

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PEACE

Maintaining and Strengthening Peace

Annual Report 2018



ABOUT IIP

The International Institute for Peace is an international, non-governmental organization (NGO) with headquarters in Vienna. The Institute (IIP) has consultative status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC) and to the United Nations Organization for Education, Science, Culture and Communication (UNESCO). It operates on the basis of Austrian law as a non-profit association.

The IIP exists since 1956 and was re-founded by the former president Erwin Lanc in 1989. The current president is Dr. Hannes Swoboda.

The IIP aims at conducting peace research but is also intended to function as a platform to promote non-violent conflict resolution in different areas of the world and to a wide range of people – scholars, military staff and civil society but also to students and people who are interested into topics concerning peace and peaceful approaches to existing conflicts.

Work relating to requirements and conditions for sustainable peace is wide-ranging and investigates the subject from many angles. In order to meet those challenges, the IIP is collaborating with various national and international institutions and organisations. The IIP – alone or in cooperation - organizes lectures, conferences and symposia on issues which are dealing with peace and/or peaceful conflict-resolutions. Research projects in cooperation with Austrian and international experts as well as with leading scholars also provide findings in the fields of economy, society and peaceful conflict resolution to governments and international organizations. The IIP is also publishing articles and books on relevant topics.

In recent years the work of the institute has been focused on developments in the Black Sea Region, the MENA region, the development of an EU-Foreign and Security Policy, International Security, Non-Proliferation, but also – on a smaller range – on specific topics in Latin America and Africa. Special attention is also drawn to the future development of NATO and OSCE as well as the integration of Brazil, Russia, India and China into a new world order, without the use of violence.

Members of the board of the IIP are Hannes Swoboda, Stephanie Fenkart, Angela Kane, Klaus von Dohnanyi, Grigory Lokshin, Radovan Vukadinovic, Anton Giulio de Robertis, Leopold Specht and Vivien Schmidt.

We thank our honorary members, honorary president Erwin Lanc and honorary member Max Schmidt for their long-lasting cooperation and affiliation with the institute.

PREFACE

Hannes Swoboda, President

There was a time when one could - with some optimism - hope that institutes for peace could be reduced and would finally disappear because of peace all around the world. But this was an illusion. Not only did many old conflicts not disappear but new conflicts arose or are looming behind the corner. The IIP had to step up its activities to put the focus on some important conflicts. Thanks to the great efforts of our director Stephanie Fenkart and some very active interns the IIP could deliver a really strong program with many presentations, discussions and even art exhibitions.



Peace is a very comprehensive concept and therefore also our activities are very comprehensive from analysis to the discussions of conflict resolution strategies and to art as an "instrument" to raise conflict awareness and offer visions of hope.

The IIP will continue to offer ideas of how to treat the "illnesses" of nationalism and extremism. Even if these tendencies grew stronger and stronger inside Europe and in our neighborhood we want to offer alternatives. The European exercise to develop post-national policies and international relations shows what is possible even if some forces fight against this new way of creating international understanding and peace. In the global scene the big powers from US to Russia and China are expressing predominantly national interests. The new international order has to only serve their narrow and short-term national interest. In the Middle East there is still no hope of peace and stability. On the contrary a new war may even follow in Iran. In the Balkans no war is threatening the fragile stability, but a strengthening of nationalism is preventing the necessary progress towards democratic reforms and integration into the EU.

Yes, there are some positive signs. President Trump met the North Korean leader a second time. In East Africa peace and stability got a new chance due to domestic changes in Ethiopia. But the positive changes are rare in comparison to the negative developments. The IIP will also in the present year continue to follow the main issues in the fields of conflicts, wars and peace. Not only our excellent staff but also our Vice-president Angela Kane and Prof. Heinz Gärtner are contributing enormously to the new and strengthened profile of the IIP. I want to thank them, but also our many partners in new outside Austria.

P.S. Our newly designed web site www.iipvienna.com is proof of the many and interesting activities which we had in the past year and will have in the coming months.

PREFACE

Stephanie Fenkart, Director

The annual report of activities of the International Institute for Peace (IIP) is a documentation of the manifold activities the IIP has set in 2018. In 2018 we organized, co-organized and/or participated in more than 55 events, workshops, lectures, field trips and summer schools.

Peace is an inter- and transdisciplinary matter and needs to be tackled from various angles and with different means. It is a global rather than a regional topic and can be seen as a process of increasing justice along with decreasing violence. Peace is not only the absence of war. It is more.



Next to our traditional focus on non-proliferation, transnational security and conflict resolution we also focus on the evolvement of societies, the handling with the past and reconciliation, alternative perspectives for good and fair cooperation and new security threats like e.g. robotic wars or other forms of asymmetric warfare. We furthermore try to analyze migration in a different context, not seeing it as a genuine security threat but rather to understand the context, its motives and its impact on societies and politics in the sending and in the host countries.

Art is a mean to include people and to raise awareness to topics with different means as political work is often perceived to be sometimes too stiff. We therefore had several exhibitions dealing with actual political and social developments like the war in Eastern Ukraine and the questions of IDPs, Iran in the International system and the JCPOA, but also with migration, climate change and the need for peace movements.

Expert meetings, workshops and learning journeys are complementary to our public events. The background information we gather there is an important tool for our work and summer schools are part of our educational programs where we try to give young experts the possibility to discuss in a foreign country with people from other regions and therefore to open up horizons for different opinions.

Intergroup, intragroup and inner dialogue initiatives which should operate in a safe space could be one element of opening up parts of the societies and therefore level the ground for reciprocal understanding, which is the essence of a dialogue between equals. It is not about taking over the others argument, but the effort to understand the motives, accept them and then look for alternatives or even compromises. The IIP is committed to play a role towards the development of just and peaceful societies and therefore will be focused in the future on actual threats and how they can be overcome.

I would like to sincerely thank our president, Hannes Swoboda, our vice-president Angela Kane and Heinz Gärtner, who is a member of our advisory board. I also would like to take the opportunity to thank all our board members but my special thanks goes to our interns who have been doing a great job in organizing, administering and monitoring our activities throughout the year. Thanks to Malte, Eva, Marlene, Malte, Maro, Lea and Marylia.

Annual Report 2018



January 17th

Fate Velaj – Book Presentation

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Fate Velaj, Photographer, Painter and Writer. Deputy of the Albanian Parliament and Head of the Commission for Relations with the Austrian Parliament.- Roland Bimo, albanian Ambassador in Vienna- Violeta Allmuca, Authoress- Hannes Swoboda, President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP

Content

Fate Velaj is a Photographer, Painter and Writer of Albanian Origin. Furthermore, he is Deputy of the Albanian Parliament and Head of the Commission for Relations with the Austrian Parliament. The evening was devoted to the presentation of his work. Not only „100 Steps in Europe“, a retrospective of his work from 2001 to 2008, was shown, but also „Nilkon“ the second part of his autobiographical trilogy „Kreuztanne“.



January 29-30th

**5th International Mayors' conference Now
Shaping the Future – Social Cohesion in our Cities**

Venue	ÖBB-Werkstättenhalle, Spittelauer Lände 33, 1090 Vienna
Participants	38 Experts participated in different events throughout the event
Partner Institutions and Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Kreisky Forum- Verein Respek.net- Erste Sparkasse Group- ÖBB- Kahane Foundation- Der Mann- Wein & Co

Content

Stephanie Fenkart, Director of IIP participated in the conference entitled “shaping the future - Social Cohesion in our Cities”.

The conference addressed social cohesion on communal levels, with a special emphasis on children and young people, using a human and children’s rights-based approach. Social Cohesion has become a burning issue for communities across Europe. The constant increase in social inequality, resulting in a rising polarization of society, has recently been accentuated by the current subject of integrating refugees and migrants. A constructive approach to handling this challenge is essential if we are to make a change for the better.

Participants from various backgrounds – mayors, NGO-representatives, experts, local and new arrival children and youth – from Europe and the MENAT region discussed and promoted new political visions, public discourses and impactful policies to improve social cohesion from a human rights perspective.

The conference provided a platform for exchange on lived realities, existing challenges, promising and successful approaches on a municipal level with dedicated spaces to co-create, share and network. The 5th NOW Conference organized by Act.Now in cooperation with the Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue was curated by Dr. Viola Raheb, Researcher, Faculty of Protestant Theology, Department of the Studies of Religions, University of Vienna.

February 1st

THE CRACK - Book Presentation

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/ 2, 1040 Vienna
Moderation	- Stephanie Fenkart , Director, International Institute for Peace

Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guillermo Abril, Spanish reporter, el País Semanal, World Press Photo Award (2015) - Carlos Spottorno, Spanish Photographer, World Press Photo Award (2003 and 2015)
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Content

The International Institute for Peace had the pleasure to invite the photographer Carlos Spottorno and the reporter Guillermo Abril to talk about their latest publication "THE CRACK". The photo book depicts a field journal of two reporters as they follow the border from Africa to the Arctic with the aim of identifying the causes and consequences of Europe's identity crisis. The CRACK depicts in its pages an encounter with Sub-Saharan migrants in the Gurugu Mountain, the rescue of a raft off the coast of Libya, the exodus in the Balkans, NATO tanks on the Belarusian border and Arctic forests. This is both a photographed news report and a graphic essay of sorts, set against the background of very current geopolitical events. The end result is not a story based on actual events: these are actual events.



Carlos Spottorno started his talk by mentioning that not many Europeans are aware of the fact that their borders to the world outside of the European Union is at least as secured as the wall Donald Trump plans to build between the United States and Mexico. To raise awareness for these highly protected borders against outsiders, the different identities within the Europeans along their borders and the various problems that come with it, Abril and Spottorno started an adventurous journey with the aim to capture those identities and those

affected by it. They were tracking ‘the crack’ that separates Europe from the outside world, and which results in even finer cracks within the European society. First, they managed to publish several articles in magazines and newspapers. Spottorno told the audience how they came up with the idea to create ‘The Crack’. With a total amount of 25.000 photographs and a great number of interviews, he said, it would have been a huge waste of material and information of high relevance, so they were thinking of writing a book on the topic of the highly secured European borders. Who would read a long book like that, they asked themselves. However, they came up with the idea to make their material suitable for a majority of people, not only to academics. ‘The Crack’ brings the idea of transferring photographs to the concept of graphic novels, because Carlos Spottorno still believes in the power photographs can have in order to influence and even change people’s minds. Therefore, he still wanted his pictures to be identified as what they are in the graphic novel. Carlos arranged his best pictures as a story and Guillermo relined these photographs with all the notes he had taken during their journey. The end product is an exciting yet shocking story that makes the deep crack through Europe visible and perceptible.

