

# The Peace Center at Burg Schlaining

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## INTRODUCTION

The Peace Center Burg Schlaining, consisting of the Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR) and the European University Center for Peace Studies (EPU), is situated in the medieval town of Stadtschlaining/Austria. The ASPR was founded in September 1982 as an independent, non-profit and non-partisan organisation. It aims to contribute to the promotion of peace and peaceful conflict transformation and to the dissemination of practical ideas for peace.

The ASPR was the founder of the European University Center for Peace Studies (EPU) and established a European Peace Museum in Schlaining Castle in the year 2001. In order to help facilitate ASPR activities, the ASPR set up a unique infrastructure including the Peace Library in a former synagogue, a Conference Center in Schlaining Castle, the Hotel Burg Schlaining, and Haus International, which is a student hostel. For these and other efforts the ASPR was awarded UN "Peace Messenger" status in 1987. In 1995, the ASPR and the EPU were awarded the UNESCO "Prize for Peace Education" and, in 2002, the UNESCO UniTwin Award. Major activities of the Peace Center are the following.

- Peace Building Training Programs.
- Peace-building Projects.
- Academic Programs.
- Research Projects.
- The International Summer Academy.
- The European Museum for Peace.

## PEACE-BUILDING TRAINING PROGRAMS

Since 1992, the ASPR has become active in various peace-building training programs for the United Nations, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the European Union and Non-governmental Organisations.

## THE INTERNATIONAL CIVILIAN PEACE-KEEPING AND PEACE-BUILDING TRAINING PROGRAM (IPT)

The first program was the *International Civilian Peace-keeping and Peace-building Training Program (IPT)*. This programme was a result of an increasing need for trained civilian personnel for civilian peace-keeping and peace-building activities. In the “Agenda for Peace” the former UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali encouraged the establishment of regional training centres for this purpose. The Austrian government responded to this request very positively and supported the ASPR in developing this training program and to run it on a regular basis. General preparation is provided in two-weeks foundation courses which take place three times a year. With function-orientated training in two-weeks specialisation courses (following in an immediate sequence to the foundation-courses) details about one of the major peace-building functions are provided.

The methodology that informs the program is based on information, interaction, reflection and integration. It reflects the importance of so called contact skills, i.e. skills, that are practised in direct interaction with people. Faculty is drawn from an international group of resource persons familiar with UN, OSCE, AU, EU and NGO activities in the realm of peace-keeping and peace-building.

The basic idea of the program is that regardless to which field operation civilian personnel will be seconded to, all civilians who are interested in participating in peace-keeping and peace-building activities should receive general preparation and function specific preparation. Such trained personnel should form a pool of civilian experts to be seconded to specific field operations according to their special knowledge and skills.

Since 1993 some 800 participants with a great variety of professional, organisational and cultural backgrounds have been trained for at least one of following major functions.

- Election Observation and Assistance (e.g. concepts and practice of democracy, elections and election observation in various societies).
- Empowerment for Political Participation (e.g. democratic institution building, relationship between state and civic initiatives, promotion of personal political engagement).
- Human Rights Protection and Promotion (e.g. definition and concept of human rights, cultural differences, fact finding, promotion, monitoring, and technical assistance).
- Humanitarian Assistance (e.g. dilemmas and political implications, delivering emergency help - food aid, water and sanitation, health care).
- Information Dissemination: (e.g. acquisition and distribution of information in crisis regions, communication among the actors in the field, dealing with political instrumentalisation of the media).
- Post-conflict Reconstruction (e.g. reconstruction, repatriation, rehabilitation, dealing with trauma and shock, rebuilding civil society).

- “Third Party” Intervention (e.g. mediation, facilitation, negotiation, and arbitration)

#### MISSION PREPARATION TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR THE OSCE (MPT)

The *Mission Preparation Training Programme for the OSCE (MPT)* follows the same rationale as IPT. It is a result of the OSCE’s decision at the 1999 Istanbul summit to set up “Rapid Expert Assistance and Co-operation Teams” (REACT) which will be at the disposal of the OSCE. These teams should provide assistance, in accordance with the OSCE norms in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. The basic idea of the MPT programme is to provide civilians, interested to work (or already working) in OSCE field missions, with a wide range of civilian expertise through general as well as function specific two-week courses. The trained personnel will then form a pool of civilian experts to be seconded to specific OSCE field operations according to their special knowledge and skills. Since October 2000 some 200 participants were trained in six basic courses and two specialisation courses. The courses were very well evaluated by the participants. They acknowledged that they profited from the courses personally and professionally.

