

 Federal Ministry  
Republic of Austria  
European and International  
Affairs



# Vienna

Centre for  
International Dialogue

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## Foreword

Vienna has a long-standing tradition as a venue for important international conferences, hosting such important events as the Congress of Vienna or the World Conference on Human Rights, and is home to the headquarters and offices of a large number of international organisations.

With the opening of the Vienna International Centre (VIC) in 1979, Vienna, alongside New York and Geneva, became the then third official headquarters of the UN, and thus the centre for the promotion of peace, human rights, security and sustainable development.

Thanks to Bruno Kreisky's initiative, the offices that had previously been located across Vienna are now in one place. Also thanks to his efforts, proactive support of these organisations

has become an integral part of Austrian foreign and neutrality policy.

The Vienna-based UN organisations focus on the fight against organised crime, corruption and terrorism as well as on non-proliferation and arms control. Topics relating to our common future, such as sustainable development and outer space affairs, including the peaceful uses of outer space, are also a focus of activities covered in Austria.

More than 40 international organisations secure more than 18,000 jobs and additionally increase the attractiveness of Vienna as a conference and business location. This brochure seeks to provide an overview of Vienna as a hub for international organisations and to offer some insights into their work and the topics dealt with.

## The Vienna hub

As one of the major hosts and seats of international organisations, Vienna has successfully established itself as a hub for the promotion of peace, security and sustainable development. The handing over of the Vienna International Centre (VIC) to the United Nations (UN) on 23 August 1979, by which Vienna became one of the four UN headquarters, marked an important event in this respect, as it contributed to further strengthening the city's position as a traditional venue for dialogue.

Located in the 22nd district and covering an area of 325,000m<sup>2</sup>, the VIC is today home to more than 20 organisations and agencies of the UN system and headquarters to such large

entities as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Already visible from afar with its landmark towers and accommodating more than 4,000 employees, the VIC is the centrepiece of "international Vienna". The active promotion and strengthening of Vienna's position as a host city for international organisations has for many decades now been a focus of Austrian foreign policy and is also supported by the City of Vienna.

A unique feature of the VIC is that it is connected to the country's largest congress centre, the Austria Center Vienna (ACV), which was

opened in 1987 and offers 22,000m<sup>2</sup> of meeting and exhibition facilities.

In total, Austria currently hosts more than 40 international organisations which employ over 6,000 people. In addition to these, an increasing number of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), which enjoy the special status of quasi-international organisations, have made Austria their home.

*„When this Centre opened its doors in 1979, it was a bridge between East and West during the Cold War. Now it is a twenty-first century hub for addressing human security issues at the heart of a united Europe.“*

**Ban Ki-moon**  
**Secretary-General**  
**of the United Nations (2007-2016)**



The Vienna hub promotes dialogue

### Vienna as a place for diversity, encounters and ideas

The promotion of dialogue between and among different cultures and religions has a long-standing tradition in Austria, not least due to the fact that cultural diversity is a hallmark of Austrian society. Vienna, as a pluralistic and multi-religious hub for intra-societal and cross-border dialogue, plays a key role in this context. Activities are driven by building confidence and peace while dismantling prejudices and stereotypes.

Austria's commitment in this field is inter alia reflected in the Intercultural Achievement Award, which has been awarded since 2014 to outstanding and innovative projects that successfully promote intercultural dialogue worldwide.

This official recognition was conceived as an incentive for non-profit organisations to use and further develop dialogue methods. At the same time, the award seeks to strengthen Vienna's position as a hub for intercultural dialogue in multilateral fora.



The Vienna hub promotes  
safety and security

*„Today, thanks to the generosity and far-sightedness of the people of Austria, the OSCE has a home in the heart of Europe.“*

*Marc Perrin de Brichambaut  
Secretary General of the OSCE (2005-2011)*

## Joining forces against drugs and crime

Drug trafficking and organised crime do not stop at national borders. The increasing flood of synthetic drugs faces all countries with huge challenges. The globalisation of crime calls for a globalised response aimed at increasing safety and security for everyone, also here in Austria. Criminals make billions from trafficking in drugs, arms and human beings as well as from abusing the limitless world of cyberspace.

