

Conference: 30 June - 3 July 2025
Peace Castle Schlaining



Peace in Crisis

Challenges and Opportunities
for a World in Transition



#Peaceforum

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Austrian Forum for Peace 2025: Peace in Crisis

Challenges and Opportunities for a World in Transition

Peace is not just in crisis — it is at a turning point. With violent conflicts at record level, the climate emergency, the decline of liberal democracy and shrinking space for civil society are fuelling instability. Polarization, misinformation and propaganda further deepen divisions, eroding trust and weakening multilateral responses. In a world where narratives shape politics as much as policies, the manipulation of information has become a powerful weapon, undermining peace efforts and democratic resilience. As conflicts rage across regions, organisations and individuals are hard pressed to safeguard that current and future technologies find their place in shaping peace instead of warping conflict for worse.

From Ukraine to Gaza, Sudan to the Sahel, today's crises are more complex, fragmented, and interconnected than ever before. Meanwhile, new geopolitical actors are challenging existing power structures, and multilateral cooperation is weakening. The UN's Pact for the Future and the New Agenda for Peace seek to renew global commitments to peace, security and sustainable development. But how can these principles be turned into action when the very foundations of democracy, dialogue and cooperation are under threat?

The Austrian Forum for Peace 2025, under the theme "Peace in Crisis", will bring together policymakers, civil society actors, peace practitioners, researchers, journalists and educators to examine how peace efforts can evolve both locally and worldwide. As conflict dynamics shift and democratic spaces shrink, there is an urgent need to rethink peace efforts—

strengthening civil society, rebuilding trust in multilateralism and fostering resilience through education and engagement.

As traditional peace efforts are being tested, this forum will provide a space for critical dialogue, new strategies and fresh perspectives. It will connect global and local voices, foster alliances, and contribute to redefining peacebuilding for an unpredictable future.

The Austrian Forum for Peace (AFP) was established in 2023 as a new format to discuss established and emerging approaches to conflict work and peacebuilding and to contribute to the global search for sustainable peace within a new emerging world order. The first AFP attracted about 400 participants from 30 countries and five continents.

Its various formats—including keynote speeches, panel discussions and thematic workshops—will greatly benefit from the diverse experience, approaches and perspectives of the invited experts. The Austrian Forum for Peace will also be open to university students and members of the general public interested in the future of peace.

Event Schedule

30th June

Opening

Languages: German and English (with interpretation)

09:00 to 12:30 **Workshops*** (closed)

13:00 to 14:00 **Lunch**

Location: Burghotel

14:00 to 16:45 **Workshops*** (closed)

17:00 to 19:00 **Opening Segment**

Location: Granarium

Music by: Quintett Torre

Opening

Tobias Lang

Welcome Address

Norbert Darabos

Opening Speech

Hans Peter Doskozil

Keynote

From Crisis To Peace - Der israelisch-palästinensische Friedensprozess zwischen Scheitern und Fortschritt
Yair Hirschfeld

19:00 **Reception hosted by Hans Peter Doskozil, Governor of Burgenland**

Location (weather permitting): Castle Courtyard (Burghof)

Moderator: Damita Pressl

*Summer School for Students *Climate, Peace and Security in Sub-Saharan Africa* (starting: 11:00) and Workshop in the framework of the Master's programme *Peace and Life Skills Pedagogy* (ending: 17:00)

MEMBERSHIP

Become a supporting member of the ACP and contribute to its wide-ranging and meaningful work:



Event Schedule

1st July

Transatlantic Drift

Languages: English (main language) / German (some elements)

09:00 to 10:30 **Panel Discussion**
Transatlantic Drift - Who Will Lead on Peace and Human Security?

Location: Granarium

Speakers:

Wolfgang Petritsch
Oliver P. Richmond
Farah Bdour
Bettina Muscheidt

Moderator:

Irene Giner-Reichl

10:30 to 11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00 to 12:30 **Workshops**

12:30 to 13:30 **Lunchbreak**

Location (weather permitting): Castle Courtyard (Burghof)

13:30 to 17:00 **Workshops**

15:00 to 16:00 **Guided Museum Tour**

Meeting point: Museum Shop

17:30 to 19:00 **Public Panel Discussion**
Europa ohne Washington? Neue Strategien im Umgang mit Russland – Eine friedenspolitische Standortbestimmung

Location: Granarium

Language: German with English interpretation

Speakers:

Heinz Gärtner
Alexander Dubowy
Georg Häslar

19:00 **Dinner**

Location (weather permitting): Castle Courtyard (Burghof)

Moderator: Damita Pressl

Open Workshops:

- Lebendige Bücher - Yaşayan Kitaplar - Žive knjige - מִיִּיחַ יֵאלֵם מִירָפֶס - Libros Vivientes - Živindi Lil - Lively Books - قِيح بَيتَك - Élő Könyvek
- Konfliktfall Renaturierung - Umgang mit kommunalen Konflikten im Zusammenhang mit Renaturierungsmaßnahmen

Closed Workshops:

- Cross-border Cooperation in the West African Sahel Region – a Prerequisite for Sustainable Peace?
- Peace Education
- Summer School for Students *Climate, Peace and Security in Sub-Saharan Africa*
- Workshop in the framework of the Master's programme *Peace and Life Skills Pedagogy* (13:30 to 17:30)
- Perspectives on the Future of Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue
- Comprehensive Protection of Civilians

