About the ASPR Logo

A tiny white paper crane is the greatest treasure that lies within the Peace Library, in the former synagogue of Schlaining. It is one of 1,000 origami cranes folded intricately by 12-year-old Japanese girl, Sadako, as she lay dying of leukaemia after having been exposed to radiation during the atomic bombing of her hometown of Hiroshima in August 1945. Five peace institutes spread throughout the world were chosen to receive the last five cranes. In September 2009, Sadako's younger brother presented the crane reserved for Europe to the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution, which has since been safeguarding the prized gift in its Peace Library. Although measuring only a few millimetres, Sadako's work of art is a powerful reminder of the brutality of war as well as a hopeful symbol of humanity's biggest dream: peace and understanding among the world's people.

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Content

Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR)  .................................................. 4
The Institute's Activities ...................................................................................................................... 5
Strengthening Capacity in International Peacebuilding ................................................................. 5
  International Civilian Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding Training Programme (IPT) ..................... 5
  Europe's New Training Initiative for Civilian Crisis Management (ENTRi) ................................. 6
Civil-Military Relations and Capacity Development ....................................................................... 6
Summer Academy on the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) ............ 6
Capacity development for Peace and Security in West Africa ...................................................... 7
EU Aid Volunteers Initial .................................................................................................................. 7
New Academics and Courses .......................................................................................................... 7
Peace and Conflict Research ........................................................................................................... 8
  Schlaining Summer Academy ..................................................................................................... 8
State of Peace Conference (STOP) .................................................................................................. 8
  Expert Workshops on Security Policy ......................................................................................... 8
  Expanding frontiers of knowledge .............................................................................................. 9
Promoting Peace Education and Pedagogy ...................................................................................... 9
  Peace Weeks for Pupils and Students, and Training for Teachers ................................................ 9
  Cooperation with the University College of Teacher Education in Burgenland ....................... 10
  Holocaust History Project ........................................................................................................... 10
Supporting Peace Processes and Initiatives .................................................................................... 10
Participating in Austrian-Wide Initiatives and Platforms ............................................................... 11
  Austrian 3C Process .................................................................................................................... 11
  Austrian Peacebuilding Platform ................................................................................................ 11
Maintaining the Peace Library in the Former Synagogue of the City of Schlaining ......................... 12
Overseeing the European Peace Museum in Peace Castle Schlaining ........................................... 12
Selected Cooperation and Partnerships ............................................................................................. 13
Team ................................................................................................................................................ 15
Impressum ....................................................................................................................................... 16
The Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR) was established in 1982 to promote and develop civil strategies for the peaceful resolution of conflicts on a local, national and international level. It is the first institution of its kind to offer training in international civilian peacebuilding. Its offices are located in the medieval Burg Schlaining in Stadtshlaining, also known as “Peace Castle” in the federal Austrian province of Burgenland, about 135 km southeast of Vienna. The ASPR also maintains the Peace Library and the European Peace Museum.

The main activities of the ASPR are:

- **Strengthening capacity in international peacebuilding**
  The focus is on practical training in human rights and related areas to prepare practitioners for deployment in crisis and conflict regions.

- **Undertaking and promoting peace and conflict research**
  Whether through symposia or publications, ASPR research seeks to enhance the political and academic discourse on peace and security issues.

- **Promoting peace education**
  The ASPR's annual Peace Weeks attracts more than 1,000 students annually and trains teachers in conflict management, prevention of violence, harmonious integration and team building.

- **Supporting peace processes and initiatives**
  The ASPR in Peace Castle Schlaining serves as a neutral meeting place for negotiations and consultations between parties to conflict.

- **Collaborations for Peace and Conflict Resolution**
  The ASPR cooperates with a broad range of national and global partners and, as a recognised civil society partner of Austrian governmental agencies, supports the development of a cohesive Austrian stance towards international crises and their management.

- **Maintaining the Peace Library in the former synagogue**
  A wealth of books and publications and other peace-related material is accessible not only to researchers but also to the general public.

- **Overseeing the European Peace Museum**
  Permanent and special exhibitions use a scientific, educational and artistic approach in raising public awareness of peace as a comprehensive concept.