The Vienna-based United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) coordinates international efforts and action against drug abuse, drug trafficking and international organised crime, placing a clear focus on respecting the rule of law, human rights and victim support.

## Hope instead of cocaine

The driving factor behind the cultivation of drugs is often not greed but sheer poverty, the struggle for survival and lack of alternatives. UNODC thus supports, also through Austrian project funding, farmers in remote regions by facilitating the change to sustainable production of legal crops and ensuring fair prices so that people are able to earn a living.

In this context, attention is also paid to observing quality assurance and environmental protection standards. This clearly illustrates that the international fight against drug trafficking makes a significant contribution to achieving the goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## A world free of corruption

Corruption benefits the few at the expense of the general public. Billions disappear into the pockets of corrupt individuals. It undermines the rule of law and democracy and jeopardizes the development of entire nations. All too often, it is the poorest people who are most severely affected by corruption and its impacts. In fighting these negative phenomena, UNODC joins forces and cooperates with governments, experts and NGOs. A close partner in these joint efforts is the International Anti-Corruption Academy (IACA) based in Laxenburg, Lower Austria, which is the first such dedicated institution worldwide. As a training centre for anti-corruption experts, it also acts as a hub for the collection and dissemination of expert knowledge and know-how.

## Words instead of arms

Whenever tensions risk escalating in Europe or elsewhere between Vancouver and Vladivostok, there is high demand for the Vienna-based Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The OSCE primarily contributes to conflict prevention and negotiates confidence-building measures between its 57 participating States. Currently, the OSCE operates 16 field missions in Southeast and Eastern Europe and in Central Asia, where the organisation provides support to the respective host countries through concrete project work. Within the OSCE's work, security is not only understood as enhanced political and military co-operation among states, but also encompasses the inclusion of economic issues, environmental protection and human rights.



## A world free of nuclear weapons

### A world free of nuclear weapons

Nuclear weapons pose an existential threat to humanity. The catastrophic humanitarian consequences of their use know neither borders nor limits. Austria has for a long time substantially contributed towards pro-actively countering this danger. This was highlighted in 2017 when Austria, together with other nations, signed the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which aims at a global ban of this most dangerous form of weapons of mass destruction.

### Nuclear control

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) also plays a very significant role in this context. It entered into effect in 1970 and focuses on banning the proliferation of nuclear weapons, on the commitment to nuclear disarmament and the right

to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Headquartered in Vienna since 1957, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) oversees compliance with non-proliferation based on an effective monitoring and inspection system and ensures that the highest security standards are implemented in peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

### Worldwide monitoring in Vienna

With its global network of more than 300 monitoring stations, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) ensures compliance with the ban on nuclear tests. Other Vienna-based organisations that work to enhance transparency with respect to disarmament include the secretariat of the Wassenaar Arrangement (export controls for conventional arms) and the secretariat of the Hague Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCoC).

The Vienna hub stands  
for human rights



## Protecting human rights worldwide

The promotion and protection of human rights is a clear priority for Austria. As the host country of the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, which was attended by nearly 10,000 participants, Vienna formented its standing as a venue for international encounters at which the international community underlined the universality and indivisibility of human rights. The achievements of this historic conference are discussed at follow-up conferences organised particularly against the background of current developments. Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the World Conference on Human Rights, the international experts' conference "Vienna +25: Building Trust – Making Human Rights a Reality for All" was organised in cooperation with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Vienna in May 2018.

## 3 years of active membership in the UN Human Rights Council

In the context of its membership in the Human Rights Council (2019-2021), Austria continues its pro-active commitment in key areas such as promoting women's rights, children's rights, the rights of persons with disabilities, the fight against human trafficking and the worldwide abolition of the death penalty.

Austria has also placed a particular focus on defending freedom of the press and the media, and on the protection of journalists, human rights of internally displaced persons and human rights in the judiciary and penal systems. As a hub for dialogue and cooperation, Austria works committedly in an open and transparent manner towards finding answers to human rights issues.