Event Schedule

2nd July

Disinformation and its Impact on Peace

Languages: English (main language) / German (some elements)

09:00 to 10:30 **Panel Discussion**
Peace in the Age of Disinformation - Rebuilding Trust in a Fractured World

Location: Granarium

Speakers:

Mario Drobits
Annika Hansen
Lina Rukštelienė
Branka Panic
Daniel Hikes-Wurm

10:30 to 11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00 to 12:30 **Workshops**

12:30 to 13:30 **Lunchbreak**

Location (weather permitting): Castle Courtyard (Burghof)

13:30 to 17:00 **Workshops**

15:00 to 16:00 **Guided Museum Tour**

Meeting point: Museum Shop

17:30 to 19:30 **Documentary Screening**
How to Build a Truth Engine
Followed by a Q&A with director Friedrich Moser

Location: Granarium

Languages: English and German

20:00 **Castle Festival with Barbecue**

Location (weather permitting): Castle Courtyard (Burghof)

Music by: PACHECO

Moderator: Damita Pressl

Open Workshops:

- Lebendige Bücher - Yaşayan Kitaplar - Žive knjige - מייח יאלם מירפס - Libros Vivientes - Živindi Lil - Lively Books - قايح بئتك - Élő Könyvek
- Konfliktfall Renaturierung - Umgang mit kommunalen Konflikten im Zusammenhang mit Renaturierungsmaßnahmen
- The Blueprint: Austria's PeaceTech Vision - A Collaborative Dialogue (Afternoon session: closed)

Closed Workshops:

- Cross-border Cooperation in the West African Sahel Region – a Prerequisite for Sustainable Peace?
- Peace Education
- Summer School for students *Climate, Peace and Security in Sub-Saharan Africa*
- Workshop in the framework of the Master's programme *Peace and Life Skills Pedagogy* (13:30 to 17:30)
- Perspectives on the Future of Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue (11:00 to 12:00)

Event Schedule

3rd July

Closing

Languages: English and German

09:30 to 11:00 **Closing Event**

Location: Granarium

Summary of the Workshop Outcomes

Bernadette Holzer

Panel Discussion: Synthesis and Perspectives for the Future

Christian Strohal

Ertuğrul Apakan

Nancy Annan

Closing Remarks

Tobias Lang

11:00 to 12:30 **Closing & Jazz-Brunch**

Location (weather permitting): Castle Courtyard (Burghof)

Music by: A Haydn Hetz

13:30 to 17:00 **Workshop**

Workshop in the framework of the Master's programme *Peace and Life Skills Pedagogy*

Moderator: Damita Pressl

UPCOMING TRAINING COURSES AT THE ACP

IPT Specialization Course on Environmental Peacebuilding

23 - 30 November 2025 in Stadtschlaining

More Information:



IPT Core Course for Peacebuilders

27 September - 7 October 2025 in Stadtschlaining

More Information:



ESDC Course on Recovery and Stabilisation Strategies

1 - 5 September 2025 in Stadtschlaining

More Information:



ESDC Course on Comprehensive Protection of Civilians (CPOC)

10 - 14 November 2025 in Stadtschlaining

More Information:



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Opening Speakers



Tobias Lang is Director of the ACP. He studied political science in Vienna and is an expert on religious minorities in Syria, Lebanon and Israel. His research also focuses on Austria's foreign policy in the Middle East. As a member of staff in several government offices and Executive Director of the majority faction in the Burgenland state parliament, he gained organisational and management experience at the interface between politics and administration. (c) LMS Stefan Wiesinger



Norbert Darabos was Austrian Minister of Defence from 2007 to 2013 and Burgenland's State Councillor for Social Affairs and Health from 2015 to 2019. He was a member of the Austrian Parliament for many years and in his function as Secretary of the Austrian social-democratic party (SPÖ) he led several election campaigns. As a historian, he is currently responsible for establishment of the „Museum for the Contemporary History of Burgenland“ at Schlaining Castle. Since 2019 Norbert Darabos has been President of the ACP. (c) Ricardo Herrgott



Hans Peter Doskozil studied law at the University of Vienna. His professional career was shaped by police activities, where he worked at the Ministry of the Interior, among others and was appointed Provincial Police Director of Burgenland in 2012.

Doskozil held this position until 2016. After holding high-ranking positions in the office of former governor Hans Niessl, Doskozil was appointed Federal Minister of Defence and Sports in 2016 and from 2017 he took on the role of Provincial Councillor for Finance, Culture and Road Construction in Burgenland. Doskozil has been Governor of Burgenland since February 2019. (c) Manfred Weis



Yair Hirschfeld has been engaged in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process since 1979. As member of the Israeli negotiating team in Norway, he played a key role in the negotiations that led to the 1993 Oslo Accords. He has since advised all Israeli governments through backchannel and track-two diplomacy. Hirschfeld promotes inclusive peace strategies, engaging former opponents of the peace process, including settler leaders, in support of a two-state solution. He maintains close ties with regional and international decision-makers and has also advised actors in Tibet, the Basque Country and Myanmar on conflict resolution and negotiation strategies.

Moderator:



Damita Pressl is an award-winning journalist and presenter based in Zurich. She moderates panels and conferences in politics and business, as well as offering media and public speaking training and communications consulting.

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Panel Discussions

Transatlantic Drift - Who Will Lead on Peace and Human Security?