In recognition of its contribution to global peace, the Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution was awarded the title of United Nations Messenger of Peace in 1987 and the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education in 1995.
THE INSTITUTE’S ACTIVITIES

Strengthening Capacity in International Peacebuilding

ASPR training courses have been designed according to modern principles of adult education. Through highly relevant and practical exercises, experienced trainers help participants to refresh their knowledge and gain new skills to make their work in international field operations as effective as possible. The dynamic interaction between professionals from diverse cultural backgrounds makes for a meaningful and lasting learning experience. In line with its roots in the Austrian peace movement, the ASPR remains strongly committed to the values of civilian peacebuilding and non-violent conflict resolution strategies.

International Civilian Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding Training Programme (IPT)

The ASPR recognizes the fact that the political, social and economic dimensions of conflicts need to be addressed through civilian measures and that military means alone are not well-suited to address these. To this end, the ASPR has been organising the International Civilian Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding Training Programme (IPT) at Peace Castle Schlaining since 1993. This training is mainly designed for civilian experts deployed in peace operations and professionals from the conflict zones themselves. So far, more than 1,600 people from 126 countries have benefited from the training.

The IPT Programme, conducted in English, is divided into a Core Course, which is both a theoretical and practical introduction to working in crisis zones – from the safeguarding of human rights in a post-conflict environment, to navigating with a map and compass; and Specialisation Courses covering topics as diverse as election observation, protection of children in situations of armed conflict, human rights, conflict sensitive project management and conflict transformation.
Europe’s New Training Initiative for Civilian Crisis Management (ENTRi)

Since 2001, the ASPR has been spearheading the development of training courses for civilian personnel in international crisis management missions. Today, the ASPR is one of 13 training institutions that offer pre-deployment preparation and specialised courses under Europe’s New Training Initiative for Civilian Crisis Management (ENTRi). The consortium also develops new training methods, ensures that the quality of training is up to standard, and coordinates capacity development with partners from the EU, UN and other international organisations. Within ENTRi, the ASPR has been focusing on courses on the protection of children during armed conflict. Working in close cooperation with the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UN DPKO), the ASPR has been hosting strategy discussions and workshops with experts on child protection to further develop and consolidate training materials and contents. In the upcoming phase of this initiative, the ASPR will be in charge of coordinating the development of training curricula and comprehensive course documentation packages of all ENTRi partners.

Civil-Military Relations and Capacity Development

In close collaboration with the Austrian Ministry of National Defence and Sports, the ASPR develops and implements international training courses for international military, police and civilian personnel involved in international crisis management. Courses are certified by the European Security and Defence College (ESDC). Topics range from Security Sector Reform to Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, Peacebuilding and protection of civilians during armed conflict. The latter was developed in 2013 in cooperation with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs (BMI), the Ministry of National Defence and Sports (BMLVS), the Ministry for Europe, Integration, and Foreign Affairs (BMEIA), and representatives of civil society. In 2015, the course was the first of its kind worldwide to be certified by the ESDC as well as by the UN.

Summer Academy on the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

The Summer Academy on the OSCE takes place annually over two weeks in June. Most participants are junior diplomats from Europe, Central Asia, the United States and Canada who are engaged in the OSCE agenda on behalf of their governments. Civil society and the research community are also represented. The Summer Academy is a unique forum that provides an in-depth look into the activities, policies and overall vision of the OSCE. The participants learn about
other political views, discuss current security-related developments and challenges among each other and with high level representatives of the OSCE and the participating states. As the patron of the Summer Academy, the OSCE takes the opportunity at the annual event to listen to new ideas and inject fresh impetus into its activities.

**Capacity development for Peace and Security in West Africa**

The ASPR, in cooperation with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), a regional training centre based in Accra, Ghana, develops and implements training programmes on management of crisis situations in the West African region. This is the first operational initiative of the Austrian “3C Process”, which aims at a coherent, coordinated and complementary engagement of Austria's governmental and non-governmental actors in international crises. In the second phase of the project (2016 – 2018), the ASPR and KAIPTC will continue to provide state-of-art courses on humanitarian assistance and further enhance West African capacities on humanitarian assistance through targeted training of trainers. This initiative is funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), with funds of Austrian Development Cooperation.

