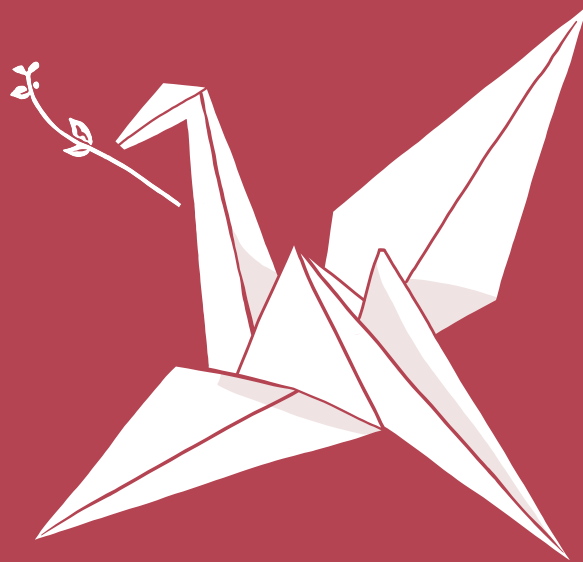


Austrian FORUM for Peace

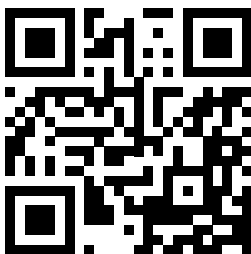


TOWARDS A CLIMATE OF PEACE

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

1 - 4 July 2024 at Schlaining Castle

#Peaceforum



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IMPRINT

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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

MESSAGE FOR THE AUSTRIAN FORUM FOR PEACE “Towards a Climate of Peace”

Stadtschlaining, 1-4 July 2024

I send my warmest wishes to all those taking part in the Austrian Forum for Peace.

Your Forum arrives at a moment of complex conflicts, mounting tensions and rising insecurity around the globe. Challenges are growing more interconnected, while the world becomes more fractured and frayed.

This year’s theme reminds us of the close links between conflicts and climate chaos. As the Austrian Centre for Peace and others have shown, the damaging effects of climate change are a major driver and multiplier of suffering, displacement and competition for scarce resources. And because the impacts transcend borders and battle lines, they also offer potential to find common-ground solutions.

Those solutions are needed more than ever. We recently received confirmation that the last twelve months have been the hottest on record — a sign that we are hurtling in the wrong direction. Combined with a woeful lack of support and financing to help developing countries adapt, these challenges represent a surefire recipe for more suffering, more drought and more disaster.

Peace in our world depends on peace with our planet and its natural gifts. And it requires global leaders to overcome geo-political divisions for the common good to build a climate of peace in all its dimensions.

This September’s Summit of the Future will be a moment for the world to help forge solutions to shape a more peaceful tomorrow for people and planet alike.

The United Nations stands with the Austrian Forum for Peace in this essential effort. I wish you a successful and productive Forum.

ABOUT THE AUSTRIAN CENTRE FOR PEACE (ACP)

Events in various parts of the world indicate that war is increasingly becoming a routine matter. The revived rivalry between major powers, the ongoing loss of livelihoods due to the environmental and climate crises, a lack of distributive justice and the effects of rapid and often uncontrolled technological change are having a dramatic impact on peace, security and stability around the world. However, statistics show that wars rarely produce winners.

The Austrian Centre for Peace (ACP) has been showing ways to peace for over 40 years. It offers a neutral platform for dialogue and mediation, whether at the Peace Castle in Stadtschlaining, its second location in Vienna, or worldwide. The ACP capacity development programmes prepare experts for conflict-sensitive work in crisis regions. Research at the ACP provides the basis. Peace education sensitises the younger generations of our society. The ACP has i.a. been awarded the United Nations title „Peace Messenger“ and the UNESCO „Peace Education Prize“ for its work.

The path to security, stability, and ultimately to peace, is long, extensive and complex. The ACP is seeking to achieve it through various partnerships in the political and security policy context as well as with civil society in Austria and worldwide.

The Austrian Centre for Peace (ACP) was founded in 1982 and is organised as a non-profit, independent, non-partisan association. It consists of the following bodies: General Assembly, Board, Management, Scientific Advisory Board, Auditors and Court of Arbitration. The rights and duties of the members of the respective bodies are set forth in the ACP constitution.

Capacity Development

In terms of capacity development, the ACP focuses on two core areas: the training of peacebuilding experts who are or will be deployed in crisis regions and peace

education for schools in Austria. Hundreds of civilian, military or police experts are trained as part of the various training programmes worldwide or in Austria. In this area, the ACP cooperates with the EU, UN and OSCE. The effects of environmental degradation and the climate crisis are an integral part of many training programmes. The use of new technology as a tool for peacebuilding, known as „PeaceTech“, is also playing an increasingly important role. ACP's training work in West Africa focusses in particular on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

The ACP develops and offers customised training courses on request.

Peace Education

Every year, more than 1 000 pupils take part in the ACP's peace education programmes on conflict and peace skills, non-violent communication, bullying and violence prevention, respectful behaviour, integration and diversity, as well as team building and solidarity. In parallel, systemic skills training is offered for teachers. Moreover, the ACP cooperated with the University College of Teacher Education and the Burgenland Children's and Youth Ombuds Office in developing the „Global Peace Education“ university course.

Conflict Resolution

In the past, Austrian stakeholders have made important contributions to international peace policy as valued mediators in conflicts. Against the backdrop of an increasingly conflict-ridden world, this potential needs to be fully utilised again. For mediation to actually contribute to peace, recognised principles such as impartiality, consent of the relevant parties, inclusivity and the principle of doing no harm through one's own actions must be upheld. Peace can only be made with enemies. A peace process must therefore include the parties who exert influence on the conflict.

The ACP supports official negotiations and informal dialogue processes, mediating directly between the parties to a conflict. Initiatives take place at the local, regional and national levels and in a dialogue with formal and informal armed actors, political interest groups and civil society. These activities form the core mission of the ACP.

At international level, the ACP's peacebuilding activities have focussed on the Middle East, Africa and the OSCE region for many years.

Many conflict-ridden countries in Europe's immediate neighbourhood are exceptionally hard hit by the climate crisis, but also particularly ill-equipped to deal with its effects. This further exacerbates or creates new conflict dynamics. The ACP is therefore vigorously pursuing climate change adaptation programmes combined with conflict prevention approaches, particularly in the form of environmental peacebuilding.

In Austria, we specialise in the design and management of conflict resolution within communities, which is intended to contribute to peaceful coexistence

Research

The ACP contributes to the dialogue on current peace policy issues through research, specialist conferences and publications. Such research also forms the basis for policy advice from the ACP. Likewise, research is an important companion to conflict management. On the one hand, it enables to identify significant trends, and on the other, it helps to better understand complicated dynamics in specific conflict areas and thus to propose more realistic solutions to the conflict parties. ACP publications include policy briefs and reports.

Moritz Ehrmann, ACP-Director

PODCAST

INSIDE
CONFLICT

ACP Podcast



Podcast Inside Conflict
www.insideconflict.com

Inside Sudan
Inside Israeli-Palestinian Worldview
Inside Iraq



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Moritz Ehrmann is Director of the ACP and heads the Conflict Resolution department. He brings to the ACP his extensive experience from varied contexts, including Iraq, Colombia, Jordan, Ukraine, and Yemen, and through his previous work with the International Committee of the Red Cross and as an Austrian diplomat. He began his career with the Austrian foreign service, for which he was most recently deployed to the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship Task Force from 2016 to 2017. Since 2018, he has been engaged in informal international peace mediation.

