SILVER JUBILEE
25th Summer Academy on OSCE
18-25 June 2025

Discussing the OSCE & the challenges of rebuilding security is more relevant than ever.

Since 1997 the purpose of the "Summer Academy on OSCE" has been to expand and deepen knowledge about the OSCE. A number of Alumni have gone on to become OSCE diplomats or OSCE field staff, contributing to various OSCE activities. As the OSCE celebrates its 50th Anniversary, the Summer Academy celebrates its silver jubilee in 2025.

Organised by

Austrian Centre for Peace
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Background & Purpose of the Summer Academy on OSCE

In 2025, the Summer Academy on OSCE in Stadtschlaining celebrates its Silver Jubilee. It has trained a generation of diplomats, OSCE field staff and other practitioners in understanding the Helsinki Process and the OSCE, its methods of work and its relevance in preventing and dealing with security threats in Europe. In the process, the Academy has stimulated debate on the OSCE and its work and developed a network of practitioners who have shared the unique Schlaining experience and have retained their interest in the organization.

The war in Ukraine has destroyed the pan-European security order, and created an existential crisis for the OSCE and, more broadly, the idea of cooperative security. In such challenging times, discussing the OSCE and the challenges of rebuilding security in Europe are more relevant than ever, especially in the year the OSCE celebrates its 50th Anniversary.

The 25th Summer Academy on the OSCE will take place at Austrian Centre for Peace in June 2025.

The executive-level course has adapted to changing circumstances, thus:

- The course will provide a more focused and cost-effective program.
- 1-2 online lectures will provide introduction to the key topics and initiate interaction between the participants and the Academy directors already ahead of the Academy.
- During the program, there will be less of a focus on the OSCE and its executive structure and a greater focus on how to address security threats and challenges in Europe, and developing the skills to anticipate emerging threats, facilitate dialogue, and manage relations in a highly polarized security environment.

Program Overview (*draft*)

a.m.	WED, 18 June	THU, 19 June	FRI, 20 June	SAT, 21 June	SON, 22 June	MON, 23 June	TUE, 24 June	WED, 25 June
9 - 10.30		8:30 Security Check Hofburg 9-10 Cooperative security and the OSCE in a time of crisis	Check-Out Hotel Admiral 8 Departure Vienna	The OSCE toolbox	Preparation for simulation	Simulation of crisis management in OSCE Permanent Council	Past, present and future of cooperative security – challenges & chances	9 Departure from Schlaining
11- 12.30		10:30-12 PC 12-14 Lunch break individually	10 Arrival Schlaining / Check-In Lunch at Burghotel	The OSCE in the field	The Human Dimension	Continued	Recap	
15 - 16.30	Individual Arrival of Participants in Vienna / Check-In in Hotel	14- 15:30 Media Freedom under Fire	Decisions, legal personality and rules of procedure	The OSCE's engagement in Ukraine	Exit strategies out of the crisis PARTICIPANTS Group work	14.00 Continued	Ambassadors Panel: Perspectives on the OSCE and its future	
17 - 18.30	*** Welcome, introduction of participants, directors, and program	16-17:30 Panel discussion Leadership in a time of challenges	Rules of procedure Introduction to simulation	Let's discuss; interactive session on the future of the OSCE and cooperative security based on group work	Continued?	Wrap-up and reflections	Silver Jubilee Reception	
19.00	19:45 Welcome Dinner & Opening in Vienna							

*** 1-2 online sessions ahead of the Academy.

Curriculum & Methodology

The methodology of the Academy is based on lectures, workshops, a study visit to the OSCE in Vienna, completed by background readings. Basic information about the OSCE and its executive structures are made available in advance to help participants prepare for the lectures.

- Lecturers use primarily case study approach and focus on recent developments and activities of the OSCE.
- Working groups give participants the opportunity to discuss the subjects dealt with in the lectures and to further consolidate and apply their knowledge.
- Participants practice communication, mediation and negotiation skills and gain experimental knowledge of different concepts through interactive exercises, such as role-plays and simulation exercises.
- The Academy includes a 2-day excursion to the Hofburg/Vienna to visit the Permanent Council and meet OSCE representatives.

The 25th Summer Academy on OSCE will be implemented in Stadtschlaining and Vienna from 18-25 June 2025.