**EU Aid Volunteers Training**

From autumn 2016 onwards, the ASPR will be training candidates for the EU Aid Volunteers initiative. This initiative provides an opportunity for Europeans to support and complement humanitarian relief and protection operations in humanitarian crises. The ASPR will provide pre-deployment training for the volunteers, covering issues such as project management and cross-cultural awareness. The training will be developed and implemented in cooperation with the consortium that won this prestigious EU tender: ICF International (Belgium), Business & Strategies Europe (Belgium), MDF Training and Consultancy (Netherlands) and Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (Italy).

**New Academies and Courses**

The ASPR is partnering with universities, think tanks and the private sector to provide cutting-edge capacity development. Together with the International Administrative Law Centre of Excellence (IAL Centre of Excellence) the ASPR offers a training course on anti-corruption measures in peace missions. We are preparing a 2-week Academy on Humanitarian Assistance and, in cooperation with the Kingston University London, UK, a course on negotiation in international contexts.
Peace and Conflict Research

In its research, the ASPR is particularly interested in the linkages between academia and policy in the broad area of peace and conflict. The research section of the ASPR is an important contributor to peace and conflict research. It disseminates its results through publications, lectures and public events. Since 2011, the ASPR has been conducting a significant part of its research within the Conflict-Peace-Democracy Cluster. In recent years, the ASPR supports research on migration and integration and radicalisation of youth.

Schlaining Summer Academy

The past three decades have seen the Schlaining Summer Academy gaining in popularity as a forum for dialogue on current global political issues. Every year, over five days at the beginning of July, the Academy opens its doors to as many as 250 representatives from civil society, the academic community, the media, government, the military, and the general public. Afterwards, the institute publishes an anthology to document the academy.

Speakers have included Johan Galtung („Father of Peace Studies“); German philosopher Peter Sloterdijk; social and political scientists Birgit Mahnkopf, Elmar Altvaterand; and Jakob von Uexküll, founder of the Right Livelihood Award (the „Alternative Nobel Prize“). Past academies have discussed issues such as refuge and migration, justification for military interventions and the role of civil society in peacebuilding.

State of Peace Conference (STOP)

Since 1984, researchers and practitioners have been meeting annually at a State of Peace Conference (STOP) to discuss contemporary global political issues. Results are published each year in an edited volume. Past topics include challenges of governance during conflict, global consequences of WWI, and limits of state legitimacy during revolutions. Since 2015, a public panel discussion with distinguished guests takes place during the State of Peace Conference.

Expert Workshops on Security Policy

In close cooperation with the Austrian Ministry for Defence and Sports and Conflict, Peace and Democracy Cluster (CPDC), the ASPR organises an expert workshops on peace, security and defence policy issues with relevance to Austria and Europe. The expert workshops provide a framework for informal political dialogue of political and civilian stakeholders on pertinent security policy topics. The conclusions - ranging from theoretical discussion to specific
recommendations to state- and non-state actors - are documented in policy papers or publications and are accessible to policymakers and the general public.

Expanding frontiers of knowledge

The ASPR takes an active role in expanding the frontiers of knowledge of various segments of society. The ASPR disseminates results of its research; shares project work and lessons learnt with the expert community and the general public. The ASPR organizes public events with distinguished panelists and ASPR’s experts take part in academic conferences, congresses and public panel discussions at universities and adult education centers. Furthermore, the ASPR shapes the public discussion through contributions in print media and appearances in radio and television and via its website and social media presence.

Promoting Peace Education and Pedagogy

The ASPR considers peace education and pedagogy to be not only the learning of theories and concepts of peace but also the acquisition of special skills needed in conflict management and in non-violent settling of disputes. ASPR activities focus on three main areas: programmes for students, training seminars for teachers, and development of new teaching material. These are carried out in close cooperation with governmental and non-governmental partners, including academics.

Peace Weeks for Pupils and Students, and Training for Teachers

Young people, ranging from schoolchildren in grade three to senior high school students, comprise the target group of the ASPR Peace Weeks, with a focus on the prevention of violence, communication and conflict resolution skills, as well as team building. New content is constantly being developed. Anti-bullying, prevention of bullying and integration are now a part of the curriculum. Through an interactive approach tailored by experts according to age and academic levels, workshops led by certified mediators cover mediation, team-building and outdoor education.