For decades, transatlantic leadership has shaped global peacebuilding, human rights and multi-lateral diplomacy. As U.S. engagement becomes increasingly uncertain and Europe seeks to re-define its role, this panel critically examines the erosion of traditional peace frameworks and the implications for human security, democratic governance and conflict prevention. What alternative strategies and alliances are needed to sustain peace efforts in a rapidly shifting global order?

Speakers:



Farah Bdour is a senior advisor at the Palestinian Territories, Egypt, and the Levant Program at United States Institute of Peace in Washington, DC. She is a conflict resolution and mediation specialist, with more than a decade of experience working on peacebuilding efforts at the policy

and civil society levels. Previously, she served as the director of a Jordanian think tank that provides analysis and recommendations to the policy community in Jordan and abroad. She has also served as Jordan Country Director for Seeds of Peace and is a member of the Middle East Partnership for Peace Act advisory board, on which she advises on people-to-people peacebuilding, dialogue and reconciliation programs.

Bettina Muscheidt is a former EU Head of Delegation/Ambassador to Yemen (2012-2016), Libya (2016-2018) and Nicaragua (2021-22). Earlier, from



1991-2002 she worked on the Middle East Peace Process for the European Commission and the European Investment Bank with a focus on economic development, living in Jerusalem and Gaza from 1994-97. She was Country Officer for Syria at the European Investment Bank (2000-02) and Political Desk for Afghanistan at the European Commission (2006-2012). She holds a Master's degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in International Affairs and an MSc from Bonn University in Agricultural Economics.



Oliver Richmond is Professor in IR and Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Manchester, UK. He is also International Professor at Dublin City University, Ireland, Distinguished Visiting Professor at EWha, Seoul, Korea, and Honorary Professor in the School of International Relations, University of St Andrews, Scotland. He is Visiting Professor at Near East Institute, Near Eastern University, Lefkosha, Cyprus. He received a Distinguished Scholar award from the ISA Peace Studies Section in 2019. His publications include *The Grand Design: The Evolution of the International Peace Architecture* (Oxford University Press, 2022), *Peace Formation and Political Order in Conflict Affected Societies* (Oxford University Press, 2016) and *Failed Statebuilding* (Yale University Press, 2014). He is co-editor of the Palgrave book series, *Rethinking Peace and Conflict Studies* and co-editor of the *Journal Peacebuilding*.

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Panel Discussions

Moderator:



Irene Giner-Reichl studied Romance and German studies, law, counselling and spirituality in Innsbruck and New York. She worked for the Austrian Foreign Service from 1982 to 2021, specialising in sustainable development and global issues, multilateralism, development policy and women's rights. She was the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations in Vienna, and the Ambassador of Austria to the People's Republic of China, Mongolia, Brazil and Suriname. She teaches and publishes on international relations issues and has been active in the NGO sector since her retirement in March 2021.

Europa ohne Washington? Neue Strategien im Umgang mit Russland – Eine friedenspolitische Standortbestimmung (German with English interpretation)

This panel explores how Europe can develop a long-term, values-based approach to Russia amid war, confrontation and growing geopolitical tensions. With U.S. foreign policy engagement increasingly uncertain, Europe must consider how to strengthen its own peace and security strategy — beyond deterrence and sanctions. In a climate dominated by military logic, this discussion highlights the need to keep space open for diplomacy, civil society and dialogue.

Speakers:

Alexander Dubowy is an expert in international relations and security policy, with a focus on Eastern



Europe and the CIS region. He has more than 15 years of experience in research, policy consulting and geopolitical analysis. Holding a PhD in law, he studied law, political science and economics in Vienna and Moscow and has worked at renowned universities and research institutions. Born in Semipalatinsk (now Semei, Kazakhstan), he grew up in Estonia and Austria. Dubowy is internationally connected and collaborates with leading think tanks and research centers.



Heinz Gärtner is Professor at the Department of Political Science at the University of Vienna. He has served as the academic director of the Austrian Institute for International Affairs and has held various Fulbright Fellowships, including the Austrian Chair at Stanford University. He was also an Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation Fellow at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, DC. Dr. Gärtner chairs the advisory board of the International Institute for Peace in Vienna and the Commission on Strategy and Security of the Austrian Armed Forces. Dr. Gärtner received the Bruno Kreisky Award for the most outstanding political books and has been honored with the Decoration of Merit of the Austrian Armed Forces. His publications cover a wide range of subjects, including international security, transatlantic relations, nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, U.S. foreign policy, geopolitics, Iran, and the Middle East. (c) Foad Ashtari

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Georg Häsler studied Classical Philology in Bern and Basel, graduating in 2000. Starting in 2002, he worked for Swiss television, including as editor and producer for programs such as Schweiz aktuell and Rundschau. He also served as the SRF correspondent for the Western Balkans, based in Belgrade. In 2020, Häsler joined the Neue Zürcher Zeitung, where he specializes in security policy topics. In 2024, he co-published the programmatic volume Security Policy Switzerland with Kaspar Viliger and other authors. Georg Häsler holds the rank of Colonel in the Swiss Army and serves as a city councilor for the FDP in Bern.

Peace in the Age of Disinformation - Rebuilding Trust in a Fractured World

In today's era of information warfare, disinformation is increasingly used to fuel conflict, polarize societies, and weaken democratic institutions. This high-level panel brings together voices from peace-building, civil society, diplomacy and tech to examine how false narratives drive violence, distrust, and division. The discussion will explore the role of digital platforms, the responsibilities of tech companies and the broader impact on democracy and human rights. It will also highlight strategies and policy approaches to build societal resilience, counter harmful content and defend the integrity of information in support of peace and open societies.

