

ORGANISERS:

Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS)

Diplomatic Academy of Vienna

Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office (ASO) Ljubljana

Central and Eastern European International Studies Association CEEISA

IN COOPERATION WITH:

United Nations Association of Austria (UNA-Austria)

Academic Forum on Foreign Affairs, Vienna (AFA)

Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations Office Vienna

International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis IIASA Laxenburg

Austrian Institute for International Affairs (OIIP)

Austrian National Commission for UNESCO

United Nations Information Service, Vienna (UNIS)

European Training Center for Human Rights, Graz

United Nations Studies Association

University of Graz Institute of International Law

University of Vienna, Institutes of Criminal Law and International Law

World Federation of United Nations Associations

Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution (ASPR)

Webster University Vienna

CAN "UNITED NATIONS" BE TAUGHT?

*A Central, East and Southeast European
Regional Colloquium on
Innovative Techniques for
Teaching about the United Nations System*

22 November 2008

11:00 - 17:00

Vienna · Austria



**diplomatische
akademie wien**

Vienna School of International Studies
École des Hautes Études Internationales de Vienne



ASO LJUBLJANA
AUSTRIAN SCIENCE AND RESEARCH
LIAISON OFFICE LJUBLJANA



CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Rationale and Objectives of the Colloquium:

As Global Issues become more and more topical on the political agenda of any country in the world and as the United Nations system is within the existing global system of international relations the central institutional framework for global governance responds to global challenges (like e.g. the ongoing UNFCCC climate change negotiations as the process to coordinate globally climate change mitigation and adaptation measures or the Millennium Development Goals as a shared global vision for development agreed upon in the UN Millennium Declaration, etc.), it is important that there are developed appropriate human capacities in each country with the knowledge on the functioning of the UN system in order to enable all relevant stakeholders to contribute to the success of efforts of the international community to address global challenges and in order to enable countries to defend their interests according to the rules of play.



As the issues confronting the world have become more complicated, new teaching techniques are required to convey the complexity of the problems and the diversity of possible outcomes. In this context higher/tertiary education plays a key role and obviously there are huge potentials for mutual learning in addressing these human resources development issues in an international/regional setting.

But how can United Nations subjects best be addressed at Universities? There are emerging interesting new approaches of teaching UN related subjects through case teaching, structured debates, simulations, role play, experiential learning, using film and new media, use of information technology, google maps and electronic resources (available from UN agencies) and wiki-portals. Experiences will be exchanged about inter-active teaching techniques with the hope that a network of teachers and a compendium of effective activities be established.

Therefore, with this colloquium the organizers want to

- better understand who is doing what in the field of United Nations studies in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe
- identify and discuss innovative initiatives on teaching about the UN system
- contribute to regional cooperation

Expected concrete outcomes of the colloquium are

- a compendium/handbook on “Innovative Techniques/Approaches in Teaching about the UN System” that should be published in the “favorita papers” book series of Diplomatic Academy in Vienna
- project initiatives for regional cooperation in UN studies / teacher training and development of a website

Programme

11:00 **Session I: Welcome**

CHAIR: **Michael Platzer** (ACUNS Liaison Officer in Vienna)

- **Gerhard Reiweger** (Deputy Director of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna)
- **Helmut Böck**, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations (Vienna)
- **Tour de Table** (each participant introduces him- or herself by name and institutional affiliation as well as with the title of his/her intervention in sessions III and IV (each participant is invited to bring to the colloquium a 2 page information on innovative UN related teaching initiatives (implemented and planned ones) he/she is involved in; these contributions will be put together with some analytical articles in a compendium/handbook and published in a special edition of the “Favorita Papers” book series of Diplomatic Academy in Vienna)

Keynote: „How can the academic world support the work of the UN system?“

Thomas Stelzer, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter Agency Affairs, United Nations, New York

11:45 **Session II: Thematic Introduction and Brief Status Quo Analysis regarding UN Teaching in Tertiary Education in CEE/SEE**

CHAIR: **Gerhard Reiweger** (Deputy Director of the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna)