FOCUS TOPICS AT THE ACP

Environmental Peacebuilding - How the Environment, Climate and Peace are Connected

The environmental and climate crisis is not only a problem of the future – droughts, extreme weather conditions and rising sea levels are already threatening millions of people. People in conflict regions in particular, such as the Sahel, North Africa or the Middle East, are especially exposed to climate change. Environmental and climate crises are also leading to new conflicts there, e.g. over dwindling water resources. Conversely, conflicts have a negative impact on the environment: important infrastructure is wiped out, rivers are polluted and forests are destroyed. Resources and financial means are often used for acts of war instead of investments into a green future. Climate, environment, security, and peace are therefore closely linked and require joint solutions.

A New Focus

In light of this, the ACP has been focussing its work on environmental peacebuilding since 2022. Environmental peacebuilding examines how climate, environment and conflicts are linked, not only looking at causes and problems, but also at possible solutions. Environmental and climate issues can be a starting point for dialogue between conflicting parties. This is not just about the mere management of resources, but also about developing strategies intended to have a long-term and sustainable effect – such as projects relating to shared water resources which also offer job opportunities in the field of organic farming, initiate the regeneration of natural resources and focus on co-operation between the various parties to a conflict.

Environmental Peacebuilding in Practice

Following the introduction of the environment-climate-security nexus in capacity development in 2022 during the EAPTC in Stadtschlaining, and as part of

cooperation initiated by the ACP which involved several European training institutes, further events centering on this topic were held onsite over the course of 2023. These included a network meeting in January 2023 of European peace training institutes to create a common training approach for CSDP missions and a two-day workshop in July 2023 as part of the Austri-



Sophia Stanger is a Junior Project Manager and has a critical role in the project „Capacity Development for Humanitarian Assistance in West Africa“ as well as in training programmes within the framework of the European Union (EUCTI). Her expertise also lies in the intersection of environment/climate and conflict resolution approaches and she is helping to shape the ACP’s Environmental Peacebuilding work. 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. Sophia Stanger is also a trainer and has completed a mediation course.

an Forum for Peace. The aim of the workshop was to strengthen the dialogue between state and civil-society actors from the Global South and North as well as international organisations, to identify commonalities and to derive recommendations for dealing with the topic.

Finally, the IPT specialisation course on Environmental Peacebuilding was successfully held at the Peace Castle in November.

Together with its partner institute, the Kofi Annan International Peacebuilding Training Centre (KAIPCT) in Accra, Ghana, the ACP organised a course dedicated to issues at the intersection of gender, climate and humanitarian assistance – a particularly relevant training course for participants from the region due to the increasing number and scale of humanitarian disasters in West Africa as a result of climate effects.

Participants in the ACP’s dialogue project in the Persian Gulf – a region affected by extreme water shortages – are facing equally great challenges. The consequences which water scarcity has for security and potential sustainable solutions to the problem were therefore an important part of the dialogue discussions taking place.

What the examples illustrate is this: Environmental peacebuilding is a matter of crucial importance for peace work. The ACP took its first steps in 2022 and 2023, and intends to expand its commitment further in the coming years.

Sophia Stanger, Focal Point for Environmental Peacebuilding at the ACP

IPT Programme

In 1993 the IPT Programme was established by the ACP as Europe’s first training programme for civilian experts in peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Since then, more than 2600 peacebuilding practitioners from 135 countries have been trained. In addition to the IPT Core Course for Peacebuilders, a series of Specialisation Courses are offered on topics such as Environmental Peacebuilding, Intersectional Gender Work, Election Observation and more to equip peacebuilding practitioners working in conflict regions with the latest knowledge and skills to react to new challenges and opportunities on the ground.

Don’t miss out!

IPT Core Course for Peacebuilders, 5 - 15 October 2024

Through lectures, group exercises, and case studies the training introduces participants to essential knowledge and skills required in peacebuilding. Topics range from peacebuilding concepts and theories, cross-cultural collaboration, the role of different actors, conflict analysis, third party intervention, human rights, transitional justice, do-no-harm, gender and more. New challenges and opportunities in peacebuilding arising through climate change and modern information technologies are also addressed. Moreover, through a complex simulation exercise, participants learn how to best respond to crisis situations.

IPT Specialization Course on Environmental Peacebuilding, 23 November – 2 December 2024

Climate change, environmental degradation, and competition over natural resources frequently act as driver and threat multiplier of conflict, while at the same time co-operation on environmental and climate issues can offer important entry points for peacebuilding. During the training, participants learn about the complex interlinkages between the environment, climate, peace, and security and acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to apply a climate and environmental lens to different aspects of peacebuilding work, from conflict analysis to conflict resolution and project development.

FOCUS TOPICS AT THE ACP

PeaceTech is Reflected in all Areas of ACP Activities

Modern conflicts are increasingly shaped by new and emerging technologies. The discourse revolves around weighing the security threats posed by these technologies against their potential for preventing and resolving conflicts through peacebuilding.

“PeaceTech” describes the various tools and processes, such as social media, geographic information systems, data analytics, virtual reality frameworks and other digital technologies which can provide value-added in different areas to improve analytical support. This includes a better understanding and monitoring of conflicts, enhanced situational awareness, boosting innovation in capacity building and training, as well as scaling up peacebuilding efforts.

The ACP has started integrating PeaceTech into its capacity development programme. This includes developing mixed reality training frameworks for training of skills for civilian experts in crisis situations.

PeaceTech is also highly relevant in our conflict resolution work. This is especially urgent since research has shown a severe lack of technology-conflict-peace interfaces geo-referenced and dynamically visualised peace and conflict data that allow predicting various types of conflicts before they arise. The work of the ACP includes a contribution to the development of an early warning tool that dynamically visualises conflicts before they arise by using algorithms and geospatial data.

These first steps allow us to develop PeaceTech based approaches as a core competence to offer integrated solutions to prevent conflicts before they beco-

me violent and contribute to sustainable development. In this regard, cross-sectoral coordination with other Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus partners enables us to coordinate for more impact on the ground.

Nathan Coyle, Senior Project Manager
for Peace Tech



Nathan Coyle is the Senior Project Manager for Peace Tech, he is responsible for all our Peace Tech 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.

AUSTRIAN FORUM FOR PEACE 2024

Towards a Climate of Peace

Recent events in different parts of the world have shown that violence, militarisation and war are once again being used and presented as legitimate ways of asserting economic and political interests. Important peace processes are stalling, multilateral organisations are losing their relevance, the calls for dialogue and civil society-based tools of conflict resolution and peace work are fading, and resources are lacking.

This year’s Austrian Forum for Peace, titled „Towards a Climate of Peace“, aims to address the challenges of international conflict transformation in a changing world. The conference seeks to strengthen networks, discuss different approaches, initiate thought processes, generate ideas, and contribute to the promotion of sustainable global peace.

Increasing global complexity and unpredictability are exacerbated by the effects of the man-made climate crisis. This threat is felt across conflict lines and can worsen the burden on countries affected by conflict. However, it can also be an opportunity to build trust between opposing parties and work together on solutions. This approach, known as Environmental Peacebuilding, was first discussed at the UN Climate Change Conference COP 28 in 2023 and has been specifically pursued at the ACP for some time.