The Academy will start with a 2-day excursion to the Hofburg/Vienna to visit the PC and meet OSCE representatives.
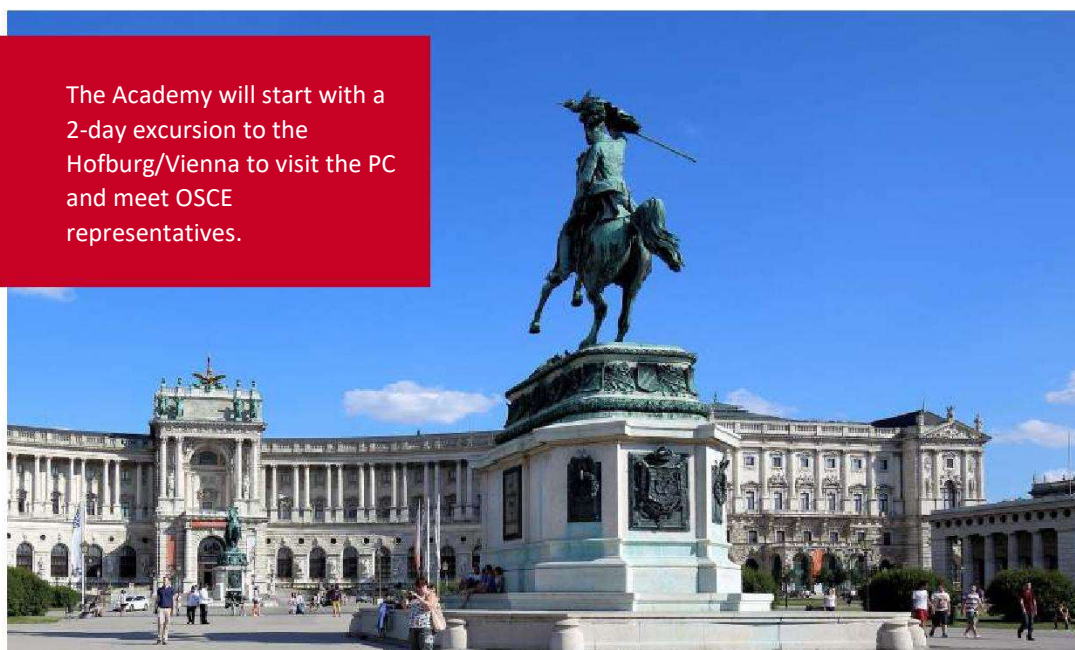

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Application Requirements & Procedure

The cost of participation will be € 2.500, - per participant. This amount covers tuition, educational materials, and full board accommodation in a single room with bath as well as all expenses linked to social events and excursions of this 7 days-training-event.

For participants coming from non-OECD member states, a limited number of scholarships will be awarded. Applicants who would like to apply for such a support should indicate this in the respective section of the application form. However, there is no possibility to get financial support for travel expenses from the organisers.

Application Requirements

- Master's degree or the equivalent in working experience.
- working knowledge of English.
- submission of the application form and the required accompanying materials as soon as possible, but not later than **DEADLINE 1 April 2025**.

Applicants for admission will be selected on a competitive basis. Preference is given to applicants whose participation is supported by their Foreign Ministry or one of the OSCE institutions. Applicants will be informed on the decision of the admissions committee in May 2025.

Application is possible via the **SAC on OSCE - ACP** only!

The Summer Academy Course Directors

Arie Bloed has been involved in CSCE/OSCE matters since the end of the 1970s, both as a scholar and as a practitioner. He has published extensively on OSCE issues. Arie Bloed is Co-Founder, Director and Lecturer of the Summer Academy on OSCE since its foundation 1997. In the past decade, Arie Bloed has been actively involving in Security Sector Governance and Reform in a large number of countries in Eastern Europe, Central Asia, South-East Asia, the Pacific Region and the Middle East.

Ursula Gamauf-Eberhardt is managing the Summer Academy on OSCE and other OSCE related projects at the ACP since 2005; 2010 she took over the responsibility as the Academy Co-director. Ursula founded the Programme on Peace Education at the ACP and is heading this constantly evolving portfolio ever since.

Walter Kemp is Director of the Global Strategy at the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, a strategic adviser at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, and teaches at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna. He has worked in several senior positions at the OSCE, as well as Spokesman and Speechwriter at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and Vice President of the International Peace Institute. He is author of *Security through Cooperation: to the Same End* (2022).

Austrian Centre for Peace (ACP) – Peace Castle Schlaining

The ACP was founded in 1982 and is located in a medieval castle in Southern Burgenland, with a second office in Vienna. The ACP holds the status of UN "Peace Messenger" and a UNESCO "Prize for Peace Education". The ACP is an independent, non-profit and non-partisan organization. It is engaged in research, education/training/capacity development and practical conflict transformation.

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