants were female.

In addition, the ACP led discussions aimed to create a buy-in for the project with essential policy makers. The key findings were outlined by Tareq Al-Zabet (International Water Resources Consultant) in the WATER RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE BUILDING REPORT.

There is a general frustration amongst stakeholders in the south, perceiving the Man-Made-River model as unsustainable and causing a complete depletion of their ground water resources.

Furthermore, all sides confirmed the necessity of structured and constructive dialogue between the southern and northern areas to share perspectives, while the lack of awareness about these was striking.

A frightening lack of sustainable water resources planning and an even more frightening lack of awareness of the urgency of this deficiency by actors concerned were identified. In a future initiative the ACP aims to establish a structured and constructive dialogue on water-related issues between stakeholders across the provinces of Fezzan and Tripolitania, supported by knowledge generation on strengthening climate resilience regarding the hydrological eco-system in southern Libya. In the field of knowledge generation, the ACP will place reliance upon PeaceEye, a conflict management tool that provides analytical support by integrating existing geospatial data sets, creating individual Earth-observation based analysis, using Geo-Social-Media for sentiment analysis and providing an exchange platform to integrate local knowledg.

Communal Peace and Conflict Work in Burgenland

In 2021 we obtained funding from the provincial government of Burgenland to start an exciting new neighbourhood and community mediation project. Over the course of the first mediation cycle, we focused on gathering valuable insights and experience to further showcase the benefits of the Municipal Peace and Conflict Work project in Burgenland. Since the beginning of the project, ACP mediators worked on eight neighbourhood mediations, involving between two and 30 conflict parties. These ranged from an Oberwart housing cooperative to individual communities, including the Burgenland provincial government.

After completing the first cycle, we drew the following conclusions:

- An interest and a need exist to deal with neighbourhood conflicts with external support.
- Neighbourhood conflicts are brought to the attention of mayors and councillors in both small and large communities.
- Neighbourhood mediations are accepted and can be successfully handled.

Based on these first positive experiences, we initiated further negotiations with potential funders as well as the University of Applied Sciences Burgenland to ensure adequate financial and scientific support for future project cycles.

One of the key factors of success in this area is active citizen participation. Over the course of the initial project cycle, our aim was to develop and offer new forms of dialogue, particularly to address municipal conflicts and controversial issues. Prime examples of active citizen participation are citizen councils as established in Ireland as well as in the Austrian province of Vorarlberg. These formats aim to promote the virtue of consultation and deliberate participation as well as to reach out to disappointed citizens who have turned their backs on the political process.



Resolving neighbourhood conflicts through ACP support - Mediator Heidemaria Korbatis, ACP-Project Manager Wolfgang Weilharter, ACP-President Norbert Darabos, Head of the OSG legal department Petra Bencsics, Mediator Lisa Maj Pertl and OSG Chairman Alfred Kollar

To gain further insights into citizens' views and municipal officials' interests, we hosted a series of discussions in cooperation with the "Burgenland Volkshochschule", which revealed a clear interest in continuing the project.

South Sudan und Uganda

Since December 2021 ACP has been implementing a project aimed at strengthening the resilience of conflict affected communities in Northern Uganda and Central Equatoria, South Sudan, with funds from the Austrian Development Agency. The project is implemented jointly by ACP and humanitarian and development NGOs, following the HDP nexus approach for the first time. ACP as the only peace actor in the consortium was responsible for developing a conflict analysis and stakeholder mapping for the project areas in both countries.

The majority of conflicts identified in the Ugandan refugee settlements (target areas) occurred between refugees and host communities, or among the refugee communities, and were linked to competition about natural resources and/or access to land, the distribution of services and goods, and domestic and gender-based violence. For South Sudan, ACP found that women and girls are disproportionately affected by conflicts as they are, on one hand, targeted, raped, ab-

ducted, and killed, and on the other hand, become the sole breadwinners and caregivers of their households in the absence of their partners. Insecurity and violence have also disproportionately affected vulnerable people and the lack of progress on governance and peacebuilding, combined with reduced regional economic activity and increased pressure on public finances, is likely to result in continued localized and sub-national violence with armed groups fighting for control over territory and resources.