#### EC PROJECT ON TRAINING FOR CIVILIAN ASPECTS OF CRISIS MANAGEMENT

The *EC Project on Training for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management* is a result of the European Union’s decision to strengthen its actions in civilian crisis management. The European Council meetings at Feira in June 2000 and Göteborg in June 2001 have identified and stressed the importance of training for civilian aspects of crisis management as a priority area with a view to enhancing the capacity of the European Union in order to respond effectively to international crises. The existence of well-trained civilian experts ready to be deployed at short notice will be key to the European Union’s ability to undertake the full range of conflict prevention and crisis management tasks. The creation of trained reserves is essential in order to provide civilian personnel for peace missions and field activities of the United Nations, the OSCE, the Council of Europe and other international organisations, as well as for EU-led missions.

This led the European Commission to launch a Pilot Project in October 2001 on Training for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management, focusing on the areas of rule of law and civilian administration, with the ASPR acting as project co-ordinator. EU Member States were invited to nominate national bodies to become project partners. Today, 13 partners from 13 EU Member States form the EU Group on Training (EGT) - an informal EU-wide network of governmental and non-governmental organisations responsible for training of civilian personnel.

The project partners adopted a comprehensive approach. They found that the EU needs to establish capabilities.

- Covering all stages of conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict settlement.
- For the broad spectrum of functions and tasks required during the different stages of the conflict management cycle, i.e. mission tasks would include advisory; monitoring; fact-finding, investigation and inquiry; training and capacity-building; as well as executive tasks.
- Supporting local ownership in the conflict area and compatible with civil society.
- Related to other actors in the field, and in co-operation with relevant international organisations, in particular the UN, OSCE, and the Council of Europe.

Following the comprehensive approach, the following functional areas, which are closely related to the spheres of civilian administration and the rule of law as specifically defined, were identified from the training perspective: “Rule of Law,” “Human Rights,” “Democratisation and Good Governance,” “Organising Civilian Administration,” “Press and Public Information – Media Development,” “Conflict Transformation,” and “Mission Administration and Support.”

Training curricula were developed for the Core Course and the Specialisation Courses for the functional areas mentioned as well as for the Mission-Induction Briefing. In order to ensure complementarity and full interoperability, the training modules take into consideration the training standards and training materials developed by the UN, the OSCE, the Council of Europe and other relevant international organisations.

During a second phase of the project, five Pilot Core (with a total of 129 participants) and ten Pilot Specialisation Courses (with a total of 163 participants) were implemented in nine EU Member States between January 2003 and February 2004. The pilot courses were assessed as very successful and as a good basis for further development. It is recommended that Member States which run courses for international crisis management activities of various organisations, such as the OSCE, the UN and others make use of the Core Courses as the basis for their own training.

Areas of improvement were formulated according to learning objectives, methodology and the organisation of the single courses, the nomination of participants, and the evaluation and assessment of participants. Proposals were developed with regard to the future training co-operation within the EU and with other international organisations such as the UN. These proposals were welcomed by two conferences under the Italian presidency in October 2003 and are subsequently part of a third phase of the project in 2004. Phase 3 of the project aims at:

- Fostering closer training co-operation in the EU and the organisation and co-ordination of 3 Core and 11 Specialisation Courses in order to enlarge the pool of well trained civilian experts available on short notice.
- Contribution to a co-ordinated EU training policy in the field of ESDP, encompassing both civilian and military dimensions.

- Exchange of information and co-operation between EU and other international organisations such as the UN, the OSCE and the Council of Europe.
- Enhancement of the EU-UN training co-operation by a EU-UN training course based on the identification of joint standards and requirements;
- Development of assessment criteria in order to see if the participants have attained the desired level of knowledge and competence.
- Support of compatible civilian personnel rosters on Member States and EU level which are important for the rapid deployment of qualified personnel for specific mission tasks.

Further information on the project can be obtained from the projects' web-site: [www.eustraininggroup.net](http://www.eustraininggroup.net).

### PEACE-BUILDING PROJECTS

The ASPR has developed peace-building projects for specific conflict regions, starting with the escalation of the conflicts in former Yugoslavia. *Conferences were organised with regard to a cease-fire and the situation of minorities in Croatia and Serbia.*

In July 1997 the ASPR became in charge of a project on *Rebuilding of the Multi-ethnic Society in the Croatian Danube Region*. The population of this Region suffered a cruel war that has deeply divided the different ethnicities. Post-war reconstruction and rehabilitation in this region will depend on the rebuilding of the multi-ethnic society. In this stage the population needs the help from external experts since multi-ethnic co-operation faces many obstacles. The main elements for achieving this goal were needs assessment in the Region, the preparation of a series of seminars and workshops which were held in a neutral environment at the ASPR in Stadt Schlaining focusing on confidence building, training and project development as well as the support and monitoring of the implementation of projects in the Region.

