



BLUE SHIELD  
Austria

# Call for Contributions European and International Conference

taking place on the occasion of the  
50 Years anniversary of the  
UNESCO World Heritage Convention

## Bridging the Divide: People and Culture in Conflict.

The future of safeguarding and respecting listed  
and unlisted cultural and natural heritage  
in armed conflict areas and eras

**9th – 16th October 2022  
Wiener Neustadt, Austria**

A project and event powered by the  
Austrian National Committee of the Blue Shield  
and the Association of Austrian Peacekeepers  
in cooperation with the Austrian Commission for UNESCO  
and hosted by the Theresian Military Academy Wiener Neustadt.  
Under the auspices of Karl von Habsburg

Serving Europe and the International Community

[www.peacekeeper.at/bhfa2022](http://www.peacekeeper.at/bhfa2022)



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for UNESCO

## Project and event objectives

1. Another war has sparked off in the Ukraine and is causing the suffering of people as well as the loss of their cultural heritage. But this heritage should serve as the cement of cohesion of the diverse communities and as a fundament of a peaceful future of a polyglot, multicultural, multiethnic and multireligious society.
2. We as expert communities are rightly expected to serve people in their needs and dire straits and therefore to strive for performing not just another conference on culture in conflict with another predictably repetitive outcome. But based on lessons learned – successes and failures of the legal regime of CPP and its implementation and execution in the past two decades – we must set out drafting the practice of future CPP of the decade to come.
3. Civil and military expert communities have failed to create a reasonable, responsible and responsive cooperation throughout the past decades and therefore missed the decisive opportunities to comprehensively and sustainably generate impact on the development of CPP in armed conflict.
4. Caveats continue to divide the civil as well as the military communities and, of course, the civil from the military expert communities. Bridging the divide has been repeatedly demanded as the imperative and major step forward. We must succeed in this endeavor by leaving our civil and military academic silos and crossing the no-man's-land of non-cooperation; by introducing interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary, inclusive and participative projects and research approaches as one all-in expert community; by developing academic knowledge exchange via practical knowledge and hands-on experience into future operative.
5. A prime objective of all of us must be the honest broadening of the horizon from the conventional (Euro-centric) UNESCO World Heritage concept to an embracive and inclusive understanding of culture and heritage in general and in conflict: targeted heritage ranging from monuments to market places – from the bazar or suq to Christ-kindl Markt, the importance of landmarks and landscapes. How do different concepts of cultural heritage interact with the various concepts and doctrines of cultural protection?
6. In recognition of the imperative of a soon and sustainable integration of cultural property protection in the planning and operations of all UN Peacekeeping missions as well as in the education and training of UN Peacekeeping Officers, we strive for preparing the standard for guidelines, a manual, and a training format.
7. We reach out for bringing together the establishment of international research with the next generation research worldwide – as it is up to the next generation to shape the future.

## Project and event concept

1. Expert Workshop Series
  - a. Hermeneutical foundations of culture and conflict
  - b. Future trends in research + development
  - c. IHL in theory, mil operations, and at criminal court
  - d. CPP and CIMIC in conflict and post-conflict scenarios
  - e. CPP, illicit trafficking and stability policing
  - f. Teaching, training, and capacity building in milCPP
  - g. The way ahead: broadening horizons of CPP
2. Blue Helmet Forum Austria 2022/  
Blue Helmet Blue Shield Forum:  
Protection of Cultural Heritage in Peace Operations II:  
Guidelines and Training
3. Virtual Poster Exhibition and Newbies Competition
4. World Heritage Anniversary Symposium  
*Federal Minister of Defence, Ms Klaudia Tanner, presiding*  
*UNESCO General Director, Ms Audrey Azoulay, presiding (TBC)*  
*President Blue Shield Austria, Karl von Habsburg, presiding*
  - Kaleidoskope of current conflict
  - UNESCO, World Heritage, and Culture in Conflict
  - CPP and the future of UN Peacekeeping
5. CPP Field Exercise  
Developing a milCPP situation:  
the UNESCO World Heritage Semmering Railway.  
A new Austrian Jubilee model of CPP

## Participating and Contributing

Call for Contributions:

opens on 1st May 2022 and closes on 30th July 2022

- Proposals to be submitted to: [blueshield@blueshield.at](mailto:blueshield@blueshield.at)
- Proposals shall contain:
  - name, affiliation, and contact information;
  - choose conference section 1 – 3, or workshop a – f;
  - choose format (see below);
  - short bio (max 1000 characters);
  - abstract (max 3500 characters).
- Accepted formats of contributions: short papers (20 minutes), virtual posters (landscape format) or PPT videos (20 minutes or 10 slides)
- Proposals will be subject to international peer review.



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**Registration opens on 1st June 2022 and closes on 30th August 2022**

- Registration portal: [www.peacekeeper.at/bhfa2022](http://www.peacekeeper.at/bhfa2022)
- Participation fee: 10 Euro per day, payable online in advance
- Information on travel and accommodation to be provided online

### **Organizing Committee**

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Hans Zimmermann

Hannes Kerschbaumer

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