The analysis resulted in specific recommendations for the project partners which have been under implementation since, such as the integration of gender sensitivity and conflict analysis into the planning, design, and implementation of both humanitarian and development interventions. Moreover, ACP emphasised the importance of border peace meetings and dialogues to resolve inter-communal conflicts along the border of Uganda and South Sudan.

Additionally, ACP designed and delivered a train-the-trainers course on conflict sensitivity and the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus for local project partners

PODCAST



Podcast Inside Conflict
www.insideconflict.com

- Inside Sudan
- Inside Israeli-Palestinian Worldview
- Inside Iraq

which enhanced their capacity to do conflict analysis and apply a peace lens to their humanitarian and development programming.

IRAQ *since 2020* Dialogue for the Future of the Political Process in Iraq

IRAQ - NINEWA *since 2021* Dialogue for Societal Cohesion in Iraq

LIBYA *since 2021* Dialogue Contributing to the De-Escalation of Water-Related Issues in Libya

AUSTRIA - BURGENLAND *since 2020* Communal Peace and Conflict Work in Burgenland

SOUTH SUDAN AND UGANDA *since 2021* Strengthening resilience across borders through coordinated action in South Sudan and Uganda



CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN WEST AFRICA

Phase IV

According to an assessment by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, over 24.4 million people in the Sahel region needed assistance in 2022, about six million more than in 2021. The humanitarian situation has deteriorated considerably in most of target countries of the HAWA project. They are experiencing a crucial period marked by multiple and intertwined crises. Part of the response to this combination of multifaceted crises is the urgent need to strengthen humanitarian assistance, particularly by creating strategic partnerships between actors and harmonizing their actions. The Capacity Building for Humanitarian Assistance in West Africa (HAWA) project was designed with this in mind. It still aims to ensure that mid- and long-run capacity-building goals are met and to this end, it places particular emphasis on ensuring that its capacity-building activities correspond to the real needs of the humanitarian systems of the beneficiary countries.



Multiplier-workshop in Ziguinchor, Senegal © WANEP

Back to Business as Usual at the KAIPTC

The lifting of COVID restrictions have facilitated the resumption of activities at the KAIPTC. Regarding the HAWA-Women Peace Security program at the KAIPTC, online onboarding sessions to familiarize HAWA Core Course trainers with the revised course program and focus on the WPS Agenda were carried out during the first half of the year 2022. 32 participants (44% women, 56% men) from 15 countries at-

tended the HAWA- WPS core course in May 2022. Women participation was higher for the French HAWA - WPS Trainer of Trainers (ToT) which welcomed 20 participants (70% women, 30% men). And finally, 11 female professionals completed the Women's Empowerment Component workshop. We should emphasize that 7 out of 14 course trainers are themselves HAWA course alumni.



Multiplier-workshop in Ziguinchor, Senegal © WANEP

Gender-responsive Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plans

Multiplier Module Workshops were conducted in Boucle du Mouhoun located in Burkina Faso; in the region of Kita in Mali; and in Ziguinchor situated in the region of Casamance. The outcome of this activity was successful, participants were able to co-draft local disaster risk reduction action plans based on their own expertise combined with the knowledge acquired about gender sensitive DRR Mechanisms. These local action plans are in line with the ECOWAS DRR and Gender Strategy and Action Plan. Strengthening the resilience of communities is crucial to minimizing the damaging effects of disasters and reducing the possibility of future humanitarian crises. In this context, gender mainstreaming is not only a way to ensure that intersectional needs of affected communities are met, but it is also a strategic investment to build strong resilient communities considering the three key pillars of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

INTERNATIONAL CIVILIAN PEACE-BUILDING TRAINING PROGRAMME

From Stadtschlaining into the world - civil peace workers

Cooperation with the Austrian Service Abroad (ÖAD)

In May 2022, the Austrian Foreign Service (ÖAD) brought 40 young adults to the Schlaining Peace Castle to prepare them for their tasks in peace work as part of a tailored IPT course. For their worldwide activities in the service of Austria, they addressed the essential paradigms of peace work and the resulting action strategies. The aim was also to raise awareness of global injustices and to reflect on them in an action-oriented manner. The four-day training focused on partnership and transcultural approaches to cooperation.