## For a comprehensive protection of fundamental rights in the EU

Since its establishment in 2007, the Vienna-based European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) has developed to become the competence centre on EU fundamental rights issues.

Building on comprehensive scientific surveys, the FRA prepares studies on urgent human rights issues based on comparative data from all EU Member States thus making a decisive contribution to the comprehensive protection of fundamental rights in the European Union.

The documents produced include important studies on topics such as violence against women, antisemitism, the situation of Roma and Sinti, data protection and discrimination against homosexuals.

*„Vienna is a centre of the United Nations“  
work to fight many of the ills that plague our  
societies, from drug trafficking to organized  
crime, from weapons of mass destruction  
to corruption.“*

**Kofi Annan**  
*UN Secretary-General (1997-2006)*



The Vienna hub ensures energy for all

### Vienna as an energy hub

Vienna is home to eleven international organisations and NGOs active in the field of energy. In 2009, these organisations jointly set up the “Vienna Energy Club”. Every two years, three of these organisations – the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL) – organise the “Vienna Energy Forum” in cooperation with the Austrian Foreign Ministry and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA). Vienna thus plays an important role as an international energy hub that provides significant impetus to facilitate global energy policymaking.

### Greater security of supply and production

For more than 50 years, the Vienna-based Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has contributed towards stabilising the oil market in the interests of both producers and consumers as well as towards minimising price fluctuations. The Vienna-based EU Energy Community assists eastern EU neighbouring states in applying the European Union’s Internal Energy Market rules – “European Energy Law made in Vienna”.



The Vienna hub guarantees  
sustainable development

## The Vienna hub guarantees sustainable development

The Vienna-based United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) plays a major role in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) enshrined in the 2030 Agenda. In its relevant efforts the organisation places a particular focus on promoting sustainable infrastructure and responsible industrialisation that go hand in hand with effective environmental protection. Cooperating closely inter alia with UNIDO, Austria works towards promoting the use of renewable energy in developing and emerging countries and towards improving employment and education opportunities, especially in countries with high potential for migration.

*“Sustainable development is more than a goal. It is our responsibility to our planet and future generations.”*

*António Guterres  
UN Secretary-General (since 2017)*



The Vienna hub looks  
into the future

## Outer space management in Vienna

Mobile phones, navigation systems and telecommunications have become an integral part of our lives – space technology is, indeed, used by each and every one of us. Located in the VIC since 1993, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), promotes international cooperation on the peaceful uses of outer space. UNOOSA inter alia manages a register of all objects launched into outer space (Outer Space Objects Index) and is also home

to the Vienna offices of UNSPIDER (United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response), a programme that facilitates access to space-based information for disaster prevention. The organisation also supports countries around the world in using space technology with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, thus making an important contribution to implementing the 2030 Agenda.

*„The strong partnership that the  
United Nations in Vienna has with the host city,  
Vienna, is of great importance.“*

*Yuri Fedotov  
Director-General of UNOV (since 2010)*

Why choose Vienna?



## Optimal infrastructure

- Vienna International Airport has flights connecting the city with every European capital within three hours.
- A comprehensive, growing public transport network as well as excellent footpaths and bicycle lanes make Vienna a “city of short distances”, where everything is within easy reach.
- Excellent telecommunications and internet networks, top conference centres and hotels make Vienna a highly attractive centre for international conferences and congresses.
- With more than 190,000 students, one third from abroad, Vienna is the largest university city in the German-speaking countries.

## Excellent quality of life

- Vienna is world-famous for its rich cultural life and diverse arts scene, its magnificent historical buildings and modern popular culture.
- About half of the city’s area is green space.
- Excellent drinking water and air quality, high living standards and affordable rents make Vienna a metropolis of great quality of life.
- Political and economic stability guarantee a high level of personal safety and security.

## International environment

- Vienna is home to people from more than 180 countries and numerous international and bilingual schools.

## The world feels welcome in Vienna

Vienna has a centuries-old tradition as a venue for important international conferences and entered the history books by hosting events such as the Congress of Vienna (1814/1815), the Kennedy-Khrushchev Summit (1961) or the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights (1993).