Speakers:

Mario Drobics is Head of Competence Unit for Co-



operative Digital Technologies at the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH. He received his PhD in applied mathematics in 2005 at the Johannes Kepler University Linz in Austria. Since 2007 he is working in the Center for Digital Safety & Security at AIT. His research addresses various aspects of digitalization, focusing on digital sovereignty, resilience, and sustainability. Dr. Drobics is currently president of PSC-Europe, member of the management board of the Gaia-X Hub Austria, member of the AIOTI Alliance and member of the national ISO/IEC JTC1-SG41 (IoT) working group.



Annika Hansen has worked in the context of peace operations for over 25 years and currently heads the Analysis Team at the Center for International Peace Operations (ZIF) in Berlin. From 2008-2016 she worked at UN Headquarters and in the UN mission in Libya (UNSMIL), having earlier served in the EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2002-2003). From 1996-2008, Annika was a Senior Analyst at the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment (FFI) and the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London (2000-02). Most recently, she consulted the UN on the Strategy for the Digital Transformation of UN Peacekeeping (2021).

Lina Rukštelienė is an accomplished Lithuanian diplomat and has served as Ambassador to Austria since 2022. She studied history at Vilnius University and

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completed additional training at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies. With over 30 years of diplomatic experience, she has held key positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Lithuanian missions in Latvia and Vienna. Her areas of expertise include security policy, EU affairs, and regional cooperation.



Daniel Hikes-Wurm, works in the Directorate General for Defence Policy of the Federal Ministry of Defence as a Senior Advisor for Defence Policy. Among other things, he deals with the security and defence policy implications of technological developments such as Artificial Intelligence and emerging and disruptive technologies, Cyber Defence, and Hybrid Threats. (c) Foto Peter

Discussion in the Framework of the Film Screening



Friedrich Moser is an Austrian filmmaker and journalist. He studied history and German language and literature in Salzburg and Bilbao. He began his professional career in 1998 as a TV journalist in Bolzano, Italy. Since 1999, Moser has mostly worked as writer, director, producer, and cameraman. His documentaries include *The Brussels Business*, *A Good American*, *The Maze/Terrorjagd im Netz*, *Money Bots* and *Flash Wars*. In 2001 he founded his first film production company

blue+green communication, in 2022 Friedrich Moser Film GmbH for international co-productions. He also is a co-founder of the Social Media Literacy non-profit Open Circle Lab (2025) and the start-up Nexus4AI (2025). His films have been exhibited at festivals around the world, on Netflix, Apple, Prime and other platforms, and broadcast all over Europe. Some of them also had a theatrical release.

Summary of the Workshop Outcomes



Bernadette Holzer brings extensive expertise in managing international projects and programs across human rights, education and sustainable peace. At ACP, she oversees international conference management, including the Austrian Forum for Peace 2025. Her professional experience encompasses academic teaching, project management and research, with a strong emphasis on human rights, conflict transformation, capacity development and building global partnerships.

Synthesis and Perspectives for the Future

This closing session draws together threads from four days of exchange at the Austrian Forum for Peace 2025. A diverse panel of international experts and participants will reflect on what was learned, challenged, and imagined.

Speakers:

Ertuğrul Apakan, Ambassador, is one of the most experienced Turkish diplomats in the international field. As State Secretary in the Turkish Ministry

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of Foreign Affairs, he was part of efforts leading to a rapprochement with Armenia. Later, he served as Permanent Representative to the United Nations. In one of his last official capacities, he was head of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine until 2019.

Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) and has authored several publications on peacebuilding, unarmed civilian protection, peace support operations and women peace and security.



Christian Strohal, Ambassador, was director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) of the OSCE in Warsaw. In 2008 he became Austria's permanent representative at the United Nations in Geneva, 2013 Permanent Representative to the OSCE in Vienna. Between 2016 and 2017 he was Special Representative for the Austrian Chairmanship of the OSCE 2017.



Nancy Annan is an Assistant Professor at the Centre for Peace and Security, Coventry University. She holds a PhD in Peace and Conflict Studies and has expansive experience in peace, security, global development, and gender especially in Africa. Her work spans research, training and development in several countries. She has worked extensively with civil society groups, academics, regional and international organisations on diverse initiatives including EU Horizon 2020 project on PeaceTraining. She previously worked at the Kofi

EXPERTS / PARTICIPANTS / SPEAKERS

You can find the complete list of all experts, participants and speakers here:



Austrian Forum for Peace 2025: Peace in Crisis

Workshops

OPEN WORKSHOPS

Lebendige Bücher - Yasayan Kitaplar - Žive knjige - ביית יאלם בירפס - Libros Vivientes - Živindi Lil - Lively Books - قىح بتك - Élő Könyvek

This workshop offers you the opportunity to talk informally about peace and conflict dynamics with renowned experts in the field of peace and social justice. The multilingual experts share their stories and experiences and thus become living books.

Workshop Leader:



Arwa Elabd is a German and Spanish teacher and educator. She founded bibliobox, a bookstore dedicated to literature by Black authors and authors of Color, motivated by the lack of diversity in the Austrian literary landscape. Her goal is to make marginalized voices visible and create a space that is open, safe and inspiring for everyone.