IPT Online

Amidst the pandemic, an extensive online course offering in IPT has been designed to provide accessible learning opportunities. This includes, among other things, the professional online basic course on "Gender, Peace and Security", which is an integral part of the IPT portfolio. In November 2022, 22 participants from 17 nations came together for this three-week course, familiarizing themselves with fundamental concepts related to gender in the field of peace promotion and its holistic application. The course also prioritized gender-sensitive project planning and effective participation strategies.

Environmental Peacebuilding

We are constantly enhancing the IPT program to optimally prepare professionals in peace work for emerging developments and global challenges. In this context, there is a strong emphasis on the ACP focus topic "Environmental Peacebuilding". Initial considerations for the development of an IPT specialization course on the topic took place in late 2022 and were centred around the need to provide professionals with insights into the complex relationships between climate, environment, peace, and conflict.



EU-TRAININGS

Globally active and connected

European Union Civilian Training Initiative (EUCTI)

EUCTI is a three-year program funded by the European Union under the Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Crisis Preparedness component of its Instrument for Stability and Peace (IcSP). The program reports to the EUCTG, the European Council's Civilian Training Group.

The ACP is part of the EUCTI consortium, which is composed of eight European partner organizations and led by the Slovenian Centre for European Perspective (CEP). The EUCTI program aims to strengthen the capacity of civilian crisis management and stabilization missions, whose success depends on the availability of competent and skilled personnel. Building on the lessons learned from its predecessor ENTRI, EUCTI focuses on training civilian crisis management personnel already in the respective countries of operation, primarily those of the European CSDP missions, as well as on the specific training needs of international civilian crisis management missions.

In the second year of the program's implementation, the ACP played a key role in leading the evaluation working group and supported the evaluation of all program activities. The objective of the Evaluation Working Group is to analyze and evaluate all EUCTI training activities in a timely and

coordinated manner based on a standard evaluation methodology and including gender mainstreaming aspects. The EUCTI evaluation framework, therefore, includes multiple methods to assess the learning success and to utilize the results of the assessments of all stakeholders and participants. The evaluation framework thus ensures the consistent assessment of all EUCTI activities and contributes to the continuous harmonization of training activities. Based on this approach, the ACP supported the evaluations of eleven trainings of the consortium partners in 2022 and was able to determine a generally very high satisfaction of the participants in the different trainings.

EU Police and Civilian Services Training (EUPCST)

EUPCST is an EU-funded program that aimed to strengthen the capacity of the EU, Member States and third countries in the field of civilian crisis management. The actual training activities ended at the end of 2022. Representatives of the police and gendarmerie as well as non-governmental organizations were part of the consortium. EUPCST was led by the Dutch Royal Marechaussee. Between May and June 2022, the ACP conducted a four-week online course on gender, peace, and security for twenty participants. The course

was developed and delivered in partnership with the Guardia Civil/Spain and the Guarda Nacional Republicana/Portugal, and targeted police, civilian, and military experts deployed in peacebuilding operations and complex emergencies. The systematic analysis of the evaluations and feedback that followed the course showed a high level of satisfaction as well as learning success of our participants. A special added value resulted from the close cooperation between a non-governmental peace institute, the ACP, and governmental police and gendarmerie organisations. Thus, this training also contributed significantly to improved cooperation between civilian and state actors in civil conflict transformation.

EU Aid Volunteers (EUAV)

The EU Aid Volunteers training programme offered EU citizens the opportunity to participate in humanitarian aid projects by working in third countries. In 2022, the ACP, as part of a consortium that originally developed this pre-deployment training and adapted the diverse curriculum with its different methods to the new circumstances of the pandemic, trained 26 volunteers to prepare them for their respective assignments. Successful completion of a preparatory training - consisting of an online and a classroom component - is a prerequisite for being sent to a third country within the framework of the programme. The training was competency-based and consisted of an introduction to humanitarian aid, safety management, first aid, project management, intercultural sensitivity and a number of other optional modules. The training was concluded with an elaborate scenario-based simulation exercise in which the candidates had to successfully apply their acquired skills.

