



Peace Mediation Course 2017

A specialized training for practitioners
by the Swiss Federal Department
of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)

www.peacemediation.ch



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA
Directorate of Political Affairs DP
Human Security Division:
Peace, Human Rights, Humanitarian Policy, Migration

Goal

The goal of the Peace Mediation Course is for participants to deepen their understanding of peace mediation and acquire the skills, knowledge and attitudes to support mediation processes effectively. Moreover, it aims to enhance the exchange and networking between participants.

Focus

The course focuses on how to support track 1 peace mediation. A comprehensive approach to mediation is the basis of the course. Such an approach takes into account the different phases, relevant actors and topics of peace negotiations. Key questions addressed in the Peace Mediation Course include:

Micro-skills: How does one deal with the nuts and bolts of negotiating and mediating?

Process design: How does one design a peace process? Who participates in peace negotiations, and how should their diverse agendas be included? When is which third party best suited to play an effective role? How do you integrate topics in a mediation process?

Participation

Target participants: The Peace Mediation Course targets 24 experts who want to engage in the support of peace mediation: staff from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), international organizations, Ministries of Foreign Affairs of other countries, non-governmental organizations, individuals from the mediation and peace-building community, and negotiators in ongoing peace processes.

Conditions: Participants must have sound skills, knowledge and experience in peace mediation, or several years of field experience related to peace processes. Priority will be given to participants who are, or will be, working in support of peace processes. Excellent command of English is required to follow the course. Diversity in terms of gender, geographic and professional background will be sought for. Participants are expected to have a high degree of motivation and commitment, to stay for the entire duration of the course, and to read the background material carefully.

Selection: Participants will be selected by the Swiss FDFA.



Experience oriented: The Peace Mediation Course is experience driven: the basic learning tools will be past and ongoing mediation cases – for example, in Burundi, Colombia, Indonesia, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Northern Ireland, South Africa, Sudan, South Sudan, or Somalia. Conceptual frameworks are used to help contextualized these experiences.

Interactive learning: All the training sessions are highly interactive.

Head, heart, and hands: Attitudes and values are as important in mediation as knowledge and 'technical' skills. The course aims at a comprehensive and self-reflective approach to mediation.

This will be the 10th Peace Mediation Course held by the Swiss FDFA. The course trainers are either practicing mediators or renowned experts in the relevant areas. Trainers of previous editions have included:

- **Jeremy Brickhill:** Senior Advisor for Security Sector Planning
- **Ben Hoffman:** President of the Canadian International Institute of Applied Negotiation
- **Julian Thomas Hottinger:** Senior Mediator, Swiss FDFA
- **David Lanz:** Head of Mediation Program, swisspeace
- **Simon Mason:** Head of Mediation Support Team, Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich
- **Thania Paffenholz:** Director, Inclusive Peace and Transition Initiative
- **Meredith Preston McGhie:** Regional Director for Africa, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue

For details on this year's trainers, please see the website www.peacemediation.ch

The Peace Mediation Course 2017 begins on **7 May 2017 at 16.00 and ends on 19 May 2017 at 17.00**. There will be one day off on 13 May. The course will take place in Switzerland, in the Park Hotel Oberhofen, www.parkhoteloberhofen.ch

The training will be held in English. Details of the program can be found at: www.peacemediation.ch

The Peace Mediation Course is offered by the FDFA free of charge. Participants have to arrange and pay for their own transport.

Applications (a CV and a letter of motivation) should be uploaded online at <http://peacemediation.ch/course-2017/application> latest by 31 December 2016. For questions regarding the application, contact application@peacemediation.ch.

Further information on the course can be obtained from the Swiss FDFA:
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Training Methodology

Trainers

Dates and Venue

Fees

Application

Opinions



“The Swiss Peace Mediation Course offered a unique and most comprehensive menu of skills even for people with professional experience in the field. While mediation is turning into a recognized discipline within international conflict resolution, this course equips you with the highest standards in the trade.”

Kai Sauer, Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

“The course experience was immensely helpful and enriching; I must say it was one of the highlights of my work in this field, and it was hands-down the best training course I have ever attended.”

Dawn Peebles, United Nations Mission (Sudan)

“The Peace Mediation Course was a great learning experience. In my opinion, it would be very useful for all diplomats who support mediation processes in their daily work.”

Guillaume Scheurer, Swiss FDFA

“For me, the contributions of qualified trainers, practitioners and participants from all over the world, as well as the perfect mix of theory and practice was the key to success. What I learned during the Peace Mediation Course is extremely useful for me and is directly applicable in my day-to-day work in Kosovo, particularly regarding our dialogue projects sponsored by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland (FDFA).”

Norbert Ruetsche, Swiss FDFA

“The Peace Mediation Course gave me inspiration to create bridges between track 1 and track 2 & 3 in the Myanmar peace processes. The “Civil Society Forum for Peace” (CSFoP) that we are now implementing is a direct result of this course.”

Ja Nan Lahtaw, Shalom Foundation (Myanmar)

Organization

The Peace Mediation Course is organized by the Swiss FDFA in collaboration with the Mediation Support Project (swisspeace / Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich):

swisspeace
www.swisspeace.ch/mediation

Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich
www.css.ethz.ch