So far, more than 7,000 students from all over Austria have benefited from this prestigious programme.

In 2014 and 2015, as part of the Applied Peace and Democracy Education research project, the ASPR carried out an evaluation of its programme on peace education. Good practice models and recommendations for action were drawn up with partners from the Conflict, Peace and Democracy Cluster.
In tandem with the programmes with pupils, teachers have the opportunity to strengthen their communication skills and their overall ability to handle conflict with – and between – students during a separate training module. Moreover, the ASPR offers, in cooperation with the University College of Teacher Education Burgenland, a training course on the topic at least once a year.

Cooperation with the University College of Teacher Education in Burgenland

Starting in 2016, there is a two-years-course on „Global Peace Education“ for teachers and pedagogical experts, the first of its kind in Austria. The aim is to equip pedagogical personnel with knowledge and tools they can use in dealing with group dynamics and conflict.

Holocaust History Project

Learning from the past is crucial to understanding violence and its prevention. With this in mind, the ASPR offers a workshop on the Holocaust to students. Through interactive methods, students embark on a journey from the past to the present and are confronted with their own attitudes, prejudices, doubts and confusion about their individual roles. The workshop guides participants in dealing with their newfound awareness. Since the launch of the project in 2012, more than 900 pupils participated in these workshops.

Supporting Peace Processes and Initiatives

The Peace Castle Schlaining has evolved into an ideal neutral meeting place, where dialogue between parties to conflict and mutual understanding is fostered through confidence-building measures. The overriding goal of the ASPR in facilitating various peace processes – such as those involving conflicting parties from Sri Lanka, the Caucasus, the former Yugoslavia and Sudan – is to develop medium to long-term strategies to ensure non-violent and sustainable co-existence.

In 2015, for example, in cooperation with the African Union-UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur and the Austrian Development Agency, the ASPR held a high-level conference on child protection with the participation of the three main rebel groups in Darfur, Sudan. Under the auspices of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, representatives of the three rebel groups signed a joint statement pledging to protect the children of Darfur, which also implies refraining from recruiting them as child soldiers. All parties remain committed to the process, and follow-up consultations are planned.

The ASPR also supports the Austrian Chairmanship to the Organi-
zation for Security and Cooperation in Europe as a think-tank and training institute on conflict resolution and peacebuilding, as well as a neutral meeting place where mutual understanding can be forged.

Participating in Austria-wide Initiatives and Platforms

As a recognised civil society partner of Austrian government agencies and institutions, the ASPR supports the development of coherent, coordinated and complementary engagement of Austria’s governmental and non-governmental actors in international crises. The ASPR furthermore cooperates with a broad range of national and global partners including international organisations, ministries and other state authorities, non-governmental organisations, religious figures, diplomats, and military and civilian defence personnel. Many of them return to the Peace Castle Schlaining to facilitate meetings, consultations and conferences, drawing on the unique advantages of the Peace Castle location that fosters networking and focused discussions. The ASPR provides consultative expertise on various aspects of peacebuilding to its partners as well as taking part in public debate, panels and conferences and various working groups spearheaded by our partners.

Austrian 3C Process

The 3C process aims at the development of coherent, coordinated and complementary engagement of Austria’s governmental and non-governmental actors in international crises. The ASPR has long been playing an active role in the Austrian 3C Process, which is spearheaded by the Austrian Federal Chancellery in close cooperation with the Ministry for Europe, Integration, and Foreign Affairs and the Austrian Federal Ministry of National Defence and Sports. Annual conferences at Peace Castle Schlaining enable representatives of government ministries and civil society organisations to discuss cooperation issues and to review progress of concrete projects.

Several governmental policy papers have been jointly developed in the process, among them the Strategic Guidelines for the Security and Development of Austrian Development Policy as well as a common strategy for a participation of all Austrian stakeholders in the management of international crises.