At the same time, the global system is becoming more fragmented and restructured, partly due to the increasing number of international mediation parties, some of which are involved in conflicts. In this new reality, one possible approach could be to use the comparative advantages of new, different actors in a targeted manner to support regions affected on their way to a climate of peace.

The use of technology, including artificial intelligence, also plays a major role not only in warfare worldwide, but increasingly also in considerations and projects for the prevention of civil conflict and peacebuilding.

Eva Huber, Deputy Director



© Foto Andi Bruckner

Eva Huber is ACP’s Deputy Director and in this capacity is responsible, among other things, for the ACP’s cooperation portfolio with the Austrian Ministry of Defence as well as other individual projects. She has a background in political science, African studies, and public international law and more than 10 years of experience working for UN peace operations and agencies as well as NGOs. She has supported peace processes through political liaison, strategic planning, capacity-building, community engagement, and programme coordination. In addition to having headed the ACP’s project portfolio in Sudan and South Sudan, the peace process in Colombia is currently her area of expertise.

AGENDA

1ST JULY 2024

CONFERENCE OPENING

11.00 - 16.45 Summer School for Students

Towards a Climate of Peace in the Middle East (closed)

17.00 - Opening Event

Granarium

Languages: German and English - with interpretation

Opening

Moritz EHRMANN, Director, ACP

Written Message

Antonio GUTERRES, United Nations Secretary-General

Read by Moritz EHRMANN, Director, ACP

Welcome Address

Norbert DARABOS, President, ACP, former Federal Minister of Defence

Hans Peter DOSKOZIL, Governor of Burgenland, former Federal Minister of Defence

Alexander VAN DER BELLEN, Federal President of the Republic of Austria (Video Message)

Speeches

Professor Lučka KAJFEŽ BOGATAJ, University of Ljubljana, Member of the UN Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Leonore GEWESSLER, Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology

Heinz FISCHER, Former Federal President of the Republic of Austria

18.30 - Reception

Castle Courtyard

Music by: Members of the Pannon Youth Orchestra, an orchestral peace project of young Europeans, and Joseph Haydn Privathochschule

Moderation: Damita PRESSL, Journalist, Neue Zürcher Zeitung



2ND JULY 2024:

CLIMATE, PEACE AND SECURITY

Languages: English (main language) / German (some elements - see below)

09.00 - Panel Discussion

How to Put the Climate, Peace and Security Nexus into Practice

Granarium

As the severity of the climate and environmental crisis escalates, new challenges for peace and security are emerging. Weather extremes, disasters, and the depletion of resources are not only exacerbating existing threats but also giving rise to conflicts centered around narratives of the climate crisis and the pathways to mitigate its effects. In response to these pressing realities, the nexus between climate, the environment, peace, and security has garnered increased attention in international frameworks and policies. However, the crucial question remains: are these frameworks effectively translated into action? How do communities, particularly those most affected by climate change and conflict, experience the implementation of these policies? Which challenges, innovative solutions and needs for change emerge in connecting peacebuilding with climate justice? And what can international organizations, civil society and policy makers do (better) to transform conflicts whilst also building a socially and environmentally just future?

AGENDA

Speakers:

Aisha AL-SARIHI, Associate Fellow, Middle East and North Africa Programme at Chatham House

Alexandra FONG, Chief for Policy and Guidance, United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)

Professor Lučka KAJFEŽ BOGATAJ, University of Ljubljana, Member of the UN Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

VERDIANE NYIRAMANA, Executive Secretary, Benimpuhwe Organization / Board ChairPerson, Nile Basin Discourse

Moderator: Irene GINER-REICHL, President, Global Forum on Sustainable Energy / Board Member, ACP

10.30 - Coffee Break

11.00 - Workshops and Summer School

12.30 - Lunch

Castle Courtyard

14.00 - Workshops and Summer School

15.00 - Guided Museum Tour (English)

Meeting point: Tourist Office / Museum Shop

17.30 - Public Panel Discussion:

Krieg in der Ukraine – Wege aus dem Labyrinth (German with English interpretation)

Granarium

The Russian war against Ukraine is in its third year. The repercussions of the war have plunged Europe into great uncertainty and are affecting the well-being of people in Europe and many other parts of the world. Last but not least, the war of aggression has undermined the international order and calls into question the ability of traditional actors to mediate and resolve conflicts. War now seems to have evolved into a war of attrition, in which the parties to a conflict usually begin to consider negotiation as an alternative to the use of force. What ways out of this labyrinth of war are conceivable and what needs to be done to achieve this?

Speakers:

Stephanie FENKART, Director, International Institute for Peace (IIP)

Raphael NÄGELI, Ambassador, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the OSCE, the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna

Daniela PRUGGER, Freelance correspondent for STANDARD and Ö1

Moderator: Damita PRESSL, Journalist, Neue Zürcher Zeitung

19.00 - Dinner

Burghotel Schlaining

20.00 - Filmscreening

„The Need To Grow“ with Introductory Panel Discussion (German and English)

Granarium



Moderation: Damita PRESSL, Journalist, Neue Zürcher Zeitung

AGENDA

3RD JULY 2024

CHANGING GEOPOLITICS

Languages: English (main language) / German (some elements - see below)

09.00 - Panel Discussion

Emerging Powers in a Fragmented World Order
Granarium

The outbreak of armed conflicts in many parts of the world – including Russia-Ukraine, Israel-Palestine, or Sudan – along with the pandemic and worsening climate crisis have all added to the unpredictability of the global landscape. Abrogation of the last remaining US-Russian arms control treaties and widespread war crimes further contribute to the erosion of the existing international order. The paralysis of the security and mediation tools of international organisations also exacerbates this crisis. The long period of US hegemony in the international system – which brought stability to the geopolitical environment – has correspondingly been replaced by a fragmented world order, with new actors entering the stage and challenging the unipolar political system. Emerging powers play an increasing role in shaping war and peace in the world, as they contribute to a growing rivalry between great powers, while at the same time offering their services for the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Speakers:

Mustafa AYDIN, President, International Relations Council of Turkey
Jacob HAPPYMON, Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University
Luo YANQI, Assistant Researcher, Xiangshan Forum

Moderator:

Angela Kane, Advisory Board, ACP

10.30 - Coffee Break

11.00 – Workshops and Summer School

12.30 - Lunch

Castle Courtyard

14.00 - Workshops and Summer School

15.00 - Guided Museum Tour (English)

Meeting point: Tourist Office / Museum Shop

17.00 - Panel Discussion

Emerging Actors in International Conflict Resolution
Granarium

Speakers:

Ghassan EL KAHLOUT, Director, Centre for Peace and Humanitarian Studies, Doha Institute
Kholood KHAIR, Director, Confluence Advisory
Meredith PRESTON MCGHIE, Secretary General, Center for Global Pluralism

Moderator:

Anna Hess, Senior Conflict Resolution Advisor, ACP

19.00 - Dinner

Burghotel Schlaining

20.00 - Evening Programme

Music & Culture
Granarium

Music by: Members of the Pannon Youth Orchestra, an orchestral peace project of young Europeans, and Joseph Haydn Privathochschule