Restoration as Conflict case? Dealing with Communal Conflicts in Connection with Restoration Measures (German)

This interactive workshop explores the conflict potential surrounding the EU Nature Restoration Regulation, with a focus on Austria. Using a mix of presentations, small group discussions and hands-on application of conflict analysis tools, participants will identify emerging tensions and develop practical strategies for prevention and resolution. Through real-life case studies and applied communication models, the workshop emphasizes meaningful par-

ticipation and negotiation processes. Key questions address effective participatory methods, the risks of pseudo-participation and how to deal with unresolved tensions. Georg Kanz (Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management) provides insights into the current status of EU regulations, while Eva-Maria Cattoen (LechAlps) presents a case study on the restoration of the River Lech.

Workshop Leaders:



Sophia Stanger is Acting Project Manager at the ACP and in charge of the project “Capacity Development for Humanitarian Assistance in West Africa”. She is also responsible for the Environmental Peacebuilding sector. Sophia Stanger has many years of experience in NGO work, project management and team leadership, for example in the fields of education, humanitarian advocacy and volunteer missions. Her expertise also lies in the intersection of environment/climate and conflict resolution approaches. Sophia Stanger is also a qualified trainer and has completed a mediation training.



Wolfgang Weilharther is the Project Manager for the project “Communal Peace and Conflict Work in Burgenland” at the ACP. His focus is on the implementation of mediation and dialogue processes on the communal level, in the areas of communal politics, housing and neighbourhoods

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and local coexistence of people of different origins.
(c) Foto Andi Bruckner

The Blueprint: Austria's PeaceTech Vision - A Collaborative Dialogue

This participatory workshop aims to define an Austrian narrative for PeaceTech through interactive group work, discussions and policy-oriented exercises. Building on two years of global engagement, the focus now shifts inward: What does PeaceTech mean for Austria? Participants from academia, government and civil society will co-develop ideas through brainstorming, value-mapping and crafting an "Austrian elevator pitch" for PeaceTech. Together, we will explore digital peacebuilding in practice, define shared national values and assess Austria's potential role in global PeaceTech conversations.

Workshop Leaders:



Astrid Holzinger is a Senior Project Manager at the ACP, where she leads the International Civilian Peacebuilding Training Programme and also works on peace tech, environmental peacebuilding and conflict resolution projects. She has extensive experience with the UN, OSCE, EU and the Austrian civil service. Her areas of expertise include crisis and conflict management, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, the protection of civilians in armed conflict and international security. She holds a master's degree in international relations.

Nathan Coyle is the Senior Project Manager for Peace



Tech at the ACP. He is responsible for all our PeaceTech related activities and digital development. Nathan has partnered with governments across the globe to enhance their digital outreach efforts. He is a Fellow at The Royal Society of Arts in his native Britain and a writer, contributing to publications such as The Guardian. On his publication 'Open Data for Everybody: Using Open Data for Social Good' Nathan did a TEDx talk.

CLOSED WORKSHOPS

Cross-border Cooperation in the West African Sahel Region – a Prerequisite for Sustainable Peace?

This expert workshop explores the critical role of cross-border cooperation in advancing sustainable peace and effective governance in the West African Sahel. Amid rising insecurity, violent extremism and fragmented regional responses, the sessions will examine the current landscape of regional and international cooperation frameworks.

Bringing together experts in regional organizational frameworks, civil society actors, academics, development partners and representatives of regional initiatives, the workshop will feature a combination of presentations, case studies, collaborative group work and informal dialogue. Participants will assess existing gaps, exchange best practices and co-develop actionable policy recommendations. The overarching goal is to facilitate meaningful regional dialogue and strengthen cross-border collaboration across West Africa.

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Workshop Leader:



Princella Arkor Godzi is a project coordination professional with a background in peacebuilding, international development and humanitarian assistance. As Deputy Course Director at KAIPTC, she oversaw the Humanitarian Assistance in West Africa project in collaboration with the ACP.

She holds a Master's in Conflict, Peace and Security and a Bachelor's in Political Science and French from the University of Ghana and Université Rennes 2, France. Fluent in English and French, she has nine years of experience coordinating training programs across sub-Saharan Africa. She was previously a Language Consultant for UNDSS Ghana and volunteered at the Centre for Regional Integration in Africa.

Peace Education

Peace education plays a strategic and systemic role in any peace process. "Education is, quite simply, peacebuilding by another name. It is the most effective form of defence spending there is." (Kofi Annan) Peace education concerns any part of the society that needs to be prepared for the multi-faceted challenges ahead (wars, hunger, poverty, forced mass migration, climate change, unjust world order etc.). Peace education focusses on both knowledge and skills, as well as on attitudes and thus provides relevant life skills. On this basis the workshop, experts from different backgrounds will work on the design and development of a specialisation course on peace education, to be piloted in November at the ACP.

Workshop in the framework of the Master's programme "Peace and Life Skills Pedagogy"

This workshop is focussing on the topics conflict competencies, conflict management, conflict resolution, as well as the prevention of mobbing & bullying using the "no blame approach". The students of the master course will get acquainted with the theoretical background to understand the conflict cycle. They will also get introduced to various methods and they will be able to practice these methods in a safe workshop environment in interactive roleplays. Enough time and space for feedback, questions as well as interaction is foreseen. This workshop will close the first semester of this innovative master course, a cooperation of PH Burgenland and ACP.