Austrian Peacebuilding Platform

The Austrian Peacebuilding Platform is a network of Austrian civil society actors who work in the area of international peacebuilding. The Austrian Peacebuilding Platform provides a framework to exchange experiences and seeks to interconnect Austrian govern-
mental and non-governmental peacebuilding stakeholders, and develop joint initiatives on civilian conflict resolution. The ASPR hosts and manages the secretariat of the Austrian Peacebuilding Platform.

Maintaining the Peace Library in the former Synagogue of the City of Schlaining

The former Jewish synagogue of Schlaining has been serving as the Peace Library of the ASPR. Currently, the library holds about 30,000 volumes and 150 journals and periodicals. The focus is on peace and conflict research, international relations, developmental politics, human rights, regional and local conflicts, military and security policies, social conflict and violence, peace education and peace movements. The Peace Library also offers some DVDs and CDs, and maintains an extensive collection of „grey literature“ (resource material that has not been formally or commercially published including working papers, report series, technical documents and conference proceedings). In keeping with its mission to serve not only researchers but also the general public, the Peace Library offers a collection of fiction and children's books in German and English.

Overseeing the European Peace Museum in Peace Castle Schlaining

The European Peace Museum opened in 2000 with a regional exhibition in Burgenland revolving around the theme „From a Cult of Violence to a Culture of Peace“. Using an educational, scientific, and artistic approach, the Peace Museum shows how clashes and conflicts – from disputes of everyday life to violent acts of war – can be resolved constructively. The museum wants to contribute to a growing global peace consciousness.

The permanent exhibition takes visitors through six areas: an introduction to peace, the peace movement and peacemakers, human rights, European peace, peace and art, and global peace. The goal is to open people's eyes to the comprehensive meaning of peace, going beyond a mere absence of conflict and violence. The Museum was given a Recognition Award in 2001 by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, the Arts and Culture. It is open from mid-March to late October.
Selected Cooperation and Partnerships

About the Conflict-Peace-Democracy Cluster

In 2011, the ASPR, the Democracy Centre Vienna, the Institute of Conflict Research and, until the end of 2015, the Centre for Peace Research and Peace Pedagogy of the University of Klagenfurt came together to form the Conflict-Peace-Democracy Cluster, an innovative institutional framework facilitates network of expertise. Since 2016, the University of Graz has replaced the Centre for Peace Research and Peace Pedagogy. One of the strengths of the Cluster is the bundling of conflict, peace and democracy research as a joint area of research. Another is its commitment to exchange between theory and practice: academic reflections are to be used to benefit society and insights from practice are to be reflected in academic research.

Austria

Austrian Development Agency (ADA) | Austrian Commission for UNESCO | Austrian Latin America Institute | Austrian Peacebuilding Platform (APP) | Federal Chancellery of Austria (BKA) | Federal Ministry for Education and Women's Affairs (BMBF) | Burgenland Board of School Psychologists | Burgenland Department of Family and Social Affairs | Local education authority of Burgenland | University College of Teacher Education in Burgenland | Burgenland Youth Advocate | Centre for Peace Research and Education at the University of Klagenfurt | Conflict, Peace and Democracy Cluster (CPDC): University of Graz; Democracy Centre Vienna; Institute for Conflict Research | Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration, and Foreign Affairs (BMEIA) | Federal Ministry for the Interior (BMI) | Federal Ministry for National Defence and Sports (BMLVS) | Herbert C. Kelman Institute | National Fund of the Republic of Austria for Victims of National Socialism | Renner Institute

Europe

Centre for European Perspective (CEP), Slovenia | Centre for International Peace Operations (ZIF), Germany | Council of Europe | Crisis Management Centre (CMC), Finland | Crisis Management Initiative (CMI), Finland | Danish Emergency Management Agency (DEMA), Denmark | École Nationale d'Administration (ENA), France | European External Action Service (EEAS), Belgium | European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) | European Security and Defence College (ESDC), Belgium | Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), Sweden | Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), Switzerland | International Peace Institute (IPI) | International Security Sector Advisory Team (ISSAT) of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of
Armed Forces (DCAF), Switzerland | Netherlands Institute of International Relations (Clingendael), Netherlands | Royal Institute for International Relations (Egmont Institute), Belgium | Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (SSSUP), Italy | Stabilisation Unit, United Kingdom | Swiss Expert Pool for Civilian Peacebuilding (SEP), Switzerland

International

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