Moderation: Damita PRESSL, Journalist, Neue Zürcher Zeitung



AGENDA

3RD JULY 2024

CLIMATE & TECH

Languages: English / German (Closing Event)



09.00 - Panel Discussion

Technology for Peace in Times of Climate Change
Granarium

Speakers:

Paulina BEHLULI, Activist, Kosova Open Data
Fabiola HANNA, Assistant Professor of Emerging Medi, The New School
Fabjan LASHI, Teamleader of SURGE Data Hub at Crisis Bureau, UNDP
Sara PETTI, International Network Lead, Project and Community Manager, Open Knowledge Foundation

Moderator:

Nathan Coyle, Senior Project Manager for PeaceTech, ACP

11.00 – Closing & Jazz-Brunch

Castle Courtyard

Moderation: Damita PRESSL, Journalist, Neue Zürcher Zeitung

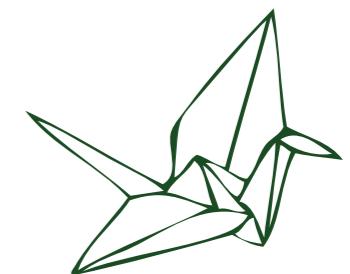
The updated programme can be found here:



www.peaceforum.at

Tell us what you think!

The Austrian Forum for Peace is a relatively new format. We depend on your feedback to learn, to grow, and to improve - Please share your thoughts and ideas with us!



WORKSHOP: CLIMATE FOR ALL(KLIMAZUMMITMACHEN)

Good Practice Examples of Participatory Climate Projects at the Communal Level

To achieve progress in dealing with the climate crisis, major changes have to take place. To reach that goal, participatory approaches to increase the qualities of ideas, to raise awareness as well as acceptance for the changes are necessary, especially within a democratic framework.

In this workshop we will focus on the communal level by studying and discussing three impressive participation projects from Austria.

Deputy mayor Ulrike Feichtinger of the city of Gmunden will present the project „Climate strategy Gmunden 2030“. Between December 2021 and September 2022, citizens, institutional stakeholder, experts and politicians of this 13.000 inhabitants-city worked in different formats, such as „Citizens Assembly“, digital surveys or expert workshops and produced a comprehensive program for the city.

Roger Hackstock, head of „Austria Solar“ and Michael Hilpert, regional manager of the „Climate-Energy-Model Region Carnica-Rosental“ (KEM) will present the initiative „Climate protection takes place/Klimaschutz findet Stadt“. It was conducted in the Carinthian city of Ferlach between March 2022 and December 2023. Again, in different formats, the stakeholders of Ferlach developed a program for a „climate neutral Ferlach“ in 2040.

Tijana Matic, from the Viennese department for Energy planning/Magistratsabteilung 20, will present the „Viennese Climate Team/Wiener Klimateam“. This program of the municipal administration of Vienna started off with a pilot phase in the years 2022 to 2023 in 6 different wards of Vienna. With a variety of in-place and digital participation formats, citizens and stakeholders are actively motivated to develop and present

ideas for urban climate protection. In 6 phases, where a citizens jury plays an important role, the ideas are processed from the start until realization.

Finally, as a fourth presenter, Werner Fischer from the Austrian NGO „Verein Klimarat“, a nationwide Citizens Assembly, shares a broader perspective on participation in Austria and comments on the outcomes of the workshop from his perspective as an expert in the field of climate politics as well as in participation..

Sophia Stanger, Focal Point for Environmental Peacebuilding at the ACP, & Wolfgang Weilharter, Senior Project Manager



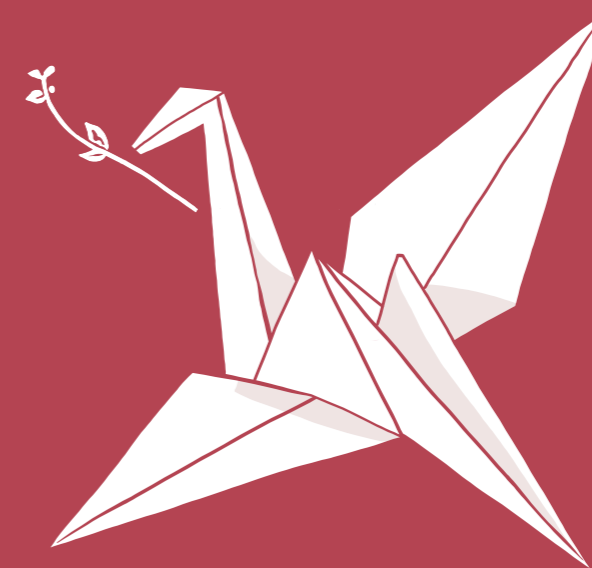
© Foto Andi Bruckner

Wolfgang Weilharter is the Project Manager for the project „Communal Peace and Conflict Work in Burgenland“. His focus is on the implementation of mediation and dialogue processes on the communal level, in the areas of communal politics, housing and neighbourhoods and local coexistence of people of different origins.

Austrian
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Towards a Climate of Peace:
Conference, 1 - 4 July 2024
Stadtschlaining

SUMMER SCHOOL: TOWARDS A CLIMATE OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA, 1 - 3 JULY 2024



THE CONFERENCE:

WAR, GLOBAL STALEMATE IN PEACE PROCESSES AND MILITARISATION ARE INCREASING. IN ADDITION, THE FRAGMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL SYSTEM IS GROWING, WHICH IS ALSO EXPRESSED IN A GROWING NUMBER OF MEDIATION PARTIES, SOME OF WHOM ARE ACTIVELY SUPPORTING SIDES WITHIN CONFLICTS.

THE AUSTRIAN FORUM FOR PEACE 2024 WILL EXPLORE INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACEBUILDING IN COOPERATION WITH VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE GLOBAL SEARCH FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE WITHIN A NEW EMERGING WORLD ORDER.

ENVIRONMENTAL PEACEBUILDING AS ONE OF THE CONFERENCE'S APPROACHES TRIES TO BUILD TRUST BASED ON SHARED NEEDS AND THREATS RESULTING FROM THE CLIMATE CRISIS.

SUMMER SCHOOL - LEARN ABOUT:

- HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MENA REGION
- INTERRELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN CLIMATE AND PEACE
- OPTIONS FOR FOSTERING PEACE

AUSTRIAN CENTRE FOR PEACE PRESENTS:



Data for Peacebuilding: Towards a Climate of Peace Edition
Tuesday 2nd July - Austrian Forum for Peace, Burg Schlaining

Learn about open data in simple and easy-to-understand language, discover where to find it, and explore how to leverage it to enhance your capacity within the context of environmental peacebuilding. Engage in a series of activities aimed at helping the peacebuilding community address the skills needed to utilize more data in our work and promote agility among peacebuilders in data usage. This includes collaboratively designing an open-source outreach strategy that data providers can use as guidance to ensure their data supports peace efforts effectively.

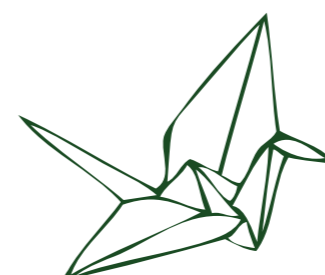
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PEACE EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

Homeland Earth – Polycrisis Seeks Answers In A Planetary Consciousness

The globalization push of the last decades has linked all people on all continents and all nations in a complex way and brought them into an indissoluble relationship with each other. Thus, whether we like it or not, an earthly community of destiny has emerged. This is made visible by the global polycrisis that affects us all, albeit in different ways: drastic and man-made climate change, the extinction of species triggered by our economy and way of life, the danger of self-extinction through a nuclear strike, nationalistically motivated wars or the global Covid-19 pandemic. These are all challenges and problems that can only be solved together, and on a planetary level: homeland Earth.

