

GERALD MADER

Peace Center – Castle of Schlaining

The Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR) aims at promoting peace around the world and at fostering peaceful solutions to conflicts at all levels.

Accordingly the ASPR is active in the fields of research, training and peace policies in individual, social and international spheres. Currently the emphasis of ASPR research is an international program on the fundamental questions of European peace and security policies (“Europe – the peaceful power? Strategies at the start of the 21st century”).

With regard to training ASPR contributes to education in the fields of peace and conflict resolution within and outside schools. The major focus of the training initiative are programs in which experts are trained to work in NGOs which deal with peace operations in areas of conflict, such as the “International Civilian Peace-keeping and Peace-building Training Program” (IPT) and the “Mission Preparation Training Program for the OSCE” (MPT). Together with partners the ASPR also organizes the “Summer Academy on OSCE”. For the European Union ASPR also acts as main coordinator for the development of EU-wide training standards and training programs for experts who are to promote the rule of law and civil administration in areas of crisis. Some projects, such as “Peace-building in Africa”, “Peace-building in the South Caucasus Region” and a project promoting the peace process in Sri Lanka, serve to find peaceful solutions to conflicts in particular areas.

The European University Center for Peace Studies (EPU) offers postgraduate programs in “Peace and Conflict Studies” in English. Students can obtain a EPU-certificate after three months or finish the master’s degree, lasting three semesters. The EPU combines classical academic analysis with practical learning and individual experience, which is favoured even more by the dynamic international and multicultural environment in Schlaining.