The ESDC-Courses return to Schlaining Castle

After a two-year break due to the renovations and the Corona-related online courses, the ESDC courses returned to Schlaining Castle in 2022. While registration for the two spring courses was still manageable, the autumn courses

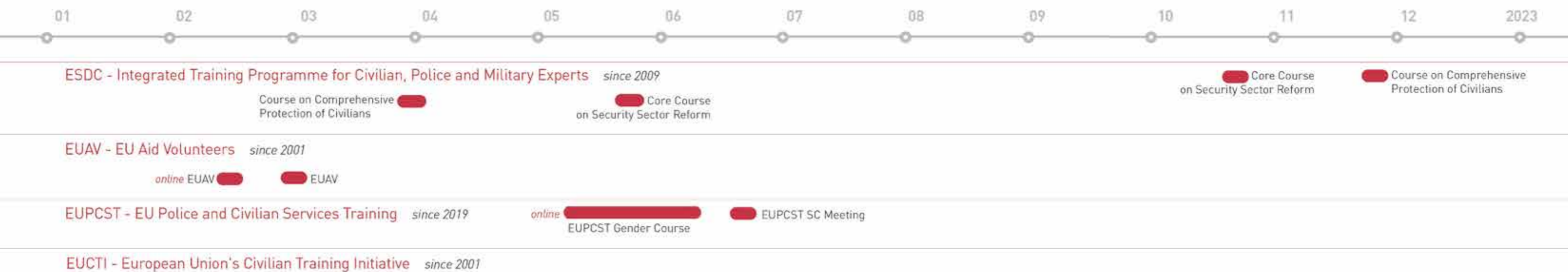
once more had their usual high numbers of participants. For the first time, the participants were able to benefit from the newly equipped and technically optimised seminar rooms at Schlaining Castle, enjoyed its newly illuminated structure and, of course, the renovated hotel.



The ACP's ESDC courses continued to be able to count on many of its long-standing, returning trainers, who were very pleased with the newly renovated castle and the improved technical equipment of the seminar facilities. Among the participants, there were some who were recommended to attend by colleagues, or even who were coming to another course themselves.

The ACP was particularly pleased about the personal participation of the ESDC Training Managers in the courses at the castle: the colleagues from Brussels supervise the ESDC courses technically and ensure the quality in terms of EU standards.

Even though the journey is long, the seclusion of Stadtschlaining, the tranquility and the unique ambience of the castle were judged to be the ideal place for the courses - as in previous years: concentrating on learning content, consolidating what has been learned with colleagues and, above all, networking succeed particularly well at the Peace Castle.



STRENGTHENING SOCIAL COHESION IN TEKNAF

Local Mediation in the context of the Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh

The conflict mitigation aspect of the Terre des hommes (Tdh) project titled „Conflict Mitigation and MHPSS Support in Teknaf Sub-District” was collaboratively devised by Tdh and the ACP, with funding provided by the GIZ. This endeavor was developed during the third year of the Rohingya refugee crisis, a period fraught with mounting challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and increasingly restrictive regulations put in place by the government of Bangladesh. Confronted with these hurdles, Tdh and ACP found it necessary to reassess and redesign the project within tight time constraints. To tackle this situation, a team of Tdh’s Bangladeshi staff underwent specialized training in conflict transformation and community engagement, conducted by the ACP. The ACP team consisted of two staff members and three skilled external trainers who have significant experience in working with refugee communities. The Tdh team, working as the Tdh Social Cohesion Team, capitalized on this training to educate and empower over 150 members from both the local Bangladeshi and Rohingya refugee communities. From these participants, 20 were identified and recruited to form a local mediator team, receiving additional training delivered by the Tdh SCT team with the support of the ACP team.

gement and participation. The local mediator team, having taken the lead, established a self-administered local mediator’s office within the refugee camp. Functioning in tandem with the Tdh Social Cohesion team, the local mediator contingent engaged in more than 30 instances of local community conflicts.