The Workshop will investigate and discuss possibilities to foster a planetary consciousness through peace education.



Kick-off Bounce back Project

The workshop offers interdisciplinary expertise on resilience promotion, character building and strengthening life skills from the perspective of medicine, psychology, and ethics.

It is dedicated to the implementation in the areas of primary and secondary education within the framework of the EU Interreg-ATHU project BOUNCE BACK. The final panel will be the joint panel of peace and life skills pedagogy „Peace and Life-Skills-Pedagogy as influencing factors for a climate of peace“.

This workshop takes place within the framework of the Interreg AT-HU project BOUNCE BACK, which is funded by the European Structural Fund for Cross-Border Cooperation.



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

EXPERTS / PARTICIPANTS / SPEAKERS



Dr. **Aisha Al-Sarihi** is a research fellow at the Middle East Institute of the National University of Singapore, and a non-resident fellow at both the Middle East Council on Global Affairs and the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington. She also serves as an Associate Fellow at Chatham House's Middle East and North Africa Programme. Al-Sarihi specializes in the political economy of environmental sustainability and energy and climate policy in the Arab region. She earned her PhD from the Centre for Environmental Policy at Imperial College London, and holds an MSc and BSc, with distinction, in Environmental Science from Sultan Qaboos University. (c) Dr. Aisha Al-Sarihi



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



Prof. Dr. **Mustafa Aydın** is the President of the International Relations Council of Turkey and a Professor of International Relations at Kadir Has University. Dr. Aydın held positions at Ankara University and TOBB-University of Economics and Technology, as well as several prestigious fellowships, including at Harvard University. He has served as a member of the Economy and Foreign Policy Study Group of the President of Turkey, co-coordinator of the International Commission on the Black Sea, and director of the International Policy Research

Institute. His research focuses on international politics and security in Central Asia, the Caucasus, the Black Sea, and the Middle East. (c) Prof. Dr. Mustafa Aydın



Franklin Babila Doh is based in Cameroon. He is an expert in Disaster Risk and Social Protection, Gender Patterns in Migration and Humanitarian Emergency Response, currently holds the position of Deputy Regional Director for the Central African Sub-Region at the Institut Panafricain pour le Développement-Afrique Centrale (IPD-AC). He brings valuable experience from his previous roles at the Pan African Institute for Development - West Africa and the PAID Center for Concerted, Decent and Sustainable Development. Franklin holds a Master's degree in Strategy, Defense, Security, Conflicts, and Disaster Management from the University of Yaounde II, Soa (2010-2013). (c) Franklin Babila Doh



Hrair Balian has served in leadership positions with the UN as Director of the SG's High Representative Office in Ivory Coast (2006-2008), the OSCE/ODIHR as Head of Elections (1998-2003) and NGOs, including with the Carter Center as Director of Conflict Resolution (2008-2022) as well as with the International Crisis Group as Director of its Bosnia and Herzegovina field office (1996-1998). During a 35-year career in public service, he has worked on conflict resolution, elections and human rights in the Balkans, Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia, Middle East and Africa. Hrair Balian has also taught conflict resolution, negotiations, and mediation at the Emory University School of Law (2008-2018) and Georgia Tech's Sam Nunn School of International Affairs (2023).



Asmau Benzies Leo is Executive Director for the Centre for Nonviolence and Gender Advocacy in Nigeria (CENGAIN), a non-profit organization dedicated to peace, gender equality, and sustainable development. She has a Bachelors degree in Sociology and Anthropology, Masters in Conflict Management and Peace Studies and a PhD in Public Governance and Leadership. She is currently the Coordinator of the National Women's Platform on Security Sector Reform and Governance for Nigeria. She was the former Head of the Gender and Vulnerable Group Care Unit at the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) under the Presidency. She has a strong focus on Refugees and displaced women and children, and was a Member of the Technical Working Group for the Nigerian National Development Plan 2021-2025 and Agenda 2030. Her extensive experience includes working with the academia, the World Bank, United Nations and some international organisations. She is an international conference speaker, transformational leader, a Gender, Conflict and Peace Researcher, the convener of Peace Hub-Nigeria, a member of the Women, Peace and Security Reference Group and a Global Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security.



Prof. Dr. **Roland Bernhard** is a Full Professor of Education, specializing in School Improvement and Leadership, at the University of Teacher Education Vienna/Krems (KPH). He heads the school development research unit and has extensively studied the traits of highly effective schools and education systems. His research includes post-doctoral work at the University of Oxford. Dr. Bernhard leads significant research initiatives such as the Austrian Science Fund project 'School Quality and Teacher Education' (SQTE) and the international project 'Teachers' and Parents' Perspectives on Character Education' (TEPACE). (c) Roland Bernhard

Lt. Colonel Amadou Tidiane Cissé, a Senior Customs Inspector in the Customs Investigations Department of the Senegalese Customs Authority, has been the Head of the Office of Security and Coordination of the Fight against Fraud at the Directorate General of Customs of Senegal since 2019. He previously served as Auditor and Head of Sections at the Port of Dakar and as Inspector Editor at the Directorate of Studies and Legislation. A graduate of the National School of Administration of Senegal, he holds Master's degrees in Sociology and Oil and Gas. He authored „Terrorism

Beyond Borders" (2021), „Off-shore States and Petro-terrorism" (2022) and West Africa, The New Eldorado for organized crime (2024).



Dr. **Esra Çuhadar** is Associate Professor at Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey, and Research Director of the Ottawa Dialogue at the University of Ottawa, Canada. She has over three decades of experience in research, teaching and practice in dialogue facilitation, mediation and conflict assessment. Dr. Çuhadar's extensive professional experience includes serving as a Mediation Adviser to the United Nations (on the roster since 2024), Senior Expert on Dialogue and Inclusion at the United States Institute of Peace (2020-2023), Regional Mediator for the World Bank (2011-2020), Consultant to the OSCE (ongoing), and Senior Research Fellow at Inclusive Peace (ongoing). Dr Çuhadar received her M.A. and Ph.D. from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, where she also earned an Advanced Graduate Certificate in Applied Conflict Resolution.



Norbert Darabos was Austrian Minister of Defence from 2007 to 2013 and Burgenland's State Councillor for Social Affairs and Health from 2015 - 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



Aude Darnal is a Research Analyst and Project Manager at the Stimson Center and the founder and leader of the Global South in the World Order Project. This initiative is a platform dedicated to elevating geopolitical perspectives from Global South policy stakeholders and furthering representation in Western policy circles. It aims to advance global governance reform and equity in international affairs, to enable prosperity and security for all. Aude's primary field of research has been in the peacebuilding and development sector, and she has worked in West Africa. She notably advocates for the wholesale restructuring of the current models underpinning international assistance and the securiti-

zed responses to conflicts.



