



Castle Schlaining
in January

Spring Term 2013 Starts: Welcome Back, Students and Staff

The European Peace University welcomes its students and staff back for the Spring Term 2013 beginning on 28 January 2013.

First of all, a warm welcome to our new academic assistant, Imane Bendra, who joined our team this month.

Thematically, this term will be focussing on the problems of international cooperation and the preconditions of global problem solving.

Students will work on issues of international law, security, human rights and arms control as central problems for successful peace processes, investigate civilizing processes and their institutional, civil society, economic, ecological and social dimension and finish academic work with a research project.

The term ahead comprises lectures and seminars held by EPU faculty as well as experts from Austria and abroad, culminating in an excursion to a number of national and international institutions residing in Vienna – UN, OSCE and many more – to give practical insights into day-by-day work in international cooperation.

All in all, our programme consists of a variety of aspects relevant for a non-violent and peaceful world society and provides practical parts, on designing and carrying out research projects as well as meeting cooperation and peace practitioners during the excursion.

Apart from the academic programme we will continue the

EPU Lecture series, including guest lectures on the peace power of the European Union and a number of contributions from EPU faculty.

In addition, we will continue the film colloquium. This time, we decided to focus on the topic of “Fictions about Society” and will present a selection of some of the most fascinating treatments of possible social worlds in movies.

The EPU will also be welcoming a public information officer from the United Nations in Vienna to inform about career opportunities at the UN.

We are expecting an intense but also diverse spring term and are looking forward to a successful and enjoyable time together.



Studying at EPU: Learn as an Academic and Grow as a Person

By **Billy Batware**, MA Peace and Conflict Studies, EPU Class of 2013

I joined the European Peace University – EPU in September 2011 shortly after completing my Diplomatic studies. At the beginning, I was not so sure that the small university, situated in the little-known town of Stadtschlaining was the right choice for me until I met my colleagues from all over the world and professors with expertise in different fields.

It didn't take me long to realize that studying at EPU was an opportunity for me, not only to learn, but to grow as a person. The colleagues I found at EPU, some noisy, others not so sociable, were intellectually diverse and culturally different. This was of course to be expected. Under one roof, I found myself in a laboratory of real life challenges but also of solution-seeking opportunities.

From Asia to Africa and Europe, from police officers to civil society activists and recent graduates, the world had come together to form a small global village in Stadtschlaining, just as I had always wished to witness. From then on, it was not long until I realized that life at EPU was truly a unique moment, one that should be taken advantage of.

And so as it has always happened almost everywhere I have been in a team so far, I was given the honour to represent my colleagues as student representative, a position I carried out passionately but cautiously together with one of my colleagues, Karin Friedrich. In our capacity, we represented our colleagues to the best of our abilities, working together with the administration

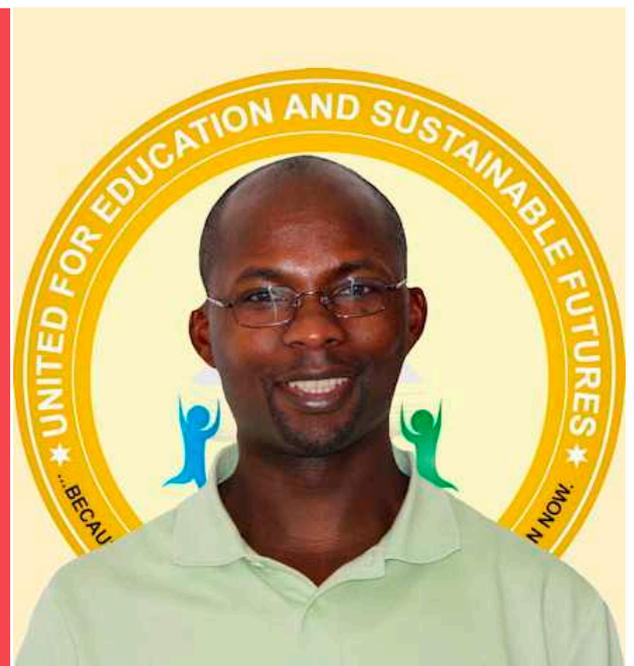
to find ways to satisfy our colleagues' needs. Not without difficulties, obviously. In our term, the success of our work required the support which we received from the EPU administration, in particular, the office of the Academic Coordinator.