SCT team members engaged in group work during the ACP training

This undertaking showcased promising strategies for tackling community-based conflicts. It prioritized community involvement, while also optimizing the use of limited resources through the application of local mediation as a participatory instrument. This approach not only can offer insights into where these resources can have the most profound effects but also underscores the potential of local mediation as a conduit for achieving this goal, and demonstrates to the local community that community mediation goes beyond just dialogue, and can yield concrete positive changes on the ground.



Training by an SCT team member for Rohingya community members in one of the Teknaf refugee camps

Moreover, a complementary initiative targeted 320 women hailing from both the local and refugee communities. This program was oriented towards fostering community enga-

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF PEACE OPERATIONS TRAINING CENTRES

Conference on European training capacities



In 2022, the Austrian Centre for Peace hosted the annual conference of the European Association of Peace Operations Training Centres (EAPTC). Every year, members of this European association meet to share experiences, discuss innovative approaches, and strengthen European and international partnerships in crisis management training. The conception and preparation of the content took place in exchange with a small group of representatives of member



organisations („Group of Friends”) in regularly held virtual coordination meetings. In May 2022, after the previous year’s virtual conference due to the pandemic, participants from various European regions gathered at the Peace Castle once again from May 10 to 12. Virtual participation was also possible for selected sessions. The content included not only the focus topics of the Austrian Peace Centre, Environmental Peacebuilding and PeaceTech but also topics such

as knowledge management and possible lessons learned from the implementation and termination of the Afghanistan mission by international actors in terms of cross-actor coordination and the nexus between humanitarian aid, development, and peace. Other highlights included the fireside chat on the impact of the Russian war in Ukraine, moderated by ACP-Director Moritz Ehrmann, and the marketplace format, which gave ACP and its EAPTC partners the opportunity to



present their own innovative approaches and pilot projects. As a symbolic gesture to mark the official conclusion of the conference, a paper peace crane was ceremonially presented to the European Security and Defense College (ESDC), the EAPTC host 2023.



Fotos: © EAPTC

OSCE

Dialogue on rethinking security and peace in Europe

Developments since February 2022 call into question our understanding of peaceful coexistence and cooperative security on the European continent. Many boundaries have been crossed, and irreversible steps have been taken. In light of this, a return to the status quo ante is hardly imaginable. European security affairs have shifted back a zero-sum game.

Since 1995, the Summer Academy on the OSCE had been one of the central educational activities at in Schlaining. After two years of pandemic, the developments of 2022 caused another interruption. The war of aggression on Ukraine not only prevented the training event from taking place again but has also severely impacted the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) - to an extent that certain analysts have questioned the mid-term survival of the organization. At the same time, the OSCE remains the only regional organization providing a platform for Russian, Ukrainian, American and European diplomats to exchange views and proposals in relevant formats.

Under these fundamentally changed circumstances, the ACP organized several opportunities for experts, diplomats and OSCE functionaries and the wider interested public to exchange and inspire each other.

Five online sessions took place from March to June 2022. These covered topics around the Ukraine war and its impact on the European Security Architecture; the question of whether cooperation was in crisis and whether lessons from the past could offer alternatives for the present and future were discussed in depth. Special online formats were dedicated to the newly defined ACP guiding themes of PeaceTech and Environmental Peacebuilding.

The discussions featured high-ranking diplomatic representatives and experts on cooperative security, such as Walter Kemp, Christian Strohal, William Hill, Igli Hasani, Olivia Lazard, Roxana Cristescu or David Lanz.

All online dialogues attracted a large international audience and fellow discussants. Thus, despite the pandemic, war and travel restrictions, the ACP was able to make a key contribu-

tion to the international discourse.

High-ranking OSCE diplomats and international experts engaged in controversial and constructive discussions. In total, about 300 people participated in the dialogues.