A major project was the establishment of a Peace Institute in Vucovar that serves as a centre for reconciliation, research and training. The methodology of the project was based on close co-operation with Croatian authorities as well as international, national and local organisations such as UN, OSCE, EU, Croatian Helsinki Committee, Serbian Democratic Forum, and refugees associations. This programme was supported by the Austrian Chancellery and resulted in the establishment of the *Vukovar Institute for Peace Research and Education (VIMIO)*.

In 1996 the ASPR was contracted by the World Bank to plan and conduct a joint *Training Program on Project Preparation, Implementation, and Conflict Management for Bosnia and Herzegovina*. Between 1996 and 1999 approximately 200 participants from all entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina were jointly trained in eight three-weeks programs, half in project management (by World Bank staff) and half in conflict management (by resource persons of IPT). The programme was supported by the Austrian Chancellery and the World Bank.

Since 1996 the ASPR is involved in the support of conflict transformation processes in the South Caucasus region. A series of multiethnic training events, dialogue seminars and problem solving workshops on *“Building Democratic Institutions in Transforming Societies”* was named the “Stadtschlaining-process.” They were jointly organised with United Nation Volunteers Georgia, Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Management, Berlin, and Reconciliation Resources, London. They aimed at middle range leaders in Georgia and Abkhazia and at the facilitation and support of a constructive transformation of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. In 2001 the ASPR started its project on *“Peace-building in the South Caucasus Region.”* A first seminar in Georgia gathered governmental and non governmental representatives from Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, including representatives from unrecognized entities, in order to build trust and confidence and to acquaint participants with basic skills for conflict transformation. In a following dialogue workshop regional experts were asked to elaborate future visions for the region. These visions were later on discussed by the initial group, consensus was found and the visions disseminated in order to strengthen a constructive public discourse concerning the resolution of the conflicts.

Also in 2001, the ASPR became engaged in the *support of the peace-process in Sri Lanka*. Two dialogue workshops with top level participants, representing the Sinhala, Tamil, and Muslim communities, were conducted in Austria. A comprehensive suggestion for a future federal structure, that could fulfill the needs of all parties concerned was elaborated, as well as recommendations, how to foster the peace process. Some of these recommendations were later on taken up in the official negotiation process led by the Norwegians. The workshops were accompanied by follow-up activities in Sri Lanka in order to link these top level activities with the grassroots and, vice versa, to generate options from below and to pass them on to the top level.

With the *Peace-Building in Africa Project (PIA)*, supported by the Austrian Development Cooperation, the ASPR tries to enhance peace processes in Africa, particular in the SADC Region by offering seminars and by supporting the development of the *Network of African Peace-builders (NAPS)*, formed by the alumni. Three week seminars are organised annually. They offer a policy related discourse combined with a training workshop on mediation aiming at the elaboration of relevant peace-building activities in the respective region. In order to achieve these goals, the seminars are offered to a wide range of professionals: middle level diplomats and diplomatic advisors, high level representatives of NGOs, university professors, middle level military officers, community representatives, and other individuals.

The seminars participant’s have already been engaged in deeply divided societies with protracted conflicts in peace-building activities like fact-finding, peaceful settlements of disputes, human rights protection and promotion, and other types of civilian and international diplomatic missions. It is hoped that the seminars would explore ways for states and regional organisations in Africa such as SADC and IGAD as well as for the AU to enhance their existing, or to develop new, capabilities in peace-building. It is also hoped that the seminars will contribute to a better co-operation with external partners such as the European Union. Three-week seminars were conducted for the following.

- The Horn of Africa region in Ethiopia in April 1997.
- For the SADC Region in Zimbabwe in August 1998.
- The Great Lakes region in Zanzibar in November 1999.

- For the SADC Region in Namibia in November 2000.
- For the SADC Region in Mozambique in November 2001.
- For the SADC Region in the Republic of South Africa in November 2002.
- For the SADC Region in Botswana / Zambia in November 2003.

A one-week specialisation seminar was conducted in Mozambique in August 2001, in the Republic of South Africa in July 2002, and in Botswana in July 2003.

### ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

The European University Center for Peace Studies (EPU) is an international, non-governmental organisation with UNESCO status. It was founded in 1988 with the support of European UNESCO commissions. The original curriculum of EPU was designed along the lines of Johan Galtung's "plan for a Master of Peace and Conflict Resolution" which he developed for the University of Hawaii. The EPU has been offering postgraduate programs in Peace Studies since 1990. In 1996 the EPU's UNESCO Chair on Peace, Human Rights and Democracy was established.

Primary goals of the EPU are the following.

- Spreading the idea of peace in the spirit of the UNESCO.
- Giving scientific and educational support to peace building in Europe as inspired by the OSCE process.
- Promoting a "world domestic policy" based on sustainable development, co-operative responsibility and ecological security.
- Contributing to the development of a global peace culture.
- Training and improving individual capabilities in peace-making and conflict resolution.