My academic expectations at EPU were also met by outstanding professors who came from various fields of expertise, practitioners and experts on issues related to peace and conflicts, and international studies in general. What I found particularly unique was the fact that I was able to gain knowledge from professors working in the field, whether it is human rights, peacekeeping, civil society, former government officials, among others, who not only know about the subjects they teach, but who practice them in their everyday professional lives.

In short, my life at EPU has been worthwhile, a chance for learning by doing, an opportunity for finding solutions to real problems, and a window for hope that the world is indeed a global village to which we all belong and should care for. Because after all, there is no plan(et) B.

Today, as I serve as the Austria Coordinator for the Regional Academy on the United Nations and in other capacities, I practice the values I learned at EPU in my professional and personal life. In addition to a rich academic knowledge I accumulated throughout my time at EPU, humility, decency, respect, and professionalism are some of the values I learned from EPU that guide my life, values I believe are necessary to efficiently and effectively contribute to today's global issues.

“After All, There Is No Plan(et) B”



Austrians Vote For Retention of Compulsory Military Service

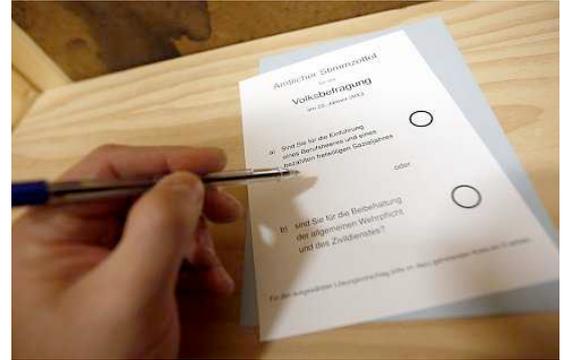
By Ronald H. Tuschl

On January 20th, 2013, Austria's constituency was called to vote on the future of the national security in a referendum. This was the result of a controversial debate, which lasted for more than two years between the governmental coalition partners (Social Democratic Party of Austria - SPÖ, Austrian People's Party - ÖVP). Since both coalition partners could not find a compromise in the specific question whether Austria's national security should be guaranteed by a compulsory military service ("Wehrpflicht") or by a professional army ("Berufsheer") the issue was submitted to the Austrian constituency for decision.

The controversial debate started during the election campaign of the local council elections in 2010 when Michael Häupl (SPÖ), mayor of the city of Vienna, announced the suggestion that Austria's compulsory military service should be replaced by a professional army. The Greens (Die Grünen), the Alliance for the Future of Austria (BZÖ) and Team Stronach supported this demand as well. Only the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP) and the Freedom Party of Austria (FPÖ) called for a retention of the compulsory military service.

Furthermore, Austria's two major tabloid newspapers "Kronen Zeitung" and "Österreich" supported Michael Häupl's demand of a professional army. In August 2012 Michael Spindelegger, chairman of the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP) and vice-chancellor of Austria, announced in public that both coalition partners of Austria's government came to the conclusion that a referendum should clear up this question.

This announcement was confirmed by Heinz Fischer (SPÖ), president of Austria, on November 9th, 2012. Indeed, this decision was a very difficult one for the Austrian constituency since there are several pros and cons of a professional army. The



pros of a professional army are a higher efficiency, flexibility and availability of the national forces, which also might be used for out-of-area interventions. The cons of a professional army are the tendency to lose democratic control over an army of this type, the militarization of foreign affairs, the higher costs for professional weaponry and the loss of an alternative civilian service. Especially the latter would have been a big problem in Austria since a lot of recruits would have lost an alternative to the compulsory military service.

The result of the referendum was that an overwhelming majority of approx. 60 % of Austria's constituency voted for a retention of the compulsory military service, which has been the traditional paradigm of Austria's national security since the end of World War II. Even though that kind of referendum ("Volksbefragung") is not legally binding according to the national constitution, both coalition partners have promised that they will respect the decision of the Austrian constituency. This means that Norbert Darabos (SPÖ), the Austrian minister of defence, will take the necessary steps for a reform of the current compulsory military service instead of a replacement by a professional army.