February 19th **Der neue Iran? Zwischen Konfrontation und Veränderung**

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Moderation	- Angela Kane , former UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and Under-Secretary-General for Management in the United Nations.
Panelists	- Ali Fathollah-Nejad , independent scholar, Visiting Fellow at the Brookings Doha Center, Associate Fellow with the Middle East and North Africa Program of the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) - Hannes Swoboda , President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute und former MEP
Cooperation	- Karl-Renner-Institute - Forschungsgruppe für Polemologie und Rechtsethik der Universität Wien

Content

In 2015 the international community finally agreed on a treaty to regulate the nuclear disarmament of Iran. In return Iran could expect the economic sanctions of the last decades to be successively removed. The JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) to the Iranian people meant an opportunity for economic recovery and increased living conditions. However, three years after the JCPOA came into force such hope could not prove true for a majority of the people. In December 2017 Iran faced riots and protests throughout the whole country, which accumulated numerous demands for social, economic and political change and

revealed a deeply disruptive society. As international conflicts and the aggressive and unpredictable Trump- administration keep affecting Iran, its future seems uncertain. The International Institute for Peace in cooperation with the Renner Institute organized a public panel discussion on the 22nd February to debate about the future situation of Iran: How will the Iranian people react to false promises and how can Iran handle its national crisis? What are the main objectives of current and future foreign policy of Iran? Can the Iranian government finally realize its promises of wealth freedom for its people and if so, how? These and others were the question address during the discussion.



February 22nd Russia before the Presidential Elections

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Moderation	- Gerhard Marchl , Karl-Renner-Institute, department European politics
Panelists	- Dr. Anna Schor-Tschudnowskaja , Sigmund-Freud-private University, sociologist and psychologist - Alexander Baunov , Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Moscow Center

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hannes Swoboda, President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute und former MEP - Alexander Dubowy, University of Vienna, Coordinator of the Research Department of Eurasian Studies, Senior Researcher at the Department for Polemology and legal Ethics, Austrian Defence Academy
Cooperation	- Karl-Renner-Institute

Content

Even though the elections didn't happen yet, it is clear who is going to be the future president. Putin won't have much difficulties becoming the head of state, for the simple reason that there are no serious competitors to defeat. Therefore, it's not right to speak about an election victory of Wladimir Putin on the 18th of March, the anniversary of the annexation of Crimea. Putin is no longer only admired for his personality but ascended to a state symbol for Russia. A sacral embodiment of the Russian state. Voting for him is voting for Russia. Voting for the opposition would mean losing this guarantee of the Russian state which Putin embodies. Throughout his presidential term he was able to convince the population of being the maintainer of the Russian state. The opposition is now trying to undermine this legitimacy. In this election Putin needs a high turnout. Moreover, the relation between Russia and the West was another topic discussed by the panelists. But to understand the relationship between Russia and the EU, it is necessary to look back in time.



February 23rd

Background Talk: The future of the system Putin

Venue	Cafè Landtmann, Biedermeierzimmer, Universitätsring 4, 1010 Wien
Moderation	- Stephanie Fenkart , Director of the International Institute for Peace
Panelists	- Alexander Dobowy , Generalsekretär Gesellschaft für Eurasische Studien - Alexander Baunov , Senior fellow am Carnegie Moscow Center
Cooperation	- Karl - Renner - Institute - Gesellschaft Eurasische Studien

March 6th

Conference: Workshops and Public Event: The OSCE in 2030: Undivided Security in Europe Restored?

Venue	National Defence Academy, Sala Terrena, Stiftgasse 2a, 1070 Vienna
Moderation	- Hannes Swoboda , President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP
Panelists	- Thomas Greminger , OSCE Secretary General - Stephanie Liechtenstein , Member of the Editorial Board of the journal "Security and Human Rights"; OSCE Secretariat (2003-2008) (tbc) - Alena Kupchyna , Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus to the Republic of Austria and the Republic of Croatia non-resident, Permanent Representative of Belarus to the OSCE - Fyodor Lukyanov , Editor-in-Chief of Russia in Global Affairs
Cooperation	- Karl-Renner-Institute - National Defence Academy Vienna - Regional Office for Cooperation and Peace in Europe - Institute für Sicherheitspolitik, ISP - Forschungsgruppe für Polemologie und Rechtsethik der Universität Wien

Content

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which emerged as a result of the Helsinki Process, is the largest security organisation in the Northern Hemisphere and a true pan-European one. In recent years, the OSCE member countries have been facing multiple crises. The Ukrainian conflict has exposed the ineffectiveness of existing institutions and security mechanisms in Europe, based on the decision-making of a limited number of countries. But still, the OSCE could provide opportunities for finding consensus and adapting it to new challenges. In order to create an enhanced and sustainable peace structure for Europe, cooperation on key issues must be strengthened and decision-making must involve all countries in the region. Despite all its shortcomings, there is no other organization in Europe whose status and legitimacy are comparable to the OSCE. The Conference recapitulated and discussed the Austrian chairmanship of 2017 as well as look at the prospects of the Italian presidency in 2018. Assessing the most important results and processes in the OSCE and the participating states, to dare an outlook on the OSCE strategy for the years to come.

Format

The workshops were for invited participants only (approx. 35 persons).

The panel discussion in the evening was a public event.

Workshop I	Cooperative Security - The Future of Structured Dialogue
Moderator	Erwin Schmidl, President , Austrian Commission for Military History
Panelists	Magdalena Grono , International Security Sector Advisory Team Angela Kane , former UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and Under-Secretary-General for Management in the United Nations Stephanie Liechtenstein , Diplomatic Correspondent – Freelance Journalist Sergey Utkin , Head of Strategic Assessment Section, Primakov Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Russian Academy of Sciences
Commentator	Ivan Krastev , Centre for Liberal Strategies, Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna

Workshop II	Economic Cooperation in Times of Confrontation. Is there a Chance for “Connectivity”?
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Moderator	Alexander Dubowy , Coordinator, Forschungsstelle für Eurasische Studien
Panelists	Peter Havlik , former Deputy Director at The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies Alexander Iskandaryan , Director of the Yerevan-based Caucasus Institute Yaroslav Lissovolik , Programme Director at the Valdai Discussion Club, Member of the Government Expert Council Andreas Stadler , OSCE, University of Applied Arts Vienna
Commentator	Alexandra Vasileva , FES Regional Office for Cooperation and Peace in Europe

Workshop III	What will Italy have to tackle?
Moderator	Reinhard Krumm , FES Regional Office for Cooperation and Peace in Europe
Panelists	Nadezhda Arbatova , Centre for European Policy Studies Brussels Alessandro Azzoni , Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council Muna Duzdar , Abgeordnete zum Nationalrat und ehemalige Staatssekretärin Vedran Dzihic , senior researcher at the Österreichisches Institut für Internationale Politik Christian Strohal , Austrian diplomat, Former Special Representative of the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship, Former Director of ODIHR, Ambassador
Commentator	Hannes Swoboda , President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP





March 16th

Ukraine: Welcher Preis für die Freiheit?

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Panelists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oleksander Scherba, Ukrainian Ambassador since November 2014 - Hannes Swoboda, President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR), - Grüne Bildungswerkstatt - Herbert C. Kelman Institute for Interactive Conflict Transformation - International Institute for Peace (IIP), Vienna - Karl-Renner-Institut, Vienna - Parliamentary Group of the Green Party - Society for Eurasian Studies (EURAS), Vienna - tranzit.at, Vienna

Content

On the 16th of March the International Institute for Peace organized a panel discussion on the topic “Ukraine: what prize for freedom?”. The IIP was very happy to welcome the Ukrainian ambassador to Austria Olexandr Scherba and Hannes Swoboda, former member of the European parliament and president of the IIP.

Ambassador Olexander Scherba observes a positive balance as he sees the economy in Ukraine positively evolving. The civil society, even though it is principally very critical, also sees Ukraine’s current economic status as a glass half full and not half empty.

Hannes Swoboda continues with the position of Europe within this conflict and what its approach for a peaceful solution is. For Europe it is very difficult to contribute crucially and positively on the current situation in Eastern Ukraine due to its own problems such as the Brexit, the situation in Catalonia, the poison attack in Salisbury but also the attitude of several Eastern European states. He doesn’t really see any opportunity for the EU to change Russia’s position at the moment. Russia on the other side has its area of influence more in the Middle East, in countries such as Israel, Syria and Iran because it officiates here as a dialogue partner. The EU should support Ukraine but also maintain a critical point of view. Clearly its support also depends on the upcoming elections in 2019, because current political forces don’t have much backing in the society. After the elections it will be possible to continue with the status quo and not endanger more people. Swoboda sees this as the real task of the new government and the EU. For the achievement of such goals the tensions between Russia and the EU should come to an end – both having the real mission, which is peace, in mind.

Ambassador Scherba considers that the solution of the conflict, although it is far away, lies in moving in little steps. The next step would be to stop the bloodletting. But also sovereignty is a big issue to guarantee peace. Scherba remarks the importance of a real solution and not just an armed truce. He sees the essential question in the handling of the situation in Crimea. The only opportunity for ambassador Scherba is Russia moving away from Crimea, which does not seem to be realistically at the moment. Moreover, he acknowledges some deficiencies of the Minsk agreement while clearly asserting his support it. Ambassador Scherba draws out the importance of further little steps, such as including ideas that are missing in the Minsk agreement.

March 18-22nd **Learning Journey to Kyiv**

Venue	Kyiv, Ukraine
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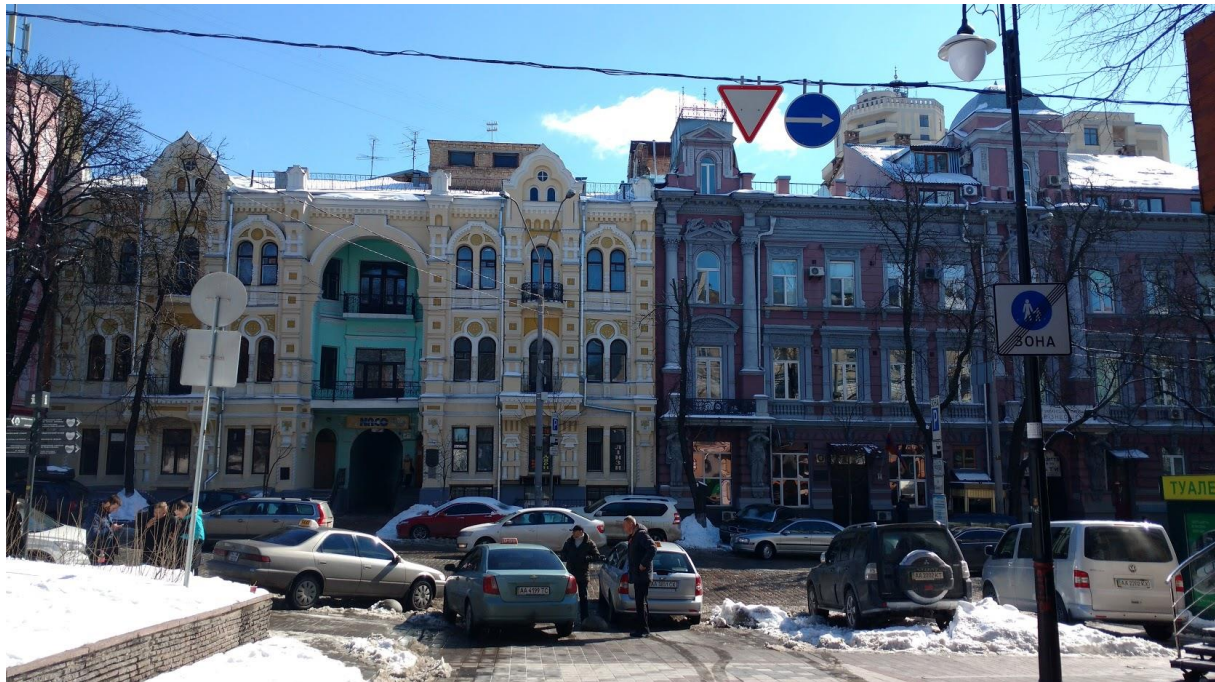
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stephanie Fenkart, Director of the International Institute for Peace - Hannes Swoboda, President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP - Gerhard Marchl, Karl-Renner-Institute - Georg Blaha, Die Graphische
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Karl-Renner-Institute - Die Graphische

Content

As part of the Platform for Dialogue and Conflict Resolution in Ukraine, Hannes Swoboda and Stephanie Fenkart together with Gerhard Marchl from the Karl-Renner-Institut and Georg Blaha from "die Graphische" visited Kyiv and held several talks about the political situation, the security-policy, the war in Eastern Ukraine, reform processes, anti-corruption, the Crimean Peninsula, the OSCE mission and its challenges, the language-law in education, the atmosphere within civil society and youth as a whole and many more.