The EPU program has been designed to provide students with the intellectual skills to analyse conflicts and their underlying causes and with practical skills in peace building and related fields. EPU adheres to the idea of integrated learning, believing that learning needs to occur not only on an intellectual level, but must take the person as a whole into account. The faculty come from many different countries and a wide variety of disciplines and emphasise a transnational, transdisciplinary perspective in their teaching. They bring practical experience as well as a profound theoretical background to the EPU courses.

The *Master of Arts in Peace and Conflict Studies* consists of two taught terms of three months each, a research period in between these two terms plus a final research period for completion of the M.A. thesis.

Each term of this programme can also be attended individually and be completed with the award of a Certificate for the Advanced International Study Program in Peace and Conflict Transformation. Students can take this three-month program for academic credit or as a post-graduate Certificate program in its own right.

The annual *Summer Academy on OSCE* was founded by the ASPR in July 1997 in co-operation with the Netherlands' Helsinki Committee and the Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Management, Berlin under the patronage of the OSCE. The purpose of the "Summer Academy on OSCE" is to expand and deepen knowledge about the OSCE and to contribute to its various activities. The courses and special events of the two weeks Academy programme are designed to provide diplomats who are going to work with OSCE delegations and institutions, and other individuals (scholars, NGO representatives, etc.) intending to work in the areas of fact-finding, human-rights, election monitoring, peaceful settlement of disputes, and other types of international diplomatic and civilian missions with the following.

- Thorough knowledge of the history, functioning, and current activities of the OSCE.
- Training in working more effectively within the OSCE diplomatic and OSCE-NGO milieu.

Furthermore, the Summer Academy provides opportunities to explore ways for the OSCE to enhance its existing, or to develop new capabilities in preventive diplomacy, peace-making, peace-keeping and peace-building.

The Academy is officially independent of the OSCE, but OSCE institutions and diplomatic missions actively participate on a voluntary basis in the Academy's activities. OSCE participation include providing guest speakers, participating in workshops and simulations as well as seconding the participants with an interest in working with the OSCE. Students are instructed by leading scholars in OSCE studies, senior diplomats with experience in OSCE activities and OSCE inter-state diplomacy, international NGO trainers with long-term experience in the field, and international lawyers active in promoting OSCE-NGO co-operation, particularly in the areas of human rights and democratisation.

The student body include diplomats, graduate students, NGO trainers and practitioners professionally active in NGOs that want to work more effectively with OSCE states, institutions, and other NGOs co-operating with the OSCE. Participants are expected to come from the OSCE participating States.

## **RESEARCH PROJECTS**

### **STATE OF PEACE CONFERENCE**

This meeting of international peace researchers, held annually since 1984, analyses political events of the previous year and publishes its results under the title "Peace Report: Peace Scientists' Statements on the State of Peace" in the Dialog series.

## RESEARCH PROJECT “EUROPE AS A PEACEFUL POWER?”

Systematic research on peace and security-related political conditions and developments after the conclusion of the East-West-conflict has been the subject of this scholarly project implemented during the period 1994 – 2002. Its aim has been the exploration of perspectives and possibilities for civilian peace policy in Europe. The research project was designed on an interdisciplinary basis, internationally organised and structured by a division of labour. The project is being published in nine scholarly volumes.

## OUR NEW RESEARCH PROJECT ON NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS

This research project is envisioned for the next five years and will address the gap between the wealthier North and the poorer South and the accompanying tensions insofar as their causes and consequences are relevant for peace.

## INTERNATIONAL SUMMER ACADEMY

This major event consisting of lectures, panel discussions, and workshops has been organised annually since 1983. It addresses a public interested in peace and is organised around topics associated with current events. Conclusions are published in the Dialog series.

## EUROPEAN MUSEUM FOR PEACE

The European Museum for Peace was opened in 2001 as an offshoot of the Provincial Exhibition on “War or Peace.” Based on the long-standing experience of the Peace Center, the Museum endeavours to adapt and present the breadth and depth of knowledge on violence and conflict, security and peace, to the broad public through a combination of scholarly rigor and sound pedagogical approaches.

Some of the most important themes addressed in the Museum are the causes and structures of violence and war, ways out of everyday violence, different dimensions and courses of individual and collective conflicts, as well as peace issues broadly considered – e.g., with topics such as peace research and peace work, peace activists and peace policies, human rights, and global peace.

Alongside the extensive permanent exhibition, changing special exhibitions complement the pedagogical activity of the Museum. In addition to the exhibitions, the Museum makes efforts to elaborate peace-related and thematic educational programs – especially for schoolchildren – in order to facilitate access to the complex issues treated by the Museum and to respond to the concrete demands and needs of the visitors.