Top right: **Ballot paper of the referendum**
(source: APA)

Bottom left: **Norbert Darabos, Austria's minister of defence**
(source: APA)

Bottom right: **Conscripts in Austria's compulsory military service**
(source: APA)



Mark Your Calendar

Term Dates

- Spring Term 2013 begins: 28 January 2013
- Spring Term 2013 ends: 19 April 2013

MA Courses

(Venues: Haus International, unless indicated otherwise)

- “Prohibition of the Use of Force and Its Implementation” (Hans-Joachim Heintze, University of Bochum, Germany, 28 Jan–01 Feb 2013, afternoons)
- “Peace (Policy) and Security (Policy): Conceptions of International Cooperation (Elective Course)” (Patricia Bauer, EPU, 04–08 Feb 2013, mornings)
- “Peace, Security and Economy: The European Integration as a Peace Process? (Elective Course)” (Patricia Bauer, EPU, 04–08 Feb 2013, afternoons)
- “Human Rights and Peace (Elective Course)” (Walter Suntinger, HumanRightsConsulting Vienna, Austria, 11–15 Feb 2013, mornings)

- “Disarmament and Arms Control (Elective Course)” (Patricia Bauer, EPU, 11–15 Feb 2013, afternoons)
- “Statehood and Peace” (Franz Leidenmühler, University of Linz, Austria, 18–22 Feb 2013, afternoons)
- “Civilizing Processes (Elective Course)” (Tilman Evers, EPU and Researcher & Consultant, Kassel, Germany, 25 Feb–01 Mar 2013, mornings)
- “Fragile Statehood vs Good Governance (Elective Course)” (Farzana Bari, Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan, 25 Feb–01 Mar 2013, afternoons)

EPU Lecture Series

- “From the Indian Ocean to Oceania” – The Life and Work of George Orwell” (László W. Farkas, EPU, Wed, 13 Feb 2013, 7:00 pm)
- “EU Foreign Policymaking and the Middle East Conflict” (Patrick Müller, Institute for European Integration Research, University of Vienna, Austria, Wed, 20 Feb 2013, time: t.b.a.)

Film Colloquium

This term, the Film Colloquium focusses on fictional ideas and reflections on the future development of humankind.

- “Nineteen Eighty-Four” (introduced by László W. Farkas, EPU, Wed, 06 Feb 2013, 7:00 pm)
- “Brazil” (introduced by Ronald H. Tuschl, EPU, Wed, 27 Feb 2013, 7:00 pm)

Special Events

- “Concentrum Reception for EPU students: Welcome to the New Trimester” (Tue, 29 Jan 2013, 7:30 pm, venue: Lutheran Community Room, Bank Bldg., 2nd floor)
- “Career Opportunities at the UN” (Irene Hoeglinger-Neiva, Public Information Officer at the United Nations Information Service (UNIS) in Vienna, Austria, 19 Feb 2013, 10:30 am)



Project work at EPU

Interactive lectures, intense discussions, group work, renowned instructors from all over the world, and an excellent student-instructor ratio are some of the hallmarks of EPU

Interested in Studying at EPU?

Apply for Fall 2013!

Starting in Autumn 2013, the European Peace University will be offering two additional MA programs for a total of three:

- Peace & Conflict Studies
- European Peace & Security Studies
- Peacebuilding

“European Peace and Security Studies” focuses on the EU system and Europe’s responsibility for global peace.

“Peacebuilding” connects academic peace studies with the professional and personal challenges peacebuilders are facing in the field.

More details about all of EPU’s MA programs may be found at <http://epu.ac.at/study/>.

Applications for fall 2013 in all three MA programs are open now!

We are looking forward to hearing from you and are happy to answer any questions you may have. Please contact Ms Anita Flasch at epu@epu.ac.at.

In addition, applying for the EPU certificate program – i.e., studying selected terms or modules of any of the EPU programs – is possible any time. For term dates please visit our academic calendar at <http://epu.ac.at/admission/academic-calendar.html>.