There are positive developments visible in Ukraine, but the country and its population still face various challenges. Ukraine is in the process of becoming a nation but not always sure on which pillars this should happen and which social and political spheres it embodies. While looking at the West, Ukraine still has to live with its historical past as well as with the systemic consequences in the political and social system - and a hot war in Eastern Ukraine.

Civil Society is very active and strong while the ordinary youth strives between a conservative world view, mistrust in the political system, while looking optimistically into the future.



The IIP, as part of the Platform, already did and will continue to work on different aspects concerning peace and democracy in Ukraine in order to support the evolvement of a stable Ukraine with economic prosperity from which the Ukrainian population should benefit.



April 11th

**Buchvorstellung und Gespräch mit Rüdiger Frank:
Unterwegs in Nordkorea – eine Gratwanderung**

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Angela Kane, former UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and Under-Secretary-General for Management in the United Nations - Rüdiger Frank, Author, University of Vienna at the department of Eastern Asian Studies - Hannes Swoboda, President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP - Hannes Swoboda, President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute und former MEP

Content

As North Korea is a highly interesting and actual topic the International Institute for Peace was very happy to host this event concerning the new book of Rüdiger Frank – “Unterwegs in Nordkorea – Eine Gratwanderung”. The book mainly focuses on travelling, the challenges one has to face during a North Korea trip but also the adventures and fascinating things one can expect on a journey like this. Frank reported about how to prepare and plan a journey through North Korea, which demands strict following of instructions and usually to travel with a guided tourist group. He went on to explain some ‘Dos and Don’ts’ and gave insight to everyday life in Pyongyang. Furthermore he told about the question of reality vs. facade to be experienced as tourist in North Korea, gender roles, total compartmentalization and possible ways out of poverty.



April 16-17th

European fund for the Balkans - EFB 10th anniversary event

Venue	Yugoslav film Archive, Uzun Mirkova 1.
Participants	- international audience from politics, the media, civil society, academia, arts and culture, business and philanthropy.
Organization	- European Fund for the Balkans

Content

Hannes Swoboda, President of the International Institute for Peace, participated as a speaker to the conference. He contributed to the panel discussion: Time for a new European Balkan partnership.

The European Fund for the Balkans' 10th Anniversary was a two-day event that brought together an international audience from politics, the media, civil society, academia, arts and culture, business and philanthropy to discuss the future of Europe and the European future of the Balkans.

The event's highlights included the launching of the Declaration of a European Balkans Partnership – a vision for the future of the Balkans, outlined by Europe's and our region's most prominent thinkers and influencers.

Topics such as the future of democracy, the future of leadership, the future of communications, the future of social change, the future of the economy, the Balkans in Europe

and other issues reflecting the challenges we are facing in the Balkans and Europe, were addressed in different ways and with a variety of formats such as panel discussions, cluster discussions/workshops, and dynamic “talks” and “hyper talks”.



April 19th **Ukraine and the USA: What is at stake for Europe?**

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Moderation	- Stephanie Fenkart , Director, International Institute for Peace
Panelists	- Nolan Peterson , Kyiv-based correspondent; former US Air Force Special Operations pilot
Cooperation	- Platform for Dialogue and Conflict Resolution in Ukraine - US Embassy Austria

Content

Ukraine is increasingly at the intersection of Russian, American, European – and now Chinese geopolitical interests. Nolan Peterson discusses why the U.S. needs to entrench its diplomatic foothold in Ukraine, or risk losing influence to its adversaries. He explains the latest developments in the conflict in Eastern Ukraine, how it has impacted society, and how attitudes toward the West and integration into Europe have been affected.

In a public talk with Stephanie Fenkart, Nolan Peterson discussed questions concerning the current situation in Eastern Ukraine and especially the role of Europe and the United States within this conflict. Peterson offers – due to his experience as foreign correspondent – a sober, informed perspective on the status of Ukraine’s fight against corruption, its capacity to defend

itself from further Russian interference, and the overall cultural trends in the country that affect its viability as a European partner.



April 20th

**Rapidly Emerging Technologies:
What are the Ethical and Legal Challenges?**

Venue	Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, Donau-City Strasse 6, 1220 Vienna
Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sean Legassick, Co-Lead of the Ethics and Society group at DeepMind - Jane Zavalishina, President and co-founder of Mechanica AI
Cooperation	- Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

Content

The Vienna Center of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP) and the International Institute for Peace organised a round table on the 20th of April on artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning and predictive applications will change the world and the way in which we interact with it. The dramatic development of these applications seems to be outpacing society’s attention to the ethical and legal aspects of their use. The speakers, both experts in the subject of AI and its uses, discussed the possible impact of these

rapidly emerging technologies and the ethical and legal challenges to ensuring that they are used appropriately. The event was moderated by Angela Kane, former high UN commissioner for disarmament and vice-president of the IIP. Sean Legassick and Jane Zavalishina were invited to give some interesting insights into this topic.



April 23rd **Civilian Monitors – an effective enough remedy to end a hot conflict?**

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Welcome	- Hannes Swoboda , President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP
Moderation	- Stephanie Fenkart , Director, International Institute for Peace
Speaker	- Alexander Hug , Principal Deputy Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine
Cooperation	- Platform for Dialogue and Conflict Resolution in Ukraine

Content

In March 2014 the OSCE Monitoring Mission took up its mandate in Eastern Ukraine to observe the situation, to report from an objective point of view about the ongoing incidences and to facilitate the dialogue between all conflicting parties.

Alexander Hug, Principal Deputy Chief Monitor of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine discussed with Stephanie Fenkart, Director of the International Institute for Peace,

challenges, opportunities and future perspectives about the mission. Is there a willingness to continue this military conflict? What kinds of incidents occur on which sides of the contact and how is the daily life of the people living around the demarcation line affected – especially with regard to the humanitarian situation? How is the OSCE working as non-armed mission in this highly mined area and what kind of challenges do employees of this mission have to face? What opportunities has the mission to support a peaceful solution in this conflict? These and further question were discussed and analysed by Mr. Alexander Hug, who has a unique insight into this four year-long conflict.



April 25th

Israel und Palästina -
Binationaler Staat oder zwei Staaten für zwei Völker?

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stephanie Fenkart, Director, International Institute for Peace - Louise Hecht, Historian, Representative NIF Austria
Moderation	- Hannes Swoboda , President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP
Speaker	- Angelika Timm , Middle East Scientist and Israel Expert
Cooperation	- New Israel Fund Austria

Content

Angelika Timm undertook the difficult task to collect the many peace initiatives concerning Israel and Palestine in one book. When the International Institute for Peace got the offer from the newly founded Austrian chapter of the "New Israel Fund" to present this book the IIP was happy to agree. Especially as the book presentation by could take place some days before the 70th anniversary of the foundation of Israel. Even if this conflict is today overshadowed by the bloody events in Syria and Yemen and the competition between Iran and Saudi Arabia, this conflict should not be forgotten. Too often the small glimmers of hope disappeared, and frustration took place. The number of documents of peace efforts that Angelika Timm collected in her books is enormous. One can detect many serious efforts, which nevertheless failed. In his report of the event Hannes Swoboda responded to issues like many missed chances in the Israeli-Palestinian relation, to Israeli settlements, a lack of willingness and of readiness and the issue of Hamas. Finally, he reflected on the 'between two states'- situation compared to binational state and alternatives in implementing human rights for everybody.



May 3rd

**Thinking and Shaping New Balkans in 2018:
Navigating the Ship between old challenges and new paradigms for
the future**

Venue	Haus der Europäischen Union, Wipplingerstraße 35, 1010 Vienna
Welcome	- Hannes Swoboda , President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP
Cooperation	- Österreichisches Institut für Internationale Politik – oiip - Karl Renner Institut

Panel I: EU-Enlargement Refreshed vs. Old and New Geopolitical Challenges

Moderation	- Vedran Dzihic , Senior Researcher at the oiip and Lecturer at the University of Vienna
Panelists	- Michael Karnitschnig , Chief of Cabinet of Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations - Adi Cerimagic , European Stability Initiative - Thomas Mühlmann , Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of Austria, Deputy Director, South Eastern Europe and EU Enlargement - Vuk Velebit , Faculty of Political Sciences, Belgrade - Alida Vracic , Populari, Sarajevo



Panel II: New Paradigm? Youth and Civil Society Forces Shaping New Balkans

Moderation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hannes Swoboda, President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP
Panelists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Samir Beharic, oiip, Global Studies, Global History Program, University Vienna - Julia Herr, President of the Socialist Youth Austria (tbc) - Dona Kosturanova, Youth Educational Form, Skopje - Mario Mazic, Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Zagreb A - Ulonë Memeti, DOIT, Priština - Dafina Peci, National Youth Congress, Tirana - Senada Selo-Sabic, Institute for Development and International Relations, Zagreb



Content

Only a few years after the European Council in Thessaloniki in 2003 strongly confirmed the perspective of EU integration for the Western Balkans, the EU-Enlargement process entered a phase of fatigue and political stalemate. Even though the technical process was kept on track and the EU Commission made large efforts to speed up the EU integration of the region, the new Commission under Jean Claude Juncker underlined in 2014 that no enlargement would happen over the next five years. However, pressured by the looming democratic and economic crisis in the Western Balkans as well as the return of the geopolitical power struggle to the region, it was obvious that a new momentum for Enlargement would have to be created in order to fill the EU perspective for the region with life.