Workshop Leader:



Ursula Gamauf-Eberhardt is the Senior Project Manager for the peace education portfolio at the ACP. She is also responsible for the OSCE training programmes. Her thematic focuses include peace education, dealing with the past and the OSCE.

Summer School for students: Climate, Peace and Security in Sub-Saharan Africa

This summer school, hosted by ACP and the University of Graz, invites students to explore the complex links between climate change and peace in the Sahel and West Africa. The region faces rising temperatures, droughts, floods, and violent conflict—all of which reinforce one another in a vicious cycle of insecurity. Participants will examine how the climate

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crisis undermines livelihoods, fuels displacement, and heightens the risk of armed violence, while also learning how conflict, in turn, worsens environmental degradation. Through lectures and discussions, students will gain insights into the region's historical and political dynamics, assess the effects of climate change, and explore peacebuilding strategies and local initiatives aimed at fostering resilience and stability.

Workshop Leader:



Maximilian Lakitsch is a Senior Scientist and Lecturer at the Department of Global Governance (The Foundations of Law) at the University of Graz. He researches and teaches in the fields of peace studies and international relations. Maximilian Lakitsch is particularly interested in

critical perspectives on international peace interventions and the integration of environmental and climate aspects into peace practice. His regional focus is on the Middle East and North Africa, especially Syria, Lebanon and Israel-Palestine. (c) Uni Graz

Perspectives on the Future of Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue

Workshop Leaders: **Tobias Lang** (see above)



Augustin Nicolescou serves as co-director of the Herbert C Kellman Institute for Interactive Conflict Transformation, a partner of the ACP. He regularly contributes to the ACP's research and training activities, with

thematic expertise in conflict transformation, dialogue processes, the HDP Nexus, conflict sensitivity and Do-No-Harm and geographic experience in Israel, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Central Asia, Afghanistan and the South Caucasus.

Comprehensive Protection of Civilians

The ACP has – in close cooperation with its partners, including the Austrian MOD and other Austrian line ministries as well as the UN developed a flagship course on Protection of Civilians in 2012 which was certified by both the UN and the EU and successfully run since. The framework therefore is the long-standing partnership programme between the ACP and the Austrian MOD, which is the funding partner for the course. The Austrian MOD has initiated the course revision by end of 2024. Building on the outcome of this workshop, the AFP workshop is the follow up to determine the contents, structure and experts for the next course iteration in November 2025.

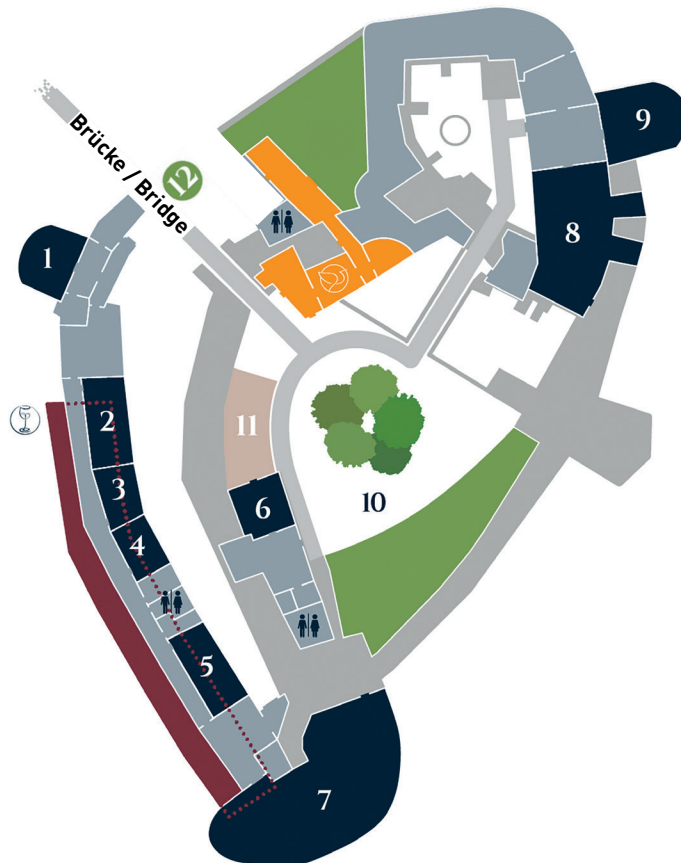
Workshop Leader:



Susanne J. Györög is ACP Senior Project Manager of the training section of the cooperation programme with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence and is in charge of managing the specialisation courses in the framework of the ESDC. She brings 20 years of field experience in humanitarian aid, post-conflict recovery, security sector reform in complex emergencies as well as peace missions with additional 10 years experience in development and conduct of specialised trainings in the framework of UN and EU peace missions.