Patricio Del Boca serves as the Tech Lead at the Open Knowledge Foundation. With over a decade of experience as an information systems engineer, he has extensive experience in both the private sector and NGOs. His work is focused on collaborating with diverse communities to disseminate technical knowledge in a way that has a meaningful impact. Patricio Del Boca is also an activist and has been advocating for the open movement since a young age.



Maryna Domushkina is a visiting fellow with the Wider Europe programme at the European Council on Foreign Relations. She holds an MA in international peace and conflict studies from the UN University for Peace and specializes in peace and security, with a focus on negotiations and mediation in complex emergencies. Having worked more than ten years in the area, her expertise includes positions with the OSCE, the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue in Geneva, UNICEF, UNHCR and the UN. Most notably, she was an advisor to the UN on the Black Sea Grain Initiative, where she actively contributed to the establishment of the Joint Coordination Centre in Istanbul and the agreement's operationalisation (2022). Domushkina has also been a human rights officer in the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (2016-2020). (c) ecfr.eu



Governor **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



Ovigwe Eguegu is a Policy Analyst at Development Reimagined, and a Samuel Hall Research Fellow. He specialises in geopolitics, with particular reference

to Africa in a changing global order. Specifically, his research and research-based policy advice address the implications of great power politics for security in Africa, and how Africa responds to and shape global power shifts. He is a former field advisor with years of experience in designing and implementing conflict and stabilisation programmes in the Sahel. Eguegu holds a Master's Degree in International relations from Renmin University of China. His recent publications include a policy paper "The Russia-Ukraine War: Implications for Africa" (2023), published by the South African Institute of International Affairs, "Russia's private military diplomacy in Africa: High risk, low reward, limited impact" (2022), published in the South African Journal of International Affairs and "The Digital Silk Road: Connecting Africa with New Norms of Digital Development" (2022), published in Asia Policy.



Dr. **Ghassan El Kahlout** is the Director of the Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies and an Associate Professor in Conflict Management and Humanitarian Action at the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies. He has over two decades of experience in post-war recovery, and humanitarian response, having worked with international organizations. His research spans a wide range of topics related to conflict management, humanitarian action, and post-war recovery. Dr. El Kahlout holds a PhD in Post-war Reconstruction and Development studies from the University of York. (c) CHS Doha



Mohammad Mahmoud Farghal is Senior Project Manager for ACP's Iraq activities focused on mediation and the promotion of dialogue between political actors in the country. He has extensive experience in political, international and humanitarian affairs, having served with the League of Arab States, the United Nations, the Government of Egypt, and the International Committee of the Red Cross. He holds a degree in Political Science from the University of Ottawa.



Ulrike Feichtinger serves as Deputy Mayor and Community Group Spokesperson for the municipality of Gmunden in Austria. She is a member of the Green Party in the province of Upper Austria, where she also serves on the district executive board. She holds a doctorate in theoretical physics and has previously worked as a researcher at CERN (the European Research Centre for Particle

Physics). Ms. Feichtinger is a consultant and was previously involved in the "Fridays for Future and Parents" project in Gmunden. (c) Mona Lorenz



Stephanie Fenkart has been serving as Director of the International Institute for Peace (IIP) since 2016. She is a member of the Advisory Committee for Strategy and Security Policy of the Scientific Commission at the Austrian Armed Forces (BMLV). She is also the Chair of the Board of the Balkan Forum based in Prishtina.



Dr. **Heinz Fischer** was President of the Republic of Austria from 2004 to 2016. His extensive career as a senior representative and policymaker of the Republic of Austria has spanned several decades and included positions as Member of the Austrian National Assembly (1971-2004), Chairman of the Social Democratic Group in the Austrian Parliament (1975-1983), Minister for Science and Research (1983-1987) and President of the National Assembly (1990-2002). He was Deputy Chairman of the Social Democratic Party from 1978 to 2004 and co-founder of Amnesty International/Austria in the early 1970s. Dr Fischer holds a doctorate in law from the University of Vienna and was a professor of political science at the University of Innsbruck. He has written several books in the fields of political science, constitutional law, contemporary history, amongst others. (c) BKMC



Werner Fischer is the press spokesperson and auditor of the Austrian Climate Council. In 2022 he was active in the Climate Council's field of action „Production and Consumption“. He also represents the provinces of Burgenland and Lower Austria in the organisation. Prior to that, he worked for more than 25 years in finance and general management for various companies in Austria and abroad, including as co-owner of Rohkraft green GmbH and as Managing Director of Erber Future Business GmbH, a holding company for companies and projects in advanced technologies.



Alexandra Fong is the Chief for Policy and Guidance in the Policy and Media-tion Division of the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA). In this role, she helped establish the inter-agency Climate Secu-

rity Mechanism at the UN in 2018 and has been closely involved in guiding and growing its work. She oversees DPPA's policy planning, innovation, and guidance and learning teams and co-manages the UNDP-DPPA Joint Programme on Building National Capacities for Conflict Prevention. She previously served as peace and development adviser in Asmara, Eritrea, and as adviser to three Under-Secretaries-General for Political Affairs. In 2016-2017 she held a visiting scholar appointment at Stanford University's Centre for Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law. Before joining the UN, Alexandra worked at the International Crisis Group and a network of development NGOs. She holds a BA Honours from Oxford University and a MSc from the London School of Economics. (c) UNDP/PPA



Leonore Gewessler is Austria's Federal Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation, and Technology, appointed in January 2020. Previously, she was the Deputy Chairwoman of the Green Parliamentary Group and a Member of the National Council for the Greens. Gewessler served as Executive Director of Global 2000 from 2014 to 2019, and earlier as the founding director of the Green European Foundation in Brussels. She has also been a member of the Advisory Council of the 'Grüne Bildungswerkstatt' education foundation, focusing on environmental policy and education. Ms. Gewessler holds a BA in Political Science from the University of Vienna. (c) BMK / Cajetan Perwein



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. (c) LGP



Christoph Grafinger is a peace and conflict researcher and international peace worker at Center for Balkan Cooperation LOJA. LOJAs activities are primarily focused on the fields of peace education

and culture, promoting ethnic reconciliation and inclusion through the arts and civic engagement. The organization regularly conducts training activities as part of its long-term project of Anchoring Multicultural Education in the University Curricula in North Macedonia as well as Civic Activism & Peacebuilding Academies.



Roger Hackstock has served as the long-standing CEO of the Austrian Solar Association. Mr. Hackstock has been engaged in energy system transformation for nearly three decades, having held various roles at the Ministry of Science, the Institute for Technology Assessment of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the Austrian Energy Agency, the Austrian Climate and Energy Fund, and as an independent energy policy consultant. He is a lecturer at the Vienna University of Technology and the author of two best-selling books on energy transition. In June 2023, he was appointed Director of Solar Heat Europe, representing the category of national associations. (c) Fotostudio Wilke



Dr **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). (c) ZIF



Anna Hess is an expert in peace and security with extensive experience in conflict studies and peace mediation across Eurasia and South Asia. She has designed and supported various peace processes and led educational programs in peace and conflict studies, including certificate courses and Master's programs. As former Head of Conflict Resolution at the Austrian Center for Peace, she was leading the Centre's work in dialogue and mediation processes across the Middle East, Africa, and Eurasia. Anna has authored numerous publications, including on OSCE mediation and women's roles in peace processes, and is currently working on a book

about the impact of geopolitical tensions on protracted conflicts, focusing on Eurasia and the Middle East.