2018 has been frequently described as the „year of hope“ for EU enlargement and for the Balkans. In February 2018, a new Enlargement Strategy was presented in Strasbourg by the

EU Commission. Bulgaria, that is currently having the Presidency of the Council of the EU, will organize a major Balkan's Summit in May 2018. Austria, for a long time one of the most prominent promoters of the EU Enlargement for the Western Balkans and a country deeply intertwined with the region, will assume the EU-presidency in the second half of 2018.

We argue that 2018 represents one of the crucial moments for Enlargement as major steps need to be undertaken to reach the goal of making Enlargement perspective realistic for 2025. The involved institutes organized a set of debates and other activities throughout 2018 in Vienna with an aim to:

- accompany political and governmental processes focussed on the Balkans in 2018
- shed a light on questions of critical importance for the Balkans in the years to come and to provide both analysis as well as a platform for dialogue and exchange among relevant stakeholders
- contribute to the Austrian presidency of the EU
- enrich the debate with “new young emerging voices” from the region
- SECOND EVENT, October 2018
- Back to the fundamentals: The long road to reconciliation – Moving beyond Status quo

May 11th

Außenpolitik mit Druck

Venue	Radio Ö1 Studio, Argentinierstraße 30a, 1040 Vienna
Moderation	- Xaver Forthuber , Radio Ö1 - Sendereihe “Punkt eins”
Speaker	- Heinz Gärtner , International Institute for Peace, Universität Wien - Markus Kornprobst , Universität Wien
Cooperation	- Radio Ö1

Content

After the Trump administration announced to withdraw from the nuclear deal with Iran the re-implementation of sanctions on Iran lies ahead. Iran will no longer feel obliged to follow the strict rules imposed on its nuclear program. Sanctions, like in this case, are considered as non-violent but effective means of pressure, to force actors of the international system to act in a favored direction. However, they bear the potential to cause massive deterioration of a conflict, Heinz Gärtner, International Institute for Peace, told. Consequently, it is questionable if sanctions are a means of diplomacy or if on the contrary, they lead to

Sind Sanktionen also der Anfang der Diplomatie oder bedeuten sie schon ihr Scheitern? Die Praxis des internationalen Krisenmanagements kennt Markus Kornprobst, Professor an der Diplomatischen Akademie in Wien.

"Restriktive Maßnahmen" gegen Personen, Unternehmen oder die ganze Wirtschaft eines Landes sind auch ein wichtiges Instrument der gemeinsamen Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik der EU. Dabei sei man darauf bedacht, "nachteilige Auswirkungen für diejenigen, die nicht für die Politik oder die Handlungen, die zur Verhängung von Sanktionen geführt haben, verantwortlich sind, möglichst gering zu halten", schreibt der Rat der Europäischen Union auf seiner Website.

Welche Arten von Sanktionen gibt es, und wie zielgerichtet können sie wirklich sein? Wer kann Sanktionen theoretisch und praktisch verhängen? Was sind die Auswirkungen und Nebenwirkungen auf Politik, internationale Beziehungen, Wirtschaftsentwicklung und Zivilbevölkerung eines betroffenen Landes? Darüber sprechen Heinz Gärtner und Markus Kornprobst mit Xaver Forthuber und unseren HörerInnen der Sendereihe "Punkt eins" auf Ö1.

May 13th-14th

Russia and the Euro-Atlantic Integration

Venue	Libertas International University, Zagreb, Trg J.F. Kennedy, 6b
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Milan Bandić, Mayor of the City of Zagreb - Prof. Radovan Vukadinović, PhD, Center for International Studies - Budimir Lončar - Hannes Swoboda, PhD, International Institute for Peace, Vienna
Panelists	- Hannes Swoboda , President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP
Cooperation	- Center for international studies, Libertas International University.

Content

The International Institute for Peace co-organized the event. The conference consisted of two panels with the following topics: Russia and West – Challenges and Opportunities and Russia and Euro-Atlantic Integration in South Eastern Europe. "Russia and the West should cooperate in various spheres while it is acknowledged that we are also competitors in some ways. Both is possible as long as our past since WWII is not the future of our youth. Just and indivisible security in Europe without Russia, however, is illusionary and a multipolar system is preferable", says Hannes Swoboda, president of the IIP.



May 23rd

Die Verschlechterung der Ost-West-Beziehungen

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Welcome	- Walter Schwimmer , Secretary General of the Council of Europe a.D., Obmann-Stv. des DOC
Moderation	- Stephanie Fenkart , Director, International Institute for Peace
Speaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vladislav Belov, Europa-Institut, Russische Akademie der Wissenschaften - Fred Dallmayr, Notre Dame University, Notre Dame, Ind., USA - Alexander Dubowy, Coordinator, Forschungsstelle für Eurasische Studien - Otmar Höll, Director of Österr.Instituts für Internationale Politik a.D. - Dr.Hans Köchler, President of International Progress Organization - Peter W. Schulze, Georg August Universität Göttingen
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forschungsstelle für Eurasische Studien der Universität Wien - Dialogue of Civilizations - Research Institute

Content

Das International Institute for Peace (IIP) veranstaltet in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Dialogue of Civilizations Research Institute (DOC) und der Forschungsstelle für Eurasische Studien der Universität Wien (EURAS) am 23. Mai 2018 ein öffentliches Expertengespräch zum Thema „Die Verschlechterung der Ost-West-Beziehungen“.

Während im Fernen Osten die Zeichen auf Entspannung und Versöhnung stehen, steigt in Europa die Besorgnis über die zunehmende Verschärfung der politischen Auseinandersetzung in Europa. Die zeitweise aggressive Rhetorik übertrifft nach Ansicht vieler Beobachter die des überwunden geglaubten Kalten Krieges.

Das Podium vereint Experten aus Österreich, Russland, Deutschland und den USA, die den realen Ursachen der Verschlechterung der Ost-West-Beziehungen auf den Grund gehen und Auswege aus einer scheinbar verfahrenen Situation aufzeigen wollen.



May 23rd

Nur Rechtspopulismus oder mehr?

Venue	Bruno Kreisky Forum, Armbrustergasse 15, 1190 Vienna
Moderation	- Sonja Kato-Mailath , unikato communications
Speaker	- Erwin Lanc , International Institute for Peace
Cooperation	- Bruno Kreisky Forum für internationalen Dialog

Content

Erwin Lanc honorary president of the IIP talked about "right-wing populism or more?" at the Kreisky Forum für Internationalen Dialog on the occasion of his 88th birthday.

Erwin Lanc berichtet über seine Erfahrungen in der Kindheit, Jugend und Besatzungszeit mit dem österreichischen Faschismus, dem Nationalsozialismus und der "Wiedereingliederung" in der Zweiten Republik. Und zieht Schlussfolgerungen für heute und morgen.



May 28-29th

**Global Peace Studies Conference 2018 -
Views of peacebuilding and security in the modern world**

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna and the Diplomatic Academy Vienna, Austria.
Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Heinz Fischer, Former President of Austria - Dr. David Malone, Rector, United Nations University; - Mr. Farid Zarif, Special Representative for UNMIL; - Dr. Michael Spindelegger, Director General ICPMD; - Ms. Heidi Hulan, Ambassador of Canada to Austria; - Dr. Alistair Edgar, Executive Director, Academic Council on the United Nations System - Professor Heinz Gaertner, University of Vienna; - Mag. Gudrun Kramer, Director Austrian Study Centre for Peace; - Mr. Mohammad Nizamuddin, Chair, Punjab Higher Education Pakistan; - Brigadier Walter Feichtinger, Austrian National Defence Academy; - Dr. Adam Lupel, President, International Peace Institute; - Professor Mike Hardy, Executive Director CTPRS, Coventry University; - Mr. Aldo Lale Demoz, former Director, UNODC
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Academic Council on the United Nations System, Vienna Liaison Office

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Austrian Study Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR) - Austrian Institute for Peace - Diplomatiche Akademie Wien-Vienna - School of International Studies, - National Defense Academy, - University of Vienna, - University of Graz, - Sigmund Freud University Vienna, - Coventry University United Kingdom, - Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non Proliferation, - University of Punjab Lahore, Pakistan, - United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
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Content

The conference was co-organized by the International Institute for Peace and the Academic Council on United Nation System. The aim of the conference was to create a unique global platform which brings together PhD scholars, experts and academics, as well as activists from all over the world to present their work, related to peace and security, conflict resolution and prevention and views needed to make our world more secure.

Goal: exchange of ideas, knowledge, practice and experience on how to build a more peaceful world. In addition, event organizers hope to foster dialogue between participants and, consequently, to promote a better understanding of peace, tolerance and friendly co-existence between different religions, races, societies and nations.



May 29th

**Maria Kulikovska: Art in Ukraine - Challenges and Opportunities
Following RAFT CRIMEA**

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Moderation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hannes Swoboda, President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP - Stephanie Fenkart, Director, International Institute for Peace
Speaker	- Maria Kulikovska , Artist

Content

The conflict in Eastern Ukraine displaced nearly two million people within Ukraine, many of them fled to Kyiv and so did Maria Kulikovska after violence escalated in 2014 where she continued her art work. In her project RAFT CRIMEA Maria Kulikovska says” The raft «Crimea» is both, an artwork and a real political proposal. Water routes have always defined the development of states. Thousands of people, who are deprived of their homes, seeking for better life, safety, or simply a possibility of survival, are moving today on boats and rafts to the shores, where no one is neither waiting for them, nor wants to see them. The vast population of the new republic, which is not marked on the map, is drifting on the waves: the phantom republic of migrants. Anyone can become its citizen one day. The «Crimea» life raft will become its embassy, a displaced parliament for all of those who are devoid of place and political representation.

Together with Stephanie Fenkart and Hannes Swoboda, Maria Kulikovska discussed questions about creating art within a situation of political conflict, art and it’s opportunities to make some change and her living reality expressed through art.



June 6th

Today in conflict, tomorrow partner of Europe?

Chances and possibilities for civil societies of Tunisia, northern Iraq and Syria

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Moderation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Stephanie Fenkart, Director, International Institute for Peace- Lukas Wank, Shabka
Panelists	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sherin Gharib, Fellow am Österreichischen Institut für Internationale Politik- Verena Gruber, PhD Student am King's College London, Programm-Managerin at Europäischen Forum Alpbach- Ara Badrtarkhanian, Masterstudent Universität Wien- Hannes Swoboda, President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Shabka

Content

Die Middle East-North Africa (MENA) region is situated in on the periphery of Europe. Consequently, developments and challenges of all MENA states affect Europe directly (flight, war, terror attacks etc.) and indirectly (security vacuum, breakdown of economy etc.).

In order to foster democracy and enhance processes of stabilization in the MENA region the EU supports and invests in conflict shattered civil societies. But how much change can actually be achieved by civil actors? Which kind of groups of civil actors must be differentiated? And how should the EU-strategy look like in the future?