- **War in Ukraine: Break-down of the European Security Architecture?** – with Christian Strohal, Walter Kemp and Renate Korber
- **Environmental Dialogue: Conflicts Through Climate Change?** – with Igli Hasani and Olivia Lazard
- **If rethinking security is necessary in Europe, rethinking peace is even more so** – with Roxana Cristescu, Claudio Habicht and David Lanz
- **Cooperation in Crisis: Can we still talk and work together?** – with Monika Wohlfeld and Walter Kemp
- **Will the OSCE survive? Learning from the past, the present, and other international organizations** – mit Jelena Cupać, Steffen Eckhard, Mette Eilstrup-Sangiovanni, William Hill, Vytautas Jankauskas und Andrei Zagorski

In addition, the ACP was able to make use of the safe platform at the Peace Castle in Schlaining, offering facilitated dialogue for the benefit of a range of actors involved in addressing issues of security and peace in Europe, away from the complex dynamic in Vienna. During the three dialogue meetings that took place in 2022, civil society experts from among the most prestigious European organizations, diplomats, and representatives of regional and international organizations discussed necessary steps towards security, cooperative security and ultimately peace in Europe, as well as ways to strengthen the role of the OSCE in this process. In the complex situation for European security in 2022, these meetings contributed to provide orientation and guidance and continue in 2023.

7 DAYS FOR PEACE

Peace begins within me

In 2022, a devastating conflict near Austria sparked strong emotional responses including fear, insecurity, helplessness, and anger. These emotions continue to be felt, as individuals seek to understand and find hope amidst the turmoil. Refugees fleeing from conflict zones often bring with them traumatic experiences, and those seeking to help them may feel at a loss for how to provide assistance. The pandemic has only added to the already overwhelming stress, fear, and uncertainty experienced by many individuals. Additionally, concerns regarding sustainability and climate change have been reignited, further compounding the challenges faced



by society. In contrast, author and historian Andreas Kossert provided a fresh perspective on the topic of migration in his book „Flight - a human history“. The “7 Days for Peace 2022” event aimed to address these pressing issues through a series of workshops, readings, and a conference, promoting a message of hope and unity in the face of adversity. It is crucial to recognise that humanity has overcome difficult times in the past and can do so again, with the understanding that peace must begin within us and among each other.

Peace Conference: Of Flight and Freedom - Peace Begins in Me

The renowned refugee researcher Judith Kohlenberger from Burgenland dedicated her keynote speech to the “Paradoxes of Flight”. The topic of “Flight and Asylum” is characterized by three central paradoxes, which are currently being highlighted daily.

- **The asylum paradox:** We propagate a right to asylum, but at the same time do everything to make access to this right increasingly difficult.
- **The refugee paradox:** On the one hand, refugees are expected to show resilience and personal responsibility, while at the same time, refugees are supposed to be the weakest and most in need of protection to deserve this protection.
- **The integration paradox:** The further integration progresses, the „better“ it succeeds, and the more visible / successful migrants become, the more conflicts and debates about integration.

The researcher impressed the approximately 170 listeners with the insoluble paradoxes and other contradictions, as well as opportunities inherent to the topic of flight.

In the second part, Ronny Kokert presented his story “The path of freedom - How I learned to settle in from Refugees” and his experience in refugee aid. When martial arts world champion Ronny Kokert launched his “Freedom Fighters” project in 2016, he had no idea what an incredible journey he was about to embark on: Training with young war refugees confronted him not only with their fears, doubts and hopes but also with his own. Their shared “Path of Freedom” led from the refugee camp through title fights and asylum proceedings to the hell of Moria - forcing one to look in the mirror. Kokert told a very personal story of dealing with anger and failure, but also of self-acceptance, fellow humanity and overcoming the past. His interactive presentation of this story was experienced by the audience as touching and inspiring.



WEBSITE

www.ac4p.at

21.300 users
in 176 countries

PEACE WEEKS

Record year for (mobile) Peace Weeks

The pandemic, together with its restrictions such as lockdowns, reduction of social contacts, etc., had a noticeable impact on society. This was particularly evident in the schools. Therefore, once external projects were possible again, there was a real rush for the Peace Weeks at the ACP. It is therefore not surprising that 2022 was the strongest year in terms of attendance. Nearly 2,700 young participants attended this unique peace education project at the ACP. While most classes went directly to the Peace Castle to work on "small peace" in their environment; some opted for mobile peace days in their respective schools due to time and/or financial constraints.

