

Our Network

Sharing reflective practice and creating synergies through collaboration are preconditions for tackling the challenges of peace processes.

Some of the institutions with which we co-operate:

Berghof Foundation, Berlin

CSSP – Berlin Center for Integrative Mediation, Berlin

Helen Bamber Centre for the Study of Rights, Conflict and Mass Violence, Kingston University London

Initiative Mediation Support Germany

**Master Programs Viadrina:
Mediation
Human Rights & Genocide Studies
Human Rights & Humanitarian Law**

MediatEUr – European Forum for International Mediation and Dialogue, Brussels/Berlin

Mediation Support Network

Mediation Support Project of Swisspeace, Bern & Center for Security Studies, ETH Zurich

OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, Vienna

Training Academy for International Diplomats at the German Federal Foreign Office, Berlin

ZIF – Zentrum für Internationale Friedenseinsätze, Berlin

Exploring the Limits, Expanding the Scope of Peace Mediation



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Center for Peace Mediation

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Our Center

As an independent, practice-oriented research institution the Center for Peace Mediation explores and supports the practice of peace mediation, to enable it to be more effective, reflective and responsible.

Founded in 2008, the Center is an integrated part of the Institute for Conflict Management at European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder). Besides peace mediation, the Institute for Conflict Management is active in the fields of Business, Judiciary & Society as well as Academia & Scientific Institutions.

The core idea underlying all activities of the Center is to seek constructive ways to deal with the seemingly impossible and unacceptable in peace mediation – thus the limits and dilemmas, the dark sides and blurred zones of the field.

Our Questions

Translating Practice into Science, and Science into Practice

How do empirical and theoretical findings from the fields of psychology, philosophy, law, economics, sociology, political, and cultural studies translate into simple or sophisticated strategies and tools that can increase the impact and acceptability of peace facilitators – even experienced ones?

How can a mediative analysis of conflict shed light on what (if any) kind of support is actually needed to constructively deal with a conflict?

Method, Ethics, Law

How does a systematic approach to mediating conflicts help the parties involved to deal with (instead of collapse in the face of) the contingencies of messy and unpredictable peace processes?

What do mediators need in order to be loyal to their institutional, financial and political sponsors without being instrumentalized and while maintaining acceptability to all parties?

Rethinking Boundaries and Opening Opportunities

What kinds of procedural guidelines can increase flexibility and responsibility in peace mediation without creating straitjackets?

How can we work within the scope of given limitations and expand the boundaries where possible?

Our Activities

The Center's activities interlink practice-oriented research, teaching and operational support.

Research & Analysis

Research on Methods, Ethics and Legal Dimensions of Peace Mediation

Mediative Conflict Analysis

Master Thesis and PhD Supervision

Input on current issues and developments in the field through the lens of mediation theory and practice

Teaching, Training & Coaching

Seminars on Conflict Prevention, Conflict Management and Peace Mediation in Postgraduate Master Programs

Practitioner Training in Conflict Communication and Peace Mediation for Diplomats, Decision-makers and Civil Society Actors

Individual Coaching for Third Parties, Conflict Parties and Stakeholders

Supporting Mediation Practice

Consultancy on Process Design, Methodical, Ethical and Legal Issues

Facilitation of Dialogue and Decision-making Processes

Reflective Learning, Supervision and Debriefing for Peace Facilitators

Consultancy on Institutionalizing Mediation Capacities