Thematic Introduction - Innovative Teaching and Learning about the UN System

Patricia Goff, Executive director, Academic Council on the United Nations System

Brief Status-quo Analysis for CEE/SEE region - Introductory Statements

Milan Brglez, Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Ljubljana

Axel Wüstenhagen, **Results of an Inventory of UN studies in Austria**

Jean-Marc Coicaud, United Nations University (UNU) Office at the UN in New York,

The UNU and new Teaching Techniques (*video message*)

DISCUSSION

13: 00 – 14.00 Lunch hosted by **H. E. Mr. Helmut Böck**, Permanent

Representative of Austria to the United Nations (Vienna)

14:00 **Session III: Simulations, Role Play, Structured Debates, Case Studies, etc.**

Short interventions (5 min each)

- **Matthias Ketteman** - University of Graz - **Using Structured Debates**
- **Helmut Prantner** - University of Vienna - **Historical Model UNs**
- **Stefan Schuman** - University of Vienna - **Experiential/ Service Learning**
- **Ingrid Schütz-Müller** - University of Vienna - **Excursions to UN Headquarters**
- **Kirsten Haack** - The Glasgow School of Art - **UN Studies and the Curriculum as Active Learning Tool**
- **Teresa Peintinger** - University of Vienna - **Active Learning - Field Experiences with UN Guidelines**
- **Madalena Pampalk** - University of Vienna - **International Criminal Justice Course**
- **Maj Julardžija** - Peace Support Operations Training Centre (PSOTC) Sarajevo - **Human Capacity Building for UN mandated Peace Support Operations**
- **Karin Kneissl** - Webster University - **Conference Simulation**
- **other participants** (advance notification of presentation/intervention would be welcome)

- 15.30 **Session IV: Technology Enhanced Learning about the United Nations System – Active Learning Techniques etc.**
- **Maher Nasser**, United Nations Information Service, Vienna (UNIS) - **Computer based materials useful for education or training on the United Nations provided by Vienna based UN entities**
 - **Henrike Paepke**, United Nations Studies Association, **UN Studies wiki Portal**
 - **Karin Bruckmüller** - University of Vienna - **E-learning**
 - **Alexander Siedschlag**, Center for European Security Studies - WWEDU World Wide Education, **Conference Report “The United Nations and the information age – Education for the next Generation of ‘the Peoples of the United Nations’”, November 2007**
 - **Slawomir Redo**, UNODC, Justice & Integrity Unit, Division for Operations) **The UNODC computer-based tools for the international criminal justice education**
 - **Dietmar Lampert**, Centre for Social Innovation, Vienna: presentation of the **broadband videoconferencing tool “GLOBAL - Global Linkage Over Broadband Links”**
 - **John Mathiason**, Syracuse University, **Virtual Classroom (video message)**
 - **other participants** (advance notification of presentation/intervention welcome)

- 16.30 **Session V: CEE/SEE regional cooperation on UN Studies and Teaching: The Way Ahead?!**
- CHAIR: **Miroslav Polzer**, ASO Ljubljana
- Shared interests?
 - Needs assessment regarding capacity building in SEE/CEE e.g. related to UNFCCC Climate Change negotiations in Poznan and Copenhagen
 - funding programmes for regional initiatives?
 - Next steps and follow-ups?

17.00 **CLOSING**

Venue: Diplomatic Academy of Vienna
Favoritenstraße 15a, 1040 Vienna , AUSTRIA

Accommodation: Hotel rooms at a preface rate are available at the Clima City Hotel, Theresanumgasse 21a, 1040 Wien, Tel.: ++43 1 5025 16 96;
Email: reservierung@climacity-hotel.com

Registration & Contact for organizational matters:

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Information on Partner event organised by United Nations Studies Association:

The United Nations Studies Association will hold an informal meeting on Sunday, 23 November to discuss its future work regarding developing a joint concept of UN Studies:

What defines UN Studies, and why do we need such a field of studies?

<http://www.unstudies.org/twiki/bin/view/Main/MeetingInVienna>

Time: The meeting will take place from 10.30am until 1:30pm.

Venue: Juridicum Law School Building, Hohenstauffengasse, Room SEM 6.