The main concerns were similar for all attendees of the Peace Weeks:

- "Non-violent communication": due to homeschooling and social distancing, students got a bit out of practice in the area of interpersonal skills. Communication is known to be the easiest way to connect with others and understand the other person. In this module, talking to each other, expressing oneself and, above all, listening were practised very intensively and in a playful manner.
- "Non-violent conflict management": using innovative methods, students learn and practice accepting conflicts as an opportunity for improvement without using violence, to work together creatively and courageously to create something new that benefits everyone involved.
- „Teambuilding“: this module aims to help classes become an appreciative community again through interactive training, where re-

spectful interaction becomes routine, and a good and safe learning environment is created together for all involved.

The Peace Weeks received a highly positive evaluation report. It is gratifying to observe that issues are not only acknowledged but also collaboratively addressed and resolved, as exemplified by the initiatives undertaken during the Peace Weeks.

By December 2022, the ACP's largest peace education project attracted the participation of more than 17,600 students from diverse regions across Austria. Launched in 2007, the project has been dedicated to providing age- and knowledge-appropriate training in conflict resolution, peace promotion, social skills, violence prevention, appreciative communication, and sustainable team building. The project aims to foster a holistic approach by addressing knowledge/content, skills/abilities, and attitude/attitudes.



In summary, although some of the problems and challenges have changed due to the pandemic, the need for peace education in this context has increased significantly.

MEDIA REVIEW

79 Mentions

44 Online & Print
25 Video & TV
10 Radio & Podcast

PEACEREP

Peace and Conflict Resolution Evidence Platform

Since October 2021, ACP has once again been part of a renowned international research network that aims to study peace and transition processes comparatively and implement adequate PeaceTech components. The six-year project, funded by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, is led by Professor Christine Bell at the University of Edinburgh and includes the ACP, the London School of Economics and Political Science, Conciliation Resources and International IDEA as partner institutions.

What makes peace processes successful? Can such success be measured? What do peace processes trigger beyond the visible organizational level? Do they succeed in replacing logics of conflict with logics of peace? And finally, what role can technology play in supporting such processes?

These are the research questions that the Peace and Conflict Resolution Evidence Platform (PeaceRep, www.peacerep.org) has set out to address. Building on several years of preliminary work by the Political Settlements Research Programme, led by Christine Bell at the University of Edinburgh, which has produced, among other things, the PA-X Peace Process Database (www.peaceagreements.org), and the Conflict Research Programme, led by Mary Kaldor at the London School of Economics, PeaceRep will seek to rewrite international perceptions and expectations of peace processes. Instead of an often idealistic understanding of the establishment of a functional democratic state as the essential criterion for successful peacebuilding, the project aims to focus on a pragmatic orientation toward concrete steps that positively advance a transition and entail a rewriting of the socio-political logics of action.

The six-year research project is based on two elements: On the one hand, it aims to support a conceptual shift that understands peace as a multiscale project and breaks with the focus on nation-states that continues to dominate peace negotiations. Peace processes often take place in highly fragmented state entities, the institutional unification of which would only exacerbate lines of conflict. At the same

time, the role of local peace processes in various conflict regions has become much more important in recent years, a trend that PeaceRep is focusing on.

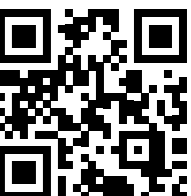
Building on previous experience with the PA-X peace process database, PeaceRep also sees itself as an international PeaceTech hub. Particularly in questions of innovative data generation and data analysis (such as Big Data analysis of text sources based on self-learning analysis software), as well as innovative and interactive data presentation, PeaceRep aims to break new ground and advance the international state of research.

In addition to academic publications, PeaceRep is committed to making its research accessible to public stakeholders in peacebuilding. In addition to the U.K. Foreign and Commonwealth Office, FCDO, which is the direct project counterpart, it is planned to make research findings available in particular to international organizations such as the United Nations and regional organizations.