Michael Hilpert is the manager of the climate and energy model region Carnica Rosental. The Carnica Rosental project is designed to promote the optimal use of natural resources and to facilitate the identification and implementation of energy savings opportunities. The initiative aims to promote sustainable management and active climate protection in the region. Mr. Hilpert holds a master's degree in Sustainable Urban and Regional Development and has extensive practical experience in project management.



Astrid Holzinger is Senior Project Manager of the International Civilian Peacebuilding Training Programme and has multiple years of experience with the UN, OSCE and EU as well as the Austrian civil service. Capacity-building, crisis management and programme coordination within the UN Mission in South Sudan, protection of civilians in armed conflict, the promotion of the women, peace and security agenda and international security are among her areas of expertise. She holds a master's degree in international relations.



Oluyemi Ibiloye is a Commandant of Corps with the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC). He was the Technical Adviser on Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) matters to the Honorable Minister of Interior, he is a statistician, peace and security expert, a certified Protection Officer (CPO) and a chartered mediator. In this capacity, he offered technical guidance on strategic planning, private security governance, agency operations, and performance management. Following his recent promotion, he was appointed as the State Commandant of the NSCDC Ondo State Command. In collaboration with the State government, he oversees security operations and civil protection, implementing community engagement programs to enhance public safety and synergize between security agencies and local communities, in ensuring protection of lives and properties. As a highly resourceful intellectual and a sort after panelist, he has engaged in several facilitations and panel discussions at various local and international conferences.



Dr. **Happymon Jacob** is an Associate Professor of Diplomacy and Disarmament at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, and the Founder and Honourary Director of the Council for Strategic and Defence Research in New Delhi. With nearly two decades of experience, he specializes in security and international affairs, with a focus on arms control, disarmament, and India's Foreign policy. He is a columnist for the Hindustan Times, a leading Indian daily. (c) Happymon Jacob



Caroline Jäckl is the Director and Diversity Manager of the European Office of the Education Directorate for Vienna. Prior to that, she worked as an elementary school teacher, holding an academic qualification in teaching children with reading and spelling difficulties. In 2021, Ms. Jäckl was appointed as an Erasmus+ Ambassador and has since developed and implemented the Erasmus+ empowerment strategy "enterEurope" in her capacity at the European Office in Vienna.



Uli Jäger is Senior Advisor on peace education at the Berghof Foundation. Previously, he led the Global Learning Department and, since 1986, has been co-director of the former Institute for Peace Education, Tübingen e.V. (Institut für Friedenspädagogik, Tübingen e.V. - IFT). He has designed and implemented various national and international peace education projects. In July 2017 he was appointed Honorary Professor by the University of Tübingen. He is a member of the advisory board of the Peace Institute Freiburg.



Prof. **Lučka Kajfež Bogataj** is a leading Slovenian climatologist and professor emeritus, specializing in agricultural meteorology and climate change impacts. From 1996 to 2023, she has headed the Centre for Biometrology at the Biotechnical Faculty of the University of Ljubljana, where she also obtained her doctorate. Dr. Bogataj has been a core member of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for over 16 years. Most notably, she was part of the IPCC group that won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. Her work has significantly advanced climate science in Slovenia and internationally, earning her numerous honours, including Slovenia's Order of Merit (2008) and an honorary

doctorate from the University of Primorska (2011). In 2016 she became a member of the UNESCO Expert Group on the Declaration on Ethical Principles in Relation to Climate Change. She was listed among Women Who Inspire Europe in 2012 by the European Institute for Gender Equality. (c) Boris Bogataj



Angela Kane worked for over 35 years for the United Nations and held posts at the Assistant and Under-Secretary-General levels. She is the Vice President of the International Institute for Peace in Vienna and serves as Senior Advisor to the Nuclear Threat Initiative in Washington. She is also a Senior Fellow at the Vienna Center for Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. She is a Professor at Tsinghua University/Schwarzman Scholars in Beijing and serves on Boards in Europe, North America, and Asia, focusing on political affairs, conflict resolution and artificial intelligence. (c) Foto Andi Bruckner



Kholood Khair is the founder and director of Confluence Advisory, a 'think and do tank' formerly based in Khartoum that specializes in the three key policy areas: peace and security, economy, and governance. Additionally, Kholood hosted and co-produced Spotlight 249, Sudan's first English-language political discussion and debate programme aimed at young Sudanese. Kholood has a career spanning the fields of research, aid programming, and policy in Sudan and across the Horn of Africa. She has authored research and analysis pieces for several international publications and has provided analyses for research and policy institutions worldwide.



Tetiana Kyselova is an Associate Professor of Mediation and Conflict Resolution at the Department of International Relations, Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine; an Associate Researcher at swisspeace, Switzerland, and the Director and Founder of the Mediation and Dialogue Research Center at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. Tetiana holds a DPhil in Social-Legal Studies from Oxford University. Since 2022, Tetiana has been an advisor to the civil society network "Ukrainian Community of Dialogue Practitioners", on the strategies of peacebuilding, fund-raising, capacity development, methodologies of conflict analysis and process design. Tetiana's research interests include conflict transformation, post-

conflict reconciliation, peacebuilding, mediation, and dialogue.



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



Dr. **Fabjan Lashi** is the Digital Assessments Project Manager at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Team Leader of the SURGE Data Hub unit at the Crisis Bureau. With over 16 years of experience at UNDP, he leads and coordinates data literacy and digital assessments service provision for 170 UNDP country offices worldwide. His work focuses on response, recovery, and data management in fragile states and crisis contexts, leveraging data and digital tools for prevention and crisis analysis. Previously, Dr. Lashi has worked for the European Commission amongst other international organizations and was a visiting lecturer at the Canadian Institute of Technology for over 8 years. (c) Dr. Fabjan Lashi



Bujar Luma, a theatre director by vocation, integrates into his work of civic activism modern techniques from art and new media to effectively engage in intercultural dialogue between communities. Bujar is the founder of "LOJA – Center for Balkan Cooperation", established in 1999 in response to the ethnic conflict in ex-Yugoslavia. Since then, LOJA institutionalized multicultural education at universities in North Macedonia and is in the process of establishing the Western Balkan Academy on Peace Building and Civic Activism. Additionally, Bujar is often engaged in „Track Two Diplomacy“ initiatives. Bujar was one of key facilitators responsible for the establishment of the RYCO, one of the most important outcomes of the Berlin Process.