The discussion was focused on Tunisia and the Kurdish region on northern Iraq and applied policy recommendations that were developed by a young strategic community of the Future Strategists Hub. What is the role of civil societies in that region? What different characteristics mark different civil actors? How can the EU address these groups with regard to their different positions and goals?



June 12-14th

Conference - Iran in the International System

June 12th - Exhibition of Prof. Mitra Shahmoradi, Iranian/Austrian Artist

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Welcome and opening	- Hannes Swoboda , President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP
Speaker	Prof. Mitra Shahmoradi , Iranian/Austrian Artist

June 14th - workshops

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Welcome	- Stephanie Fenkart , Director, International Institute for Peace - Mitra Shahmoradi , Artist
Introduction	- Heinz Gärtner , International Institute for Peace
Cooperation	- Political and International Studies - IPIS

Workshop I - The History of Iran in the International System

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Moderation	- Hannes Swoboda , President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP
Cooperation	- Political and International Studies - IPIS

Workshop II - Challenges and Opportunities for Iran in the Contemporary World

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Moderation	- Stephanie Fenkart , International Institute for Peace, IIP Reinhard Meier-Walser , Hanns-Seidl Stiftung Munich
Remarks	- Saeed Khatibzadeh , Institute for Political and International Studies-IPIS, Teheran - Heinz Gärtner , International Institute for Peace- IIP/University of Vienna - Mahnaz Zahirinejad Institute of Mediterranean and Oriental Cultures, Polish Academy of Science - Mahdi Ghodsi , The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies, wiiw - Michael Lüders , German-Arabic Society, Berlin - Mohammad Farazmand ,institute for Political and International Studies - IPIS, TeheraN - Hannes Swoboda ,International Institute for Peace, IIP - Seyed Kazem Sajjadpour President of the Institute for Political and International Studies- IPIS, Teheran
Cooperation	- Political and International Studies - IPIS

Public event - Iran in the international system

Venue	Universität Wien Kleiner Festsaal, Universitätsring 1, 1010 Vienna
Welcome	- Hannes Swoboda , President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP
Moderation	- Hannes Swoboda , President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP
Panelists	- Mohammad Farazmand , Institute for Political and International Studies - IPIS, Teheran - Bernard Hourcade , Mondes Iranien et indien, Paris - Shireen Hunter , School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University - Abbas Milani , Program in Iranian Studies, University of Stanford - Seyed Kazem Sajjadpour , President of IPIS, Teheran
Cooperation	- Political and International Studies - IPIS

Content

At a meeting with workshop atmosphere in Vienna experts from Iran, some EU countries and the USA discussed the role of Iran in the international system. A lively discussion showed the necessity and usefulness of the dialogue across ideological and continental borders.

All participants deplored the cancellation of the nuclear agreement JPCOA by President Trump - 'pacta sunt servanda' is an old Roman proverb which nevertheless should be respected today. Whatever Trump's motivation has been it gave the wrong signals to Iranians and Europeans alike.



The question of compensation of the damage caused by the cancellation was discussed by the Iranian experts. Irrespective of the condemnation of Trump's policies, especially the experts

for the US pleaded for a new and more realistic approach of the Iranian leadership towards the US. Also, Iran would have to decide if its foreign policy should be more influenced by national interest or by the Islamic - Shiite– ideology. Also from the Iranian side Saudi Arabian animosity towards Iran were discussed and claimed to be disturbing a trustful relation between Iran and the US, as Saudi Arabia continuously acted in accordance with the US. In addition the Iranians argued that Iran is one of the few countries that relies on its own security arrangement without alliances. Consequently, a neighborhood which is not hostile to its existence, independence and political system was crucial for Iran. It had a long history of being a regional actor and could be proud about its resistance against intervening and colonial powers, as well as of its independence. Concerning the economic situation the sanctions have had a very negative impact, nevertheless Iran would have to try to reorganize the economy in a way which is supporting the economic and social interests of the citizens in order to create a viable middle class. In this respect a more realistic foreign policy would also improve the economic situation of the Iranian economy.



June 18th

Talking Europe - Austria's Regional Role

Venue	Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue
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Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stephanie Fenkart, Director of the International Institute for Peace - Heinz Gärtner, member of the advisory group of IIP
Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shabka - Bruno-Kreisky-Forum

Content

Heinz Gärtner, member of the Advisory Board of the IIP and Stephanie Fenkart, director of the IIP talk on the situation and possible solutions for the Ukrainian situation. Thanks to Shabka for the initiative " Talking Europe - Austria's regional role" in cooperation with 1989 Generation Initiative and the Bruno-Kreisky-Forum.

During the first roundtable the speakers gave short introduction statements on Austria's regional role, preferably from three different angles of expertise (10 mins each), followed by an interactive discussion with the participants. The thematic focus lied on the Western Balkans and Austria's role and position with regards to the EU's eastern enlargement ambitions. Austria's historic relations can serve as a starting point.

During the second roundtable session, the participants worked on concrete recommendations and options, which embrace the inputs from session one and translate them into feasible results. The speaker's role during this session is less informative as it shall offer methodological and result-oriented guidance. This session can be organised in a scenario-setting.



June 19-24th

Managing Change in Europe's Neighbourhoods

Venue	International Neighbourhood Symposium, Odessa, Ukraine.
Participants	Young professionals and graduate students

Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Center for International and European Studies (CIES) - UA: Ukraine Analytica - the Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism” - Quadrivium.
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Content

Stephanie Fenkart, Director of the International Institute for Peace participated at the symposium as a speaker. She discussed “Development and Sustainable development goals”. The 2018 International Neighbourhood Symposium aimed to discuss, assess, and understand the recent political and security developments in the three regions as well as around the globe with a particular focus on the role of the European Union and NATO. The INS also enabled participants to debate and understand the value of being a changemaker and managing change be it societal, economic, or political in a fluid security environment. The objective was to increase the knowledge and awareness of the participants while inspiring them as they develop action plans. Finally, the participants developed joint action plans to contribute for change in the three regions in Peer to Peer Workshops, led by expert trainers and facilitators and presented them for discussion and evaluation during the INS. The participants encouraged to stay in touch with their group members to find ways to implement their action plans post-Symposium.



June 24th-29th Summer school

Venue	Island of Sipan, Croatia
Cooperation	- Atlantic Council of Croatia

Content

The 17th International Summer School organised by the Atlantic Council of Croatia with the support of NATO PDD and the International Institute for Peace in Vienna was held in the island of Šipan from the 24th until 29th of June 2018. This year's topic was 'The role of NATO in the process of stabilization of Western Balkan countries' with a special focus on the process of accession of the candidate Western Balkan countries in the European Union and NATO. The summer school gathered 25 participants from the region and wider as well as 20 keynote speakers including professors and experts in international relations and international security. As part of my internship with the International Institute of Peace I was given the opportunity to participate in the International Summer School in Šipan and to take part in the activities involved.



The small classes and focused academic environment allowed us to immerse in the subject matter and gain a solid grounding for understanding the importance of dialogue and cooperation, particularly when it comes to issues that involve intergovernmental organizations such as the EU and NATO. Each candidate's state was represented by speakers from the region who introduced the historical background of their states as well as the current political situation and their challenges and endeavors towards NATO and EU accession. The experts were keen in detailing the relations of Western Balkan states with neighboring countries as well as explaining their ties with Russia and Europe. The lectures referred to the current structure of the European Union and NATO and addressed the current socio-economic challenges faced in Europe, as well as the impact that America's foreign policy under the Trump administration will have on the goals and format of NATO and its impact on the accession process of the Western Balkan countries. After each lecture we had the chance to participate in deep discussions with the speakers, many of whom are typically busy and often

inaccessible. Furthermore, the summer school’s overall structure and environment created a friendly and informal atmosphere that gave us the advantage to engage in a higher level of interaction during breaks with the experts and learn about their truly personal opinion. The school took a great advantage of the beautiful scenery in the island of Šipan, which provided the perfect ground for us to get together, form friendships and network with like-minded people, many of whom have interest in and enthusiasm for common issues. For me it was a valuable experience to meet people from the Western Balkans, Russia and the USA, on a neutral ground, setting aside any preconceived notions and getting to know their part of the story. It must be mentioned that when it comes to the Western Balkans, in particular, the summer school contributes to promoting stability in the region by supporting the development of youth collaboration and promoting multicultural awareness, tolerance and solidarity among young people. It thus contributes to the other efforts of the European Union towards the stabilization of the Western Balkan region as well as cooperation between and with the countries of this region and European Union member states.

September 17-21th Marshall Center security forum -Transnational Security Threats: Regional and National Contribution to the Regional Security

Venue	Ohrid, Macedonia
Participants	- Experts and other stakeholders
Organization	- Alumni Programs, George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies - the Macedonia Marshall Center Alumni Association - the NATO Public Diplomacy Division - NATO Defense College Rome

Content

Stephanie Fenkart, Director of the International Institute for Peace participated to the conference as a speaker. She contributed to the the panel discussion: “National Response to Emerging Security Threats: *“Building an Effective National Security System – Current State, Developments and Future Challenges”*.”

By elaborating different security topics such as counter-terrorism, organized crime, migration, corruption, energy security, cyber and hybrid threats, this 3-day Forum meant to address the mutually beneficial cooperation on issues of common interest, including regional efforts to meet emerging security challenges. Apart from the national and regional dimension of countering transnational security threats, the Forum outlined the European and Euro-Atlantic aspects on the security risks and threats. Moreover, it emphasized the future prospects of the Western Balkan countries with regard to membership into the Euro-Atlantic structures. The forum had a clear goal to create a growing and a sustainable network of people who are dealing with security and/or Euro-Atlantic integrative perspectives of the region.



September 24th Workshop 09-12:30 pm: Bosnia and Herzegovina before the Elections
Identity politics, fears, failing institutions, corruption. Are the elections expected to bring change?

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mirjana Tomic, FJUM - Stephanie Fenkart, Director, International Institute for Peace
Format	Presentations, Panel Discussion, Q&A sessions; ample possibilities for interactive exchange, interviews and networking.
Panelists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Azra Nuhefendić, award- winning Bosnian and Italian journalist. More than 40 years experience in covering Bosnia and Herzegovina from different perspectives, local and international. Resides in Trieste. - Aleksandar Trifunović, journalist, moderator, media and peace activist, and editor-in-chief, Buka Media Project. Resides in Banja Luka. - Šejla Šehabović, writer, journalist, feminist and the director of Museum of Literature and Performing Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Resides in Sarajevo. - Elvedin Nezirović, writer, poet, peace activist and director of the Pavarotti Music Centre. Resides in Mostar.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alida Vračić, political scientist, specialised in Western Balkans politics and European integrations; Visiting Fellow at European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR); founder and director of the Sarajevo-based think tank Populari. Currently resides in Berlin.
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FJUM, Forum Journalism and Media, Vienna

Content

Despite the international community's omnipresence and innumerable programs in support of country's democratization, Bosnia and Herzegovina faces profound problems, increasing ethnic divisions, institutional failures. Rampant corruption undermines all walks of life. Some analysts question if the country will survive. Young and educated are leaving the country.