RESEARCH NETWORK



www.peacerep.org
PeaceRep is a peace and conflict resolution research consortium



3C-WORKSHOPS

Austria's contribution to the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus

As part of the 3C process, the ACP regularly organises security policy workshops to bring together stakeholders from ministries and civil society organisations. The basis for this dialogue forum is the Vienna 3C Appeal from 2009, which outlines a coordinated approach by government institutions from the fields of diplomacy, development policy, the military, financial and economic policy, the police and the judiciary, as well as non-governmental organisations from the fields of development cooperation, humanitarian aid, human rights protection and peacebuilding. Two 3C workshops were held in 2022.

BURKINA FASO - PROMOTING DIALOGUE PROCESSES AND GOVERNANCE

Burkina Faso is struggling with a threatened security situation due to jihadist activities, local conflicts and external armed actors, especially in the Sahel region, to which state structures are unable to respond adequately. Added to this are internally refugees and humanitarian crises.

Institutional cooperation and local ownership in the HDP nexus are a challenge at all levels. Humanitarian and military engagement have the same goal, the protection of the civilian population, and both approaches are mutually dependent. The 3C workshop on 20 and 21 May 2022 in Vienna aimed to motivate Austrian actors from all sectors to cooperate. At the UN level, the greatest interest in the HDP nexus lies in food security, which is an even greater problem after the Covid pandemic, and the reduction of climate-related threats.

At the EU level, in addition to providing financial aid, the aim is to stabilise the situation in the country. Austria is active in all areas of the nexus, militarily within the framework of a multilateral training programme. However, it is cautious about local cooperation. During the workshop it was discussed that the expansion of Austria's military presence on the ground would be helpful for its actors, as many NGOs also adapt to the project focus. Two other ideas were developed as well. One would be to find means of fostering social cohesion and resilience against radicalisation, and the other would be to promote dialogue in the area of governance and security.

OPERATIONALISING THE HDP NEXUS - The „small p“ and the „big P“

The second 3C workshop on 17 November 2023 in Vienna also focused on the African continent, where recurring environmental, economic, political and social crises have significantly increased instability in recent years and the intervention logic should be reconsidered. Therefore, in the course of operationalising the HDP nexus, the importance of peacebuilding through civil peacebuilding („small p“) and the inclusion of security actors or peace operations („big P“) were discussed on the basis of this region. In addition to an evaluation of the importance of the nexus for Austria and its implementation in the ADC focus countries on the African continent, starting points for potential Austrian engagement in the nexus were identified.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
ACP	Austrian Centre for Peace
AU	African Union
BD	Burgenland Department of Education
BMEIA	Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe and International Affairs
BMLV	Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence
CPD, CPDC	Conflict-Peace-Democracy-Cluster
CPOC	Comprehensive Protection of Civilians
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ENTRI	Europe's New Training Initiative for Civilian Crisis Management
ESDC	European Security and Defence College
EU	European Union
EUAV	European Union Aid Volunteers Initiative
EUCTG	European Union Civilian Training Group
EUCTI	European Union Civilian Training Initiative
EUPCST	European Union Police and Civilian Service Training
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HAWA	Humanitarian Assistance in West Africa
HDP Nexus	Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus
ICEUR-Vienna	The International Center for Advanced and Comparative EU-Russia (NIS) Research, Vienna
IIP	International Institute for Peace
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
IPT	International Civilian Peacebuilding and Peacekeeping Training Programme
IQCM	Iraqi Center for Negotiation Skills and Conflict Management
KAIPTC	Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
KIJA	Ombudsoffice for Children and Youth Burgenland
LVak	Landesverteidigungsakademie (National Defence Academy)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
ÖAD	Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation
OSZE, OSCE	Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PH	Pädagogische Hochschule (Pedagogic Academy)
POC	Protection of Civilians
PSRP	Political Settlements Research Programme
SFU	Sigmund Freud University
SSR	Security Sector Reform
StoP	State of Peacebuilding-Conference
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNMISS	UN-Peacemission
UN RCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolutions
USIP	United States Institute of Peace
VIC	Vienna International Centre
VN, UN	United Nations
WPS	Woman Peace Security
ZBG	Bilingual Federal Grammar School



OBITUARY

Arno Truger, 20 August 1947 - 15 March 2022

A FIGHTER FOR THE CIVIL WAYS TO PEACE





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