Logistical Information

Castle Map:



- ① Level 0: Conference Office
- ② Level 1: Seminar room 1 - Summer School
- ③ Seminar room 2 - WS "Peace and Life Skills Pedagogy"
- ④ Seminar room 3 - WS "Perspectives on the Future of Israeli-Palestinian Dialogue"
- ⑤ Seminar room 4 - WS "Comprehensive Protection of Civilians"
- ⑥ Seminar room 5 - WS "The Blueprint"
- ⑦ Seminar room 6 - WS "Konfliktfall Renaturierung"
- ⑧ Granarium: Plenary Sessions
- ⑨ Rittersaal / Knights Hall - WS "Cross-border Cooperation in the West African Sahel Region"
- ⑩ Kapelle / Chapel
- ⑪ Burghof / Castle Courtyard
- ⑫ Bühne / Stage
- ⑬ Museum Shop and Tourism Information - Meeting point for the WS "Lively Books"
- ⑭ Das Kranich - Café
- ⑮ Weinkosterei - Wine Store & Bar

Logistical Information

Map of Stadtschlaining:

- 1

Main Square
- 2

Schönauer Gate
- 3

City Wall
- 4

Rom.-cath. parish Church
- 5

former Pauline Monastery
- 6

former catholic School
- 7

Jewish Cemetery
- 8

Protestant Church
- 9

Lange Gasse
- 10

former Synagoge
- 11

former Pillory - Rochussäule
- 12

Castle Arena
- 13

Peace Castle Schlaining / Tourist Info.
- 14

Playground
- 15

Protestant Community center
- A

Haus International
- B

Hotel Burg Schlaining
- C

Mike´s Cafe & Pub
- D

Gasthaus Marth (Bowling Alleys)
- E

Das Kranich
- F

Therapy Center
- i

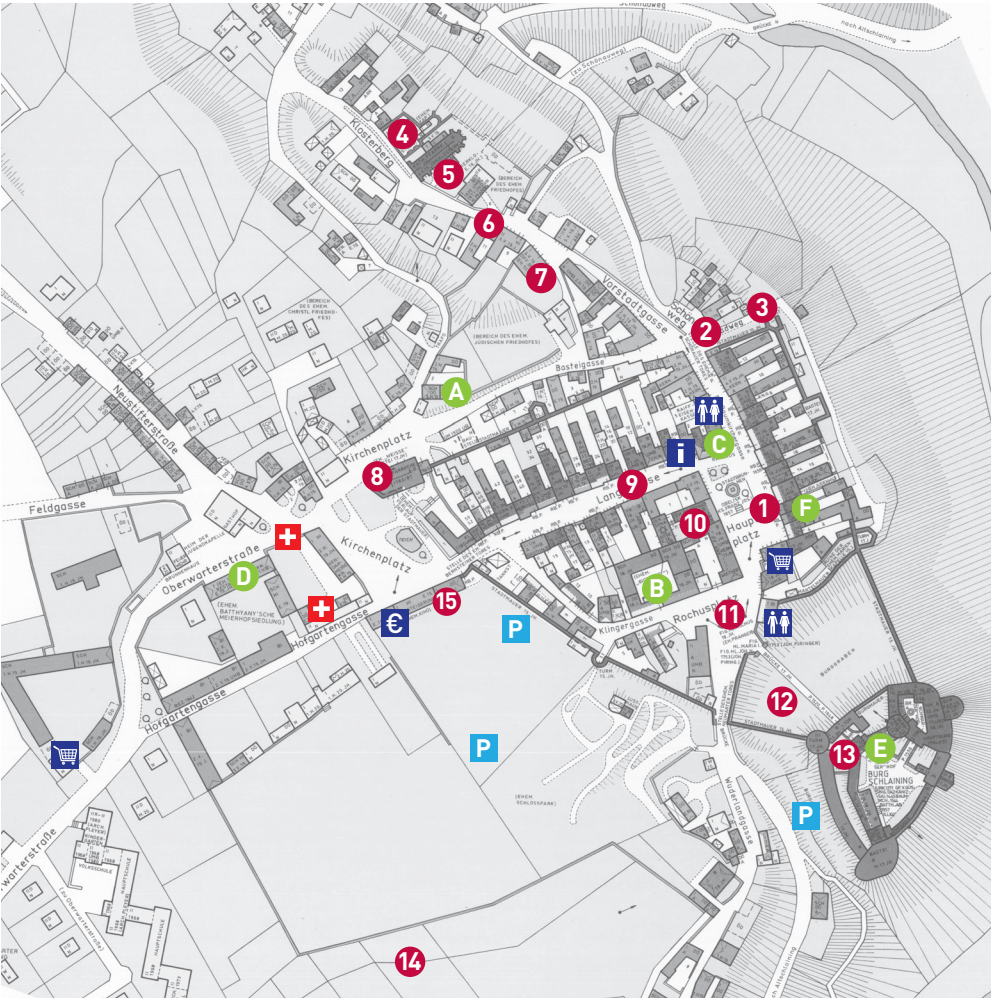
Town Hall
- €

ATM
- Public WC
- +

Doctors (General medicine)
- Shopping cart

Department Store
- P

Parking Space



Logistical Information

Facilities in Stadtschlaining

Museum and Tourist Information, Rochusplatz 1,
7461 Stadtschlaining

Tel.: +43 3355 2306

E-Mail: friedensburg@kultur-burgenland.at

Web: www.friedensburg.at

Opening Hours: Tuesday – Sunday 9:00 to 17:00

Exhibition in the former synagogue: Tuesday - Sunday 09:00 to 16:00

Hotel Burg Schlaining, Klingergasse 2-4, A-7461
Stadtschlaining, Austria

Tel.: +43 3355 2600

Email: zeit@burghotel-schlaining.at

Web: www.burghotel-schlaining.at

Bank (see map)

There is an ATM (open 24h) in Stadtschlaining which works with all major cards such as Maestro/ Cirrus, EC and with credit cards.