As the 7 October presidential and parliamentary elections approach hate speech intensifies. What do voters expect from the coming elections?

Five Bosnian journalists and analysts, based in Banja Luka, Sarajevo and Mostar, explore the local context and describe voters' perception and expectations.



September 24th Werte, welche Werte? Hintergründe des schwierigen Wertediskurses mit Russland

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Welcome	- Stephanie Fenkart , Director, International Institute for Peace
Moderation	- Gerhard Marchl , Karl-Renner-Institute, department European Politics
Panelists	- Alexander Dubowy , Coordinator, Forschungsstelle für Eurasische Studien - Anna Schor-Tschudnowskaja , Sigmund Freud Privat Universität, sociologist and psychologist - Hannes Swoboda , President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP - Greg Yudin , National Research University, Higher School of Economics, Moscow
Cooperation	- Forschungsstelle für Eurasische Studien der Universität Wien - Karl Renner Institut

Content

In the controversy between Russia and the European Union the discussion about values increasingly became a central element over the years. Therefore, the Research Center for Eurasian Studies (EURAS), the Karl Renner Institute and the International Institute for Peace organized a forum to exchange opinions on this matter. Moderated by Gerhard Marchl from the Karl-Renner Institut, the participants discussed whether the current conflict is a clash of values or rather a clash of interests and if there are generally applicable rights or a traditional self-reliance of Russian values.

Greg Yudin opened the discussion giving a brief overview over the historical development of values as subject of the political discourse. Aspects of 'traditional' Russian values became more popular only recently and they are meant to emphasize the contradiction to the western liberal values. The other panelists, Anna Schor-Tschudnowskaja, Alexander Dubowy and Hannes Swoboda largely agreed and added that the conflict is not one of contradicting values but rather of diverging expectations of different actors. Those expectation stem from attempts to integrate Russia into the Western community of states after the fall of the iron curtain. The accession of Russia to the Council of Europe and the European Convention on Human Rights was interpreted as affirmation of the western values by European states but only ostensibly met the expectations of Russia to adapt to the western model. On the other side Russia expected a full integration in the Euro-Atlantic community and the right for co-

determination and -creation, while claiming national sovereignty and respect for its security and economic interests. Instead, an alternative model of democracy and catalogue of human rights developed in Russia. Here an argument was voiced that European governments took too little interest in Russian human rights activists who demanded help from the European community after restrictive legislation and right violations increased in 2006. Europeans should also be blamed not taking their own “values” too serious and putting economic interests, namely in gas, over the standard in human rights, therefore disguising their real interests. In this cause the panelists identified the lack of communication of political interests as one of the core problems. Russia and Europe have common economic interests and should therefore work together in this field, but this should be clearly articulated. A community of shared values is not what both parties should be looking for, because the understanding on both sides totally mismatch.

Dialogue between Russia and the West should not only be concentrated on values as any talk as such in itself supports only separation; “values” is not the right term because it tends to disguise interests and different moral claims or ideologies. The focus in the discourse should be about rights and interests as well as about solidarity instead.



September 26th **Finissage und Gespräch: Kunst im Iran zwischen Tradition und Moderne**

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Moderation	- Stephanie Fenkart , Director, International Institute for Peace
Panelists	- Mitra Shahmoradi , Artist - Asoo Khanmohamadi , Photographer - Laleh Pourkhataee Monsef , Art Historian, Jugendcollege, Wien

Content

On the 26th of September the International Institute for Peace hosted within the frame of the finissage 'Lost Dreams' from Mitra Shahmoradi a discussion about 'Art in Iran: Between Tradition and Modernity - before and after the Revolution of 1979'. The three Iranian artists of different generations - Mitra Shahmoradi (*1955), painter, poet and author; Asoo Khanmohamadi (*1980), photographer; Laleh Pourkhataee Monsef (*1983), art historian - spoke with Stephanie Fenkart about art in Iran and Austria. Further about prejudices on both countries towards women and foreigners, about challenges and opportunities of different styles of art and craft, about the connection of politics and art, about autonomy and creativity of artists and about a critical handling of emotional topics and complex contexts.



October 4th

Settling the Settling Ukrainian Crisis? Learning from the Past –
Looking to the Future

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Welcome	- Hannes Swoboda , President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP
Moderation	- Stephanie Fenkart , Director, International Institute for Peace
Panelists	- Vasyl Filipchuk , International Centre for Policy Studies Kyiv - Goran Bozicevic , co-founder and current director of Miramida Centar – Regional Peacebuilding Exchange in Groznjan-Grisignana (Istria, Croatia) - Miruna Troncota , Department of International Relations and European Studies of National University of Political Science and Public Administration (SNSPA), Bucharest - Hannes Swoboda , President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP - Jan Marinus Wiersma , Clingendael Institute, Netherlands
Cooperation	- Platform for Dialogue and Conflict Resolution in Ukraine - Karl Renner Institut



Content

On October 4, the International Peace Institute in cooperation with the Karl-Renner Institut and the Platform for Dialogue and Conflict Resolution in Ukraine, held an expert workshop that was followed by a panel discussion with the overall title 'The Settlement of the Ukrainian Crisis? Learning from the Past – Looking to the Future'. During the panel discussion, the current state of affairs in Ukraine and possible ways of settling the crisis were discussed by experts from Ukraine, Austria, the Netherlands, Romania and Croatia. The experience of the Western Balkans in conflict settlement and reconciliation was examined as a relevant case that Ukraine can draw lessons from. The discussion featured Goran Bozicevic, director of Miramida Centar – Regional Peacebuilding Exchange in Groznjan-Grisignana, Croatia; Hannes Swoboda – President of the IIP; Jan Marinus Wiersma, Analyst at Clingendael Institute, the Netherlands; Miruna Troncota from the National University of Political Science and Public Administration, Bucharest; Vasyl Filipchuk, a senior analyst at the International Center for Policy Studies in Kyiv. The panel was moderated by Stephanie Fenkart, Director of the IIP, Vienna.



October 8th

**Vernissage mit Musik und Gespräch Migration und Klimawandel
Klaus Joachim Keller Quo Vadis**

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Welcome	- Stephanie Fenkart , Director, International Institute for Peace

Speaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Klaus Joachim Keller, Artist - Hannes Swoboda, President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP
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Content

On October 8th the Vernissage 'Quo Vadis' from Joachim Keller and a discussion about migration, climate change and the work of the artist took place at the International Institute for Peace. Hannes Swoboda, President of the International Institute for Peace and former MEP, moderated the discussion. The event emphasized the rapid changes that people of today's day and age are facing and how broad, geopolitical, demographic and climate-related changes affect the work of Klaus Joachim.



October 10th

On resilience and escalation: the Syrian impasse

Venue	Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue, Armbrustergass15, 1190 Vienna, Austria.
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hannes Swoboda, President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP - Wadah Khanfar, Sharq Forum Istanbul
Framing	- Walter Posch , Institute for Peace Support and Conflict Management, Vienna

Moderation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gudrun Harrer, University of Vienna and 'Der Standard'
Penalists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joost Hiltermann, International Crisis Group - Ellen Laipson, Stimson Center, DC - Vladimir Sazhin, Russian Academy of Science, - Soli Shavar, University of Haifa - Nicola Pedde, Global Studies Institute
cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bruno Kreisky Forum - Directorate for Security Policy - Federal Ministry of Defence - Institute for Global Studies - Rome-Brussels - Al Sharq Forum

Content

The MENA region does not lend itself to quick analysis. Widening and increasingly intersecting conflicts are having a deleterious impact on the region's social fabric and its people. As a result, what happens in the region is no longer confined to it: radiating crises have started to infect relations between regional and global powers, forcing policymakers in world capitals to respond in pursuit of their nations' strategic interests. The challenge is to untangle the knot of conflicts analytically: to understand how various historical strands have interacted to create the bewildering composite of conflict drivers and actors that pose myriad threats to local, regional and even global stability and then to articulate policy responses that chart paths toward de-escalation and, eventually, more sustainable arrangements for states' and communities' peaceful coexistence.



October 22nd The Peace Process of the Korean Peninsula: Analysis and Forecast

Venue	Diplomatische Akademie Wien, Favoritenstraße 15a, 1040 Vienna
Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Susanne Keppler-Schlesinger, Deputy Director, Diplomatische Akademie Wien-Vienna School of International Studies - Dong-ik Shin, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Austria
Keynote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Joonhyung Kim, Professor of the International Studies Department, Handong Global University; Member of the Advisory Committee for Inter-Korean Summit
Panelists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heinz Gärtner, Professor of Political Science; Member of the Advisory Board, International Institute for Peace - Angela Kane, Former UN High Representative of Disarmament Affairs; Vice President, International Institute for Peace - Markus Kornprobst, Professor of International Relations, Diplomatische Akademie Wien-Vienna School of International Studies
Moderation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thomas Seifert, Deputy chief editor and Head of EU and World Desk, Wiener Zeitung
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diplomatische Akademie Wien - Embassy of the Republic of Korea

Content

On October 22 the International Institute for Peace, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea and the Vienna School of International Studies held a discussion about the developments in the Peace Process of the Korean Peninsula at Vienna School of International Studies. The discussion was moderated by Thomas Seifert, Deputy chief editor and Head of EU and World Desk of the Wiener Zeitung. Dong Ik Shin, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Austria, held a welcome speech in which he pointed out that the three inter-Korean summits which took place within previous five months were an expression of progress which had been made in the process of denuclearization on the peninsula and in the relations between North Korea and the United States.

The panel discussion featured Angela Kane, former UN High Representative of Disarmament Affairs and Vice President at the IIP; Heinz Gärtner from the University of Vienna and the IIP; and Markus Kornprobst, Vienna School of International Studies. In 2002 when the Bush administration declared the DPRK a part of the 'axis of evil' North Korea completely broke the already fragile Agreed Framework with the United States that concerned Pyongyang's nuclear program, stepped out of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty and acquired centrifuge technology for uranium enrichment from Pakistan in order to produce fissile material for nuclear weapons. After 2002, there had been no negotiations between the US and the DPRK up until Donald Trump became US President.



The United States' authorities always followed the principle of Complete Verifiable and Irreversible Denuclearization (CVID) towards North Korea. Donald Trump also held on to this principle as he took office. It remains questionable, however, whether Trump's policy towards North Korea has been consistent. For example, at first the Trump administration demanded that North Korea gave up its nuclear weapons. Later, it already spoke about merely pausing Pyongyang's nuclear program and letting international inspectors oversee and confirm the whereabouts of the dismantled weapons. Trump's statements about Kim Jong Un ranging from threats and insults to the expression of love towards the North Korean leader have been highly confusing. On the contrary, North Korea has showcased great consistency in its demands regarding any potential denuclearization process.

