

CAS Civilian Peacebuilding Essentials

Structure of the Program and Dates 2017/18

The course consists of five on-site modules and can be taken over one or two years (22 course days). On-site classes take place once a month (Friday and Saturday), three 3-day trainings take place from Wednesday to Friday. Course methodologies include expert inputs, peer exchange, case studies, exercises, skills training and self-study.

1. Introductory Module (2 days): 22/23 September 2017

How has the field of civilian peacebuilding evolved, both in terms of academia and practice? Participants review the main peacebuilding theories, discuss concepts and examine the development of peacebuilding policies and practices. A special focus is put on conflict analysis and the prevention of violent conflicts.

2. Thematic Module (11 days): October 2016 – April 2017

Participants receive theoretical, conceptual and practice-oriented inputs in five major civilian peacebuilding fields and reflect on peacebuilding practices.

Peacebuilding & Statebuilding (2 days): 20/21 October 2017

What is the role of the state in peace and conflict? How can state and non-state actors contribute to peacebuilding? What role is there for external actors in these processes? This thematic block looks at the state, governance structures and practices in weak, fragile and conflict-affected contexts. Participants look critically at the concept of state fragility and reflect on the complex interplay between peacebuilding and statebuilding.

Business, Conflict & Human Rights (3 days): 23-25 November 2017

What is needed for businesses to operate responsibly in volatile areas? This thematic block explores this question from various angles. It discusses state of the art international standards on business and human rights and ways for companies to implement them. It sheds light on the roles and strategies of companies, governments, international organizations and civil society in promoting responsible business practices.

[Dealing with the Past \(2 days\): 26/27 January 2018](#)

Finding a way to deal with a violent past is argued by some to be the basis for lasting peace, democracy and the rule of law. This includes the identification of past human rights violations, the prosecution of perpetrators, the rehabilitation of victims, the establishment of truth commissions, reparation programs, institutional reforms, etc. Participants critically reflect on such processes and assess their effects on society, victims and perpetrators.

[Peace Mediation \(2 days\): 2/3 March 2018](#)

Mediators bring conflict parties to the negotiating table and support them in finding agreements. In the last decade the range of actors in mediation has broadened beyond diplomats and UN experts and frequently professional mediators are brought in. Participants gain insights into the challenges that mediators face when facilitating dialogue and searching for peace agreements.

[Gender Dimensions in Conflict & Peacebuilding \(2 days\): 13/14 April 2018](#)

How do gender roles change during phases of violent conflict and war? And how does this affect peacebuilding processes? Participants examine the gender-specific dimensions in conflict and peacebuilding. They reflect critically on the notions of masculinity, violence and militarism in wartime as well as on discourses on women as actors and victims of war.

[3. Training Module \(6 days\): dates depend on training chosen](#)

Participants refine their skills in designing, implementing and evaluating effective peacebuilding strategies and relevant peacebuilding projects. They can select from the wide offer of 3-day training courses on peacebuilding methodologies including trainings on:

- Theories of Change: February 2018
- Conflict Prevention: 2-4 May 2018
- Conflict Sensitivity: 6-8 June 2018
- Connecting Human Rights & Conflict Transformation: offered 2018/19
- Monitoring, Evaluation & Impact: offered 2018/19

[4. Applied Module \(2 days\): 25/26 May 2018](#)

Participants apply the knowledge acquired throughout the course and exchange with practitioners.

[5. Concluding Module \(1 day\): 24 August 2018](#)

Throughout the Concluding Module, participants write a final thesis. They present their findings at the last course day. Together with invited guests, conclusions on civilian peacebuilding are drawn and an outlook on future developments is given.