Shadia Marhaban is a mediator and a member of the steering committee of the Southeast Asian Women Peace Me-

diators (SEAWPM). She was a member of the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) peace negotiation team in Helsinki in 2005, which successfully ended 30 years of conflict. Marhaban works as a consultant for the Berghof Foundation, focusing on resistance and liberation movements for over a decade. In this capacity, she has advised numerous armed resistance movements worldwide, including in Colombia, Afghanistan, Nepal, Cameroon and Mindanao. She studied political science in Indonesia and was a former fellow at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. In 2017, she was honoured with the Mediators Beyond Borders International (MBBI) Peacemaker of the Year award for her advocacy on UNSCR 1325. (c) SEAWPM



Dr. **Yanqi Luo** is a Program Manager for External Affairs and International Communication, Secretariat of Beijing Xiangshan Forum and Associate Researcher at the Academy of Military Sciences PLA. Dr. Yanqi Luo majored in international security with a focus on US military and UAV application in military affairs. (c)Dr. Yanqi Luo



Bettina Muscheidt is Ambassador of the European Union in Nicaragua. Ambassador Muscheidt has a long experience in EU institutions, holding different positions in the European External Action Service (EEAS), European Commission and European Investment Bank (EIB). (c)

Foto Andi Bruckner



Ambassador **Raphael Nägeli** is Switzerland's Permanent Representative to the OSCE, the United Nations and other international organisations in Vienna. After working in journalism and for a major Swiss bank, he held several diplomatic posts, including at the FDFA/FDEA Integration Office, the embassies in Sarajevo and Budapest, the Policy Unit of the Human Security Division and the International Civilian Office in Kosovo. He has been Head of the Asia and Pacific Division (as an Ambassador) since August 2018, having previously held the positions of Regional Coordinator for South Eastern Europe, Deputy Head with the rank of Minister, Head of the Task Force for the Swiss Chairmanship of the OSCE from 2015, and Deputy Head of the Human Security Division with the rank of Minister from August 2016. Nägeli studied history, economics and the history of Eastern Europe at the University of

Zurich and the Free University of Berlin.



Fatou Ndour is Senior Project Manager of the Capacity Development for Humanitarian Assistance in West Africa (HAWA) project. Trained in international relations, international crime and justice, and human rights law, she possesses a vast experience in post-conflict justice. She previously worked for UN entities and NGOs, supporting capacity-building programs and research studies in the fields of human rights (including children's rights, gender, and migration). Furthermore, has knowledge of the development sector and a good understanding of challenges at the local, national and regional levels in developing countries.



Kurt Nekula is a federal civil servant and has worked as Head of the General Education Section at the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research. In this role, he focused on general education, quality development and reform projects. A teacher by training, Nekula was the head of „Licht ins Dunkel - charitable organisation for people with social, physical and mental disabilities“ from 2013 to 2023 and is a former member of the national parliament. He currently works in the European Office of the Vienna Education Directorate. (c) Petra Spiola



Verdiane Nyiramana is the Executive Secretary of Benimpuhwe Organisation, currently the country focal point for the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) in Rwanda. Nyiramana also serves as the Chairperson of the Executive Board of the Nile Basin Discourse network. Her work focuses on building community resilience to climate change, strengthening civil society participation in national development and planning processes, and promoting sustainable peace.



Andreas Papp is a consultant and humanitarian aid worker. He began his career with Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in 2004 and has worked as a project and country coordinator in a dozen countries. Subsequently, he served as Program Director at MSF-Austria (2008) and Director of Emergency Response at SOS Children's Villages International (2015-2019), where he contributed to

the development and implementation of Emergency Preparedness and Relief programs in 28 countries. Since 2013, Andreas Papp has been a regular lecturer at Webster University, Vienna Campus. In 2020, he established his own company, Andreas Papp Consulting e.U., which offers consulting services to a range of companies, universities, NGO's and governmental institutions.



Sara Petti is the International Network, Projects, and Community Lead at the Open Knowledge Foundation. Her work, at the intersection of tech and democracy, is focused on community empowerment and access to knowledge. Sara is passionate about all issues linked to community care and health, like governance. Before joining Open Knowledge Foundation, she was advocating for public libraries to be on the EU agenda (notably for the review of the Copyright Directive), and was part of the team that developed Khan Academy in French. She is a proud co-organiser of csv.conf and the Open Research Devroom at FOSDEM. She is currently based in Bologna, Italy. (c) Sara Petti



Jan Pospisil is Associated Professor at the University of Coventry. Until 2022 he was Research Director at the ACP. His work focuses on peace processes and political settlements, donor politics in peacebuilding, resilience, and South Sudanese and Sudanese politics. (c) Foto

Andi Bruckner



Damita Pressl is an award-winning journalist and presenter based in Zurich. She is passionate about current affairs, women's and children's rights and evidence-based policy. Ms. Pressl moderates panels and conferences, she offers media and public speaking training, and her online course, Public Speaking School, supports women in finding their voice.



Meredith Preston McGhie is the Secretary General for the Global Centre for Pluralism. With over 20 years of experience in conflict resolution and peace-making, she has significant expertise in frontline negotiation, policy, and diplomacy. In her previous role as Africa Regional Director with the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, she contributed to a range of peace processes, including ad-

vising Kofi Annan during the Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation in 2007/8. In addition to facilitating processes in Sudan, South Sudan, Nigeria and Somalia, her experience has spanned work with Indigenous communities in Northeast India and Myanmar and UN peace processes in Kosovo and Northern Iraq. (c) GCP



Daniela Prugger is a freelance journalist working as a foreign correspondent in Kyiv, Ukraine and reports for various international media outlets, including “Der Standard”, Ö1 Radios, WOZ – Die Wochenzeitung, SRF, ff, Rai Südtirol. Her work spans multiple media formats, including print, television, radio, online platforms, and podcasts. Ms. Prugger grew up in South Tyrol, Italy, and completed her academic studies at the University of Vienna and the Universidad de Sevilla, followed by professional training at the Reportageschule in Reutlingen, Germany. She has recently been honored with the 2023 ‘Award for Outstanding Journalism in Memory of Claus Gatterer’ for her in-depth coverage of the war in Ukraine. (c) Helena Lea Manhartsberger



Monika Psenner serves as the Head of Capacity Development at ACP, where she provides strategic and operational oversight of the organization’s comprehensive training portfolio. This includes spearheading initiatives such as the EU Civilian Training Initiative (EUCTI) and programs aligned with the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) framework. Committed to fostering sustainable peace, Monika actively integrates Environmental Peacebuilding principles into ACP’s multifaceted endeavours and advocates for the adoption of the Climate, Environment, Peace, and Security Nexus in both European and global initiatives. Monika’s academic background encompasses international affairs as well as crisis and contingency management. Bolstered by her professional foundation in development cooperation and humanitarian aid, she brings a wealth of experience in intercultural network collaboration, leadership, organizational development, project management, and training to her work.



Prof. Dr. **Peter Stippl** is Vice President of the Austrian Association for Psychotherapy. As a psychotherapist, supervisor, trainer and coach, he has been involved in the interests of psychotherapy and psychotherapeutic care in Austria for almost 25 years. From 1998 to 2013 he was on

the board of the Burgenland Association for Psychotherapy, including as vice-chairman and then as chairman. Since 2013, Stippl has been active in politics on the board of the Austrian Association for Psychotherapy, first as vice-president, then as president in 2015. He was the co-founder and head of crisis intervention at the Burgenland Red Cross for more than 10 years. (c) ÖBVP



Ambassador **Christian Strohal** 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. (c) Foto Andi Bruckner

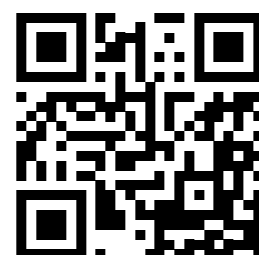


Zhou Yiqi is an associate Senior Fellow at Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS). His research interests include conflict studies, Middle East security, international political theory, and research methodology. He has published a number of papers in academic journals and new media. He worked as a visiting scholar at the Department of Social Science, Ohio State University in 2017-2018, and as a Nonresident Fellow at the Institute for Peace Research, Frankfurt, Germany from February to September 2023.



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The updated list of participants can be found here:





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