The panelists also drew attention to the outcomes of the US-North Korea Summit in Singapore in June 2018. They described the content of the Summit Declaration as somewhat vague since it did not set any schedule or framework for the denuclearization process. It nevertheless led to concrete actions on the North Korean side. Shortly after the Summit, according to North Korean authorities, Punggye-ri nuclear testing site was dismantled. However, no independent verification by international experts took place, with only journalists being allowed to observe the dismantlement process. Further steps reconfirming North Korean acknowledgement of the Singapore Summit followed. For over a year there have not been any rocket launches or nuclear bomb tests and US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited Pyongyang four times. Generally, it must be acknowledged that the Singapore Summit launched a dynamic political process in the US-North Korea relations, bringing it out of a complete stalemate. However, North Korea has made it clear that denuclearization will not happen if the US does not back up its words with actions and offer reciprocal concessions, such as withdrawal of its troops from South Korea and easing sanctions on the DPRK.

The question also remains how denuclearization is understood in this context. According to Heinz Gärtner it entails not only dismantlement of North Korean nuclear weapons but also no nuclear weapons deployments in South Korea by the US, including on land and at sea. What is important to keep in mind is that any nuclear strike by any of the parties on the Peninsula against the other would inevitably lead to the destruction of both North and South Korea. In case of denuclearization a nuclear weapon free zone would effectively emerge on the Korean Peninsula. Such an arrangement would involve a series of other measures besides dismantlement of nuclear warheads, including withdrawal of North Korean conventional troops from the border with South Korea and establishing a mechanism to verify nuclear disarmament. Additionally, a nuclear weapons free zone would not only mean that the states within it do not build or deploy nuclear weapons but also that nuclear weapons states provide them with negative security assurances. This commitment, in its turn, would collide with the US policy of extended deterrence towards South Korea which would have to be addressed in the new arrangement.

**October 29-30th The politics of the Eastern partnership -
Looking ahead to a new decade of challenges**

Venue	- Diplomatische Akademie Wien, Favoritenstraße 15a, Vienna and Austrian National Defence Academy, Stiftgasse 2a, Vienna
Participants	- international researchers as well as a policy advisors and representatives from key regional institutions and national administrations around a large hollow-square table.
Cooperation	- Austro French Centre for Rapprochement in Europe (CFA), Vienna

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - French Institute for International Relations (Ifri), Paris - Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES), Vienna - Competence Center for Black Sea Region Studies (CCBRS) - University of Applied Sciences - BFI Vienna - International Institute for Peace (IIP), Vienna - Karl Renner Institut (RI), Vienna - Austrian National Defence Academy (LVAk), Vienna - Diplomatiche Akademie Wien (DAk), Vienna - Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union - Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs (BMEIA), Vienna - Central European Initiative Trieste(CEI) - Centre international de formation européenne (CIFE), Berlin/Nice - Minsk Dialogue Track 2 Initiative (MD), Minsk - Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), Rome - German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Berlin - Austrian Institute for International Politics (OIIP), Vienna - University of Vienna Research Center for Eurasian Studies (EURAS) Vienna - Friedrich Ebert Foundation, - Regional Office for Cooperation and Peace in Europe, Vienna
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Content

Organised in the framework of the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, this interactive event organized by IIP in collaboration with the quoted organizations, discussed the politics of the Eastern partnership in the current wider European context, beyond the sheer agenda of the next EaP Summit:

- How successful has the EaP been in promoting regional stability and human security over the last decade?
- How to ensure a greater consistency between the advancement of the EaP as policy framework at the service of European security and the interwoven variety of political interests underpinning the EaP?
- What should be changed in the EaP to increase joint-ownership at the political-rather than institutional-level?
- How much linked are the EU's internal reform agenda and the advancement of theEaP?
- What can we expect from the next EaP Summit?

This event builds on the Eastern Partnership Reflection Forum, an initiative launched in Minsk in 2017 by a pan-European network of think-tanks. Its aim is to advance an inclusive, pan-European reflection at the strategic level and with a policy-oriented focus on the Eastern Partnership and encourage synergies across research institutions and national and European administrations. This Vienna Reflection Forum paves the way for the third Eastern Partnership Reflection Forum, planned for autumn 2019 in Chisinau.



November 5th & 6th

**II Workshop and Public Panel Discussion:
European Alternatives for the Western Balkan Youth 2030**

Venue	5 th of November 2:00-5:00pm: Workshop at IIP: 5 th of November 6:00pm-8:00 pm: Public Panel Discussion at Haus der Europäischen Union, Wipplingerstraße 35, 1010 Wien 6 th of November 9:00-12:30 pm Workshop at the IIP
Welcome Public Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jörg Wojahn, Head of the European Commission Representation in Austria - Hannes Swoboda, President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP - Gerhard Marchl, Karl-Renner-Institut, Department for European Politics
Keynote	- Christina Koulouri , University of Political and Social Sciences, Athens; History Education Committee of the Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe (CDRSEE), Thessaloniki
Panelists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adi Cerimagic, European Stability Initiative - Tanja Fajon, MEP, S&D Group, Slovenia - Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations - Dona Kosturanova, Youth Educational Form, Skopje - Dafina Peci, Albanian Youth Forum, Tirana - Tara Tepavac, European Movement in Serbia (EMINS)

Moderation	- Vedran Dzihic , Senior Researcher at the oiip and Lecturer at the University of Vienna
Cooperation	- Karl Renner Institut - Austrian Institute for International Affairs - Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement

Workshops Participants:

MAXIMILIAN BENNER, Senior Project Manager at the Centre for Social Innovation, Vienna

SAMIR BEHARIC, University of Vienna

ILIR GADESHI, Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), University of Tirana

SENADA SELO SABIC, Institute for Development and International Relations, Zagreb

ALIDA VRACIC, Populari, Sarajevo

DJORDJE BOJOVIC, European Institute at the London School of Economics and Political Sciences

NEVEN BUDAK, University of Zagreb, Department of History

EMIN EMINAGIĆ, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Sarajevo

JÜRGEN SCHICK, Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, Department for EU Coordination and Multilateral Affairs

HANA SEMANIC, Central European University, Budapest

DANIJEL TADIC, Foundation Max van der Stoel, European Forum for Democracy and Solidarity

VUK VELEBIT, Faculty of Political Sciences, Belgrade

Content

Caught in a vicious circle between old-fashioned backwards oriented politics and nationalisms on one hand side and the lack of economic, educational and social perspectives on the other, young generations in the Balkans seem to be losing patience and when possible emigrating to the West in a search for a better life. UN agencies and experts speak about a massive demographic revolution going on in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, changing societies more than many other developments in their younger history. In parallel, democracies in the region are vulnerable, EU integration process is not delivering fast results, and alternative horizons are not easy to find. Our initiative on turning the flashlights on youth, their progressive stances and hopes for the future wants to ask tough questions about the region, about educational opportunities and limits, about reconciliation, EU hopes and possible illusions. Based on sound and sober assessments of the situation, we want to look forward, sketch alternative horizons, and look for alternatives for South-eastern Europe's way beyond emigration.

This conference is the second part of the initiative/series "Young Generations for the New Balkans 2030: Towards Alternative Horizons". As a next step, the discussions and results of the Viennese 2018 conference will be taken further to European capitals and the region. Visits and events in other European Cities – among others also in the context of EU presidencies – will prominently feature young participants from the region as ambassadors representing the fresh and alternative view on and of the Western Balkans. By the means of continuous engagement throughout 2019 and beyond, we will keep working on promoting alternatives

to the status quo and also embarking upon the real and tough work and action to make alternative horizons possible.



November 8th

Podiumsdiskussion die USA nach den Wahlen

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Panelists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eric Frey, der Standard - Heinz Gärtner, International Institute for Peace (IIP), Universität Wien - Dardis McNamee, Zeitschrift Metropole - Eva Nowotny, ehem. Österr. Botschafterin in Washington DC - Elisabeth Rosenstock-Siller, US-Botschaft
Moderation	- Hannes Swoboda , President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP



Content

Zwei Jahre nach der Wahl Donald Trumps zum US-Präsidenten fanden am 8. November die wichtigen Zwischenwahlen für Kongress und Senat in den Vereinigten Staaten statt. Zu diesem Anlass analysierten und diskutierten Eric Frey (der Standard), Heinz Gärtner (IIP, Universität Wien), Dardis McNamee (Zeitschrift Metropole), Eva Nowotny (ehem. Österr. Botschafterin in Washington DC) und Elisabeth Rosenstock-Siller (US-Botschaft) unter der Moderation von Hannes Swoboda (IIP) folgende Fragen:

Was waren die Gründe des Wahlergebnisses? Ist Präsident Donald Trump gestärkt oder geschwächt? Was bedeutet das Wahlergebnis für die Demokratische, was für die Republikanische Partei? Welchen Weg nehmen die USA nach den Zwischenwahlen? Was sind die innen- was die außenpolitischen Konsequenzen der Wahlen?



November 12th-15th Learning Journey Beirut/Lebanon

Participants	- Stephanie Fenkart, Hannes Swoboda
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Content

Hannes Swoboda and Stephanie Fenkart stayed several days in Beirut and had different meetings and discussions about the political, social and economic situation of Lebanon and about possibilities of peace and reconstruction in Syria. They met various experts, diplomats, journalists and politicians and also travelled to the Palestinian refugee camp Shatila in Beirut. Questions discussed were about the role of Hezbollah and Iran, the forming of a new government, Shia and Sunni rivalry, but also about the situation of Syrian and Palestinian refugees as well as post-war Syria reconstruction.

Organisations they met were: Lebanese Centre for Policy Studies, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Lebanon, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Syria, Austrian Ambassador and Consulate, the writer and intellectual Elias Khoury, Leila El Ali, Executive Director, Association Najdeh – Shatila refugee camp, Sami Nader, analyst and commentator American University, Roy Badaro and Michel Hajji Georgio, colleagues and seasoned analysts in Lebanese and Middle Eastern Affairs.



(left Beirut, right Shatila refugee camp)

You can find a detailed report from Hannes Swoboda here:

<https://www.iipvienna.com/new-blog/2018/12/18/l2dubetruuz31bw9uezx6zx4zesqhe>

November 15-16th Dubai: World Tolerance Summit; Prospering from Pluralism, Embracing Diversity Through Innovation and Collaboration

Participation	Stephanie Fenkart, Director IIP
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Content

The director of the IIP, Stephanie Fenkart, participated at the high-level summit in Dubai



called “the World Tolerance summit”. Even though some of the presentations have been quite insightful, it seemed to be an advertising event for the Emirates, which presented themselves as embracing a unique approach towards tolerance in their culture, inviting people from all over the world (Sub-Sahara Africa, Northern Africa, USA, Europe, India and representatives from the region including Saudi Arabia, Katar, Oman, etc). Tolerance towards religions and cultures was advocated quite strongly even though the director of the IIP, Stephanie Fenkart, noted that there was no single Shia representative.