Church Service (on Sundays only)

Protestant Church (www.martinus.at): 09:00

Catholic Church (www.evangel-stadtschlaining.at):
08:30 or 10:00

RESTAURANTS

Caffee Central, Hauptplatz 2, 7461 Stadtschlaining

Opening Hours: Monday - Saturday 06:00 to 12:00

Monday - Friday 15:00 to 19:00

Café & Restaurant Marth, Oberwarter Straße 1, 7461
Stadtschlaining

Tel.: +43 3355 2269 or +43 664 4604166

Opening hours: Monday - Tuesday 08:30 to 23:00

Saturday 09:00 to 23:00

Sunday 09:00 to 13.30

Das Kranich, Rochusplatz 1, 7461 Stadtschlaining - in
Schlaining Castle

Tel.: +43 3355 260050

Email: kranich@burghotel-schlaining.at

Web: www.daskranich.at

Opening Hours: Tuesday - Sunday 09.00 to 17.00

Mamsell Lieu, Hauptplatz, Baumkircher Gasse 1,
7461 Stadtschlaining

Tel.: +43 3355 2638

Opening Hours: Wednesday and Thursday 09:00 to
14.00 & 17:00 to 22:00

Friday, Saturday, Sunday 09:00 to 24:00

GROCERIES

Bakery und Café BAYER, Oberwarter Straße 22, 7461
Stadtschlaining

Tel.: +43 3355 33906

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday 05:30 to 12.00 &
15.00 to 18.00,

Saturday 06:00 to 12:00

Sunday & Holiday 07:00 to 10:00

SPAR – Klaudia Zieserl, Oberwarter Straße 8, 7461
Stadtschlaining, Tel.: +43 3355 2613

Opening Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday
06:30 to 12:00 & 15:00-18:00

Thursday 06:30 to 12:00

Saturday 06.30 to 12:00

Logistical Information

Facilities in Stadtschlaining

Sagmeister-Mühle, Altschlaining No. 87, 7461 Stadtschlaining

Tel.: +43 3355 2264

Web: www.sagmeister-muehle.at

Opening Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 09:00 to 17:00

Saturday 9:00 to 12:00

DOCTORS IN STADTSCHLAINING

There is no pharmacy in Stadtschlaining - medicines are available only in the doctor's office in the course of a consultation.

Dr. Constanze Schauer, Hofgartengasse 4, 7461 Stadtschlaining

Tel.: +43 3355 2616

Opening Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 07:30 to 12:00

Tuesday 16:00 to 17:00

Friday 15:00 to 17:00

Dr. Anna Weinhandl, Kirchenplatz 9, 7461 Stadtschlaining

Tel.: +43 3355 2642

Opening Hours: Monday & Thursday 07:30 to 12:00 (registration deadline 11:30) & 13:30 to 15:30 (only after appointment by phone)

Tuesday & Friday 07.30 to 12.30 (registration deadline 11:30)

HOSPITAL IN OBERWART

Dornburggasse 80, 7400 Oberwart

Tel.: 05 7979 320 00

POLICE STATION

Polizeiinspektion Bad Tatzmannsdorf, Josef Haydn-Platz 1, 7431 Bad Tatzmannsdorf

Tel.: 05 9133 124

EMERGENCY CALLS

AMBULANCE 144

FIRE BRIGADE 122

POLICE 133

TAXI

Taxi Shahid, Batthyanyallee 49, 7431 Bad Tatzmannsdorf

Tel.: +43 3353 8161 or +43 664 1326008

Taxi Mexx, Fliedergasse 2, 7422 Riedlingsdorf

Tel.: +43 676 3556968

SHARE YOUR IMPRESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE
ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND TAG US:

 acp_schlaining

 ACP.Schlaining

 acpschlaining

#Peaceforum

Logistical Information

Daily Shuttles

30th June

10:30 am

From: Step Gästehaus, Dornburggasse 95, Oberwart
To: Burg Schlaining

16:30 pm

From: Bad Tatzmannsdorf, Reduce Hotel Vital, Elisabeth-Allee 2
To: Burg Schlaining

20:00 pm

From: Burg Schlaining
To: Bad Tatzmannsdorf + Step Gästehaus Oberwart

22:00 pm

From: Burg Schlaining
To: Bad Tatzmannsdorf + Step Gästehaus Oberwart

1st July

08:15 am

From: Step Gästehaus (via Bad Tatzmannsdorf)
To: Burg Schlaining

08:30 am

From: Bad Tatzmannsdorf
To: Burg Schlaining

21:00 pm

From: Burg Schlaining
To: Bad Tatzmannsdorf + Step Gästehaus Oberwart

2nd July

08:15 am

From: Step Gästehaus (via Bad Tatzmannsdorf)
To: Burg Schlaining

08:30 am

From: Bad Tatzmannsdorf
To: Burg Schlaining

21:00 pm

From: Burg Schlaining
To: Bad Tatzmannsdorf + Step Gästehaus Oberwart

23:00 pm

From: Burg Schlaining
To: Bad Tatzmannsdorf + Step Gästehaus Oberwart

3rd July

08:15 am

From: Step Gästehaus (via Bad Tatzmannsdorf)
To: Burg Schlaining

08:30 am

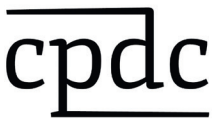
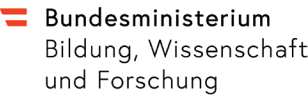
From: Bad Tatzmannsdorf
To: Burg Schlaining

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

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for interactive conflict transformation



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