November 19th

Book presentation: Understanding China

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Welcome	- Hannes Hofbauer , Promedia
Speaker	- Robert Fitzhum , Author
Moderation	- Heinz Gärtner , International Institute for Peace, Universität Wien
Cooperation	- Promedia Verlag

Content

On the 29th of November the book presentation ‘Understanding China’ took place at the International Institute for Peace in cooperation with the Promedia Verlag and the magazin INTERNATIONAL. The author Robert Fitzhum who has studied China for many years and since 2013 lives in Nanning, told about his perspective of the country’s development in recent years and life in the People’s Republic of China. The discussion covered the following topics: quality of life in the city vs. on the countryside, reasons for the rapid economic development, environment vs. political economy and social policy, including employment and tackling

extreme poverty, loans and social services. Furthermore, the political system of China, its position in and value for international politics, rising expenses on military, military alliances and the presence of the US in the region and finally, China’s multilateralism and the ‘Silk Route’ initiative.



November 20th Buchvorstellung und Gespräch: Robotic Wars

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Panelists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Markus Reisner, Oberstleutnant des Generalstabdienstes der Landesverteidigungsakademie Wien - Thomas Hajnoczi, Botschafter Österreichs und Ständiger Vertreter Österreichs bei den Vereinten Nationen - Angela Kane, ehem. Hohe Repräsentantin der UNO für Abrüstungsfragen
Moderation	- Stephanie Fenkart , Director, International Institute for Peace

Content

The technological development of recent years lead to the creation of several different military *Unmanned Air, Ground and Maritime Systems*. Their improved capabilities caused a transformation of modern warfare. In fight the against asymmetric warfare and terrorism they became the most preferred weapon of modern militaries. The development of military robots increases and the development of a completely automatic systems seems to be feasible. The existing Humanitarian International Law does not explicitly consider automatic weapons, which leads to the common concern that automatic weapons cause ethnic questions and challenges. Future weaponry systems are meant to consider principles of proportionality

(when applied) and to differentiate between civilians and combatants when executing operations. Currently unmanned weaponry systems can already execute some orders automatically: they can search and detect targets and fire off rockets. Until now it is still a person who commands to clear. For the development of fully automatic systems this might no longer be the case. The presented book reports about the current use of unmanned military robots. It is concerned with the question if humans will allow that in the future decisions of life and death will be made by a fully automatic machine that is equipped with artificial intelligence.



**November 27th Workshop and Public Panel Discussion:
 “Two Faces of European right-wing populist trends:
 Denmark and Hungary”**

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Welcome	- Leopold Radauer , Sir Peter Ustinov Institute, Vienna-Institute and former MEP
Moderation	- Stephanie Fenkart , Director, International Institute for Peace
Panelists	- Hannes Swoboda , President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP - Susi Meret , Aalborg University, Denmark. - András Bozoki , Central European University, Budapest
Format	- Workshop from 09-1:00 pm on personal invitation - Public Event with panelists listed above
Cooperation	- Sir Peter Ustinov Institute - Forum for Journalism and Media

Content

Already in 2010 EU Council president Herman Van Rompuy declared populism as “the biggest danger to Europe”. Since then, the rise of populism within Europe – but also beyond - has been observed by many with great concern. Denmark has a long experience with Danish

People’s Party and is setting the trend in how populist discourse is adopted by the mainstream or how the toughest anti-immigrant policy in Europe has been embraced by the social democrats.

However, the Danish experience remains largely unnoticed in the rest of Europe since the democratic institutions have not been essentially undermined. Hungary, on the other hand, sets different trend and Viktor Órban does not hide his ambition to influence European politics and history. His populism is different from the Danish one in style, values, and respect for the institutions. But also, Austria has a long history of right-wing populist strategies – the Austrian Freedom Party is part of the government and its leader Vice Chancellor.

Six months before the European elections, the question arises: do these parties have anything in common? Should Europe be concerned about these trends? Can these parties potentially become allies in Strasbourg? What led to the rise of right-wing populism and are immigration and Islam the only issues that unite them and what could be done in order to weaken right-wing populism? These and other questions will be discussed with distinguished guests from Denmark, Hungary and Austria.



December 3rd and 4th

Public Discussion and Workshop in The Hague on “Young Generations for the New Balkan/South East Europe: Beyond Emigration, towards Alternative Horizons”

Venue	Austrian Residence, Koninginnegracht 31, 2514 Den Haag, NED
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Welcome	- Heidemaria Gürer , Austrian Ambassador to the Netherlands
Keynote	- Hannes Swoboda , President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP
Moderation	- Kati Piri , Dutch Member of the European Parliament
Panelists <i>Panel I</i>	- Adnan Ćerimagić , European Stability Initiative, Berlin ^[L] _[SEP] - Stefani Spirovska , President of the Youth Educational Forum, Skopje
Panelists <i>Panel II</i>	- Aulonë Memeti , DOIT, Pristina ^[L] _[SEP] - Djordje Bojovic , European Institute at the London School of Economics and Political Sciences - Danijel Tadić , Project Manager South-Eastern Europe, Foundation Max van der Stoep ^[L] _[SEP]
Cooperation	- Karl Renner Institut - Austrian Institute for International Affairs - Austro-French Centre for Rapprochement

Content

During the panel discussion, first results of the initiative “New Horizons for the Young Generations in the Balkans” were presented by representatives of the Austrian Karl-Renner-Institut and the International Institute for Peace, as well as the Austrian Institute for International Affairs and the Austro-French Center for Rapprochement in Europe, based on a recent conference in Vienna. In addition, young experts from the region discussed their visions how to overcome old- fashioned politics and nationalisms and the lack of perspective for younger generations. They sketched alternative horizons and the look for alternatives for South-Eastern Europe’s way beyond emigration. The Hague was the first place in Europe after Vienna where the results of the mentioned initiative were presented to the public.

December 6th Social Movements in Nicaragua

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Welcome	- Stephanie Fenkart , Director, International Institute for Peace
Moderation	- Marlene Prinz , International Institute for Peace
Panelists	- Angel Medrano , member of the Party Ciudadanos por la Libertad (CxL) and the movement of 19th April - Leo Gabriel , Journalist and former foreign correspondent in Nicaragua - Teresa Gruber , SOS-Nicaragua Austria

- Laurin Blecha, Department of History, University of Vienna
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Content:

In April this year, the government of President Daniel Ortega approved reforms on the social security, rising quotas on the employers and taxing the employees which sparked nationwide protests. Soon, these protests turned into demands for democracy, institutionalism and overall liberty and ultimately into the demand of the retirement of Daniel Ortega and his wife and Vice-President Rosario Murillo. The protests resulted in a violent conflict between paramilitaries and police forces and the protesters.

Approximately 450 people have been killed and hundreds of protesters are held as political prisoners. A dialog between the conflict parties led by the Catholic Church failed twice. Nicaragua is coping with a deep internal crisis for more than half a year now. Just recently on October 26, people have been arrested during a peaceful anti-government protest formed by an alliance of more than 40 oppositional groups and activists called the Alliance for National Unity. The movement of the 18th of April has shown the dramatic situation in Nicaragua when it comes to the stability of its democracy. Not only now the country is struggling with this conflict but also the interferences in the past by the U.S. and other global actors have brought Nicaragua to its destabilized situation of nowadays.

What are the consequences of this conflict for Nicaragua and its citizens? How did the protest form itself and how can Europe help? What are the economic consequences for the country? Can this social movement provide a peaceful solution and how can any other violent escalation be prevented? These were the questions addressed during the event.



December the 11th Gespräch: Augenzeugenberichte aus der Ostukraine

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
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Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stephanie Fenkart, Direktorin, International Institute for Peace - Olexander Scherba, Botschafter der Ukraine in Österreich
Moderation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hannes Swoboda, President of the International Institute for Peace, WIIW, Ustinov-Institute and former MEP
Panelists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Igor Koslovsky, Historiker - Stalina Chubenko, Mutter des 16-jährigen Stepan Viktorovych Chubenko, der von Milizen der Volksrepublik Donezk erschossen wurde
Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ukrainische Botschaft in Wien

Content

Am 25. November 2018 stand der Konflikt zwischen der Ukraine und Russland erneut vor einer Eskalation, als Russland auf ukrainische Marineschiffe geschossen und sie an der Durchfahrt in der Straße von Kerch zum Asowschen Meer, gehindert hat.

Nach einem Abkommen zwischen Moskau und Kiew von 2003 sind die Straße von Kertsch und das Asowsche Meer gemeinsam genutzte Hoheitsgewässer.

Dieser Zwischenfall ist nur der letzte in der Geschichte der sehr komplizierten Beziehungen zwischen Russland und der Ukraine, welcher seinen Höhepunkt 2014 erreichte, als Russland die Krim Halbinsel annektierte, nachdem sie Separatisten im Osten der Ukraine unterstützt haben. Die Situation in den sogenannten nicht-staatlich-kontrollierten Gebieten im Osten der Ukraine und der Konflikt mit Russland sind auch der Kontext, in welchem die Ereignisse, von denen Herr Kozlovsky und Frau Chubenko berichten, stattgefunden haben.

Der 63-jährige ukrainische Historiker und Theologe **Igor Kozlovsky** wurde im Dezember 2017 aus der Gefangenschaft der sogenannten Volksrepublik Donezk entlassen. Er war einer der 73 ukrainischen Staatsbürger, Militärangehörige sowie Zivilisten, die auf der Austauschliste bei einem der größten Gefangenenaustausche bisher waren. Er war von Januar 2016 bis Dezember 2017, aufgrund von Spionagevorwürfen in Gefangenschaft und wurde zu fast 3 Jahren Haft verurteilt.

Neben Igor Kozlovsky wird **Stalina Chubenko**, die Mutter des 16-jährigen Stepan Viktorovych Chubenko, der von prorussischen Milizen der Volksrepublik Donezk für seine pro-ukrainischen Positionen erschossen wurde, berichten. Sie konnte den Anführer der Volksrepublik Donezk treffen, um herauszufinden was ihrem Sohn zugestoßen ist. Drei Personen wurden identifiziert, die für die Folter und den Tod des 16-Jährigen verantwortlich gemacht werden, allerdings noch nicht vor ein Gericht gestellt werden konnten da die russische Seite eine Auslieferung der verantwortlichen Personen ablehnt. Die beiden Gäste wollen ihre zwei sehr persönlichen Geschichten mit der Öffentlichkeit in Wien teilen um ein Bewusstsein für die Vorgänge in der Ostukraine zu schaffen, wo noch immer 3-4 Millionen Menschen in den sogenannten nicht-staatlich kontrollierten Gebieten, der Volksrepublik Donezk und der Volksrepublik Luhansk, leben.



December 13th

Vernissage: Peace First:

Brauchen Wir nicht eine neue Friedensbewegung?

Venue	International Institute for Peace, Möllwaldplatz 5/2, 1040 Vienna
Welcome	- Stephanie Fenkart , Direktorin, International Institute for Peace
Moderation	- Trautl Brandsteiner , Publizistin
Panelists	- Gabriele Matzner , Botschafterin a.D. - Egbert Jahn , Friedensforscher - Hannes Swoboda , Präsident, International Institute for Peace (IIP), MEP ret.