This tradition still continues today, the Vienna-based organisations being hosts to important meetings every year. Vienna has succeeded in establishing itself as a hub for international dialogue by hosting inter alia the Iran Nuclear Talks (2015/16), the OSCE Ministerial Councils held under the Austrian Chairmanship (2000, 2017), and high-level political meetings in the context of the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union (1998, 2006, 2018).

Other major international conferences held in Vienna have focused on preventing corruption (7th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, 2017), promoting disarmament (16th Meeting of the States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, 2017) and the peaceful uses of outer space (UNISPACE+50, 2018).

# Vienna connects



## Involvement of civil society

In addition to hosting and seeking to encourage the establishment of UN agencies and other international organisations, Austria has always sought to provide an attractive environment for non-governmental organisations. The Austrian capital is thus home to numerous NGOs, which together with the Vienna-based international organisations and Austrian government bodies deal inter alia with human rights, sustainable development, environmental protection and disarmament. More than 100 Austrian civil society organisations are accredited with the UN alone.

## Quasi-international organisations

Through the Federal Act on the Granting of Privileges to Non-Governmental International Organisations, Austria

has created the possibility for NGOs that are active in Austria on a non-profit basis and cooperate closely with an international organisation to be recognised as quasi-international organisations. Recognition of this status entails preferential tax treatment. Encouraging NGOs to establish their seat in Austria is important as they contribute different perspectives and complement the work of governmental organisations.

## Positive economic effects

The presence of more than 40 international organisations translates in an annual positive net effect of around 1.3 billion euros per year and secures more than 18,000 jobs in Austria. The conference and congress sector also makes a considerable contribution to Austria's gross domestic product.

## Overview of International Organisations and Institutions in Austria

**Note:** The term “international organisation” in this context is to be understood not in a legal sense but in a wider, functional sense.

### UN-affiliated organisations, agencies and entities located in Vienna

UNOV*	United Nations Office at Vienna	<a href="http://www.unvienna.org">www.unvienna.org</a>
UNODC*	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime	<a href="http://www.unodc.org">www.unodc.org</a>
IAEA*	International Atomic Energy Agency	<a href="http://www.iaea.org">www.iaea.org</a>
UNIDO*	United Nations Industrial Development Organization	<a href="http://www.unido.org">www.unido.org</a>
CTBTO*	Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization	<a href="http://www.ctbto.org">www.ctbto.org</a>
UNOOSA*	United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs	<a href="http://www.unoosa.org">www.unoosa.org</a>
UNCITRAL*	United Nations Commission on International Trade Law	<a href="http://www.uncitral.org">www.uncitral.org</a>
UNSCEAR*	United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation	<a href="http://www.unscear.org">www.unscear.org</a>
UNOIOS	United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services	<a href="http://www.oios.un.org">www.oios.un.org</a>

UNRoD*	United Nations Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory	<a href="http://www.unrod.org">www.unrod.org</a>
IOM	International Organization for Migration, Regional Office for South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia and Country Office for Austria	<a href="http://www.rovienna.iom.int">www.rovienna.iom.int</a> <a href="http://www.iomvienna.at">www.iomvienna.at</a>
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme, Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention	<a href="http://www.carpathianconvention.org/secretariat.html">www.carpathianconvention.org/secretariat.html</a>
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Vienna Office	<a href="http://www.unhcr.at">www.unhcr.at</a> <a href="http://www.unhcr.org">www.unhcr.org</a>
UNIS	United Nations Information Service Vienna	<a href="http://www.unis.unvienna.org">www.unis.unvienna.org</a>
UNODA	United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs	<a href="http://www.un.org/disarmament/vienna">www.un.org/disarmament/vienna</a>
UNPA	United Nations Postal Administration	<a href="http://www.unstamps.org">www.unstamps.org</a>
UNLOPS	United Nations Liaison Office for Peace and Security	<a href="http://www.unlops.unmissions.org">www.unlops.unmissions.org</a>
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services	<a href="http://www.unops.org">www.unops.org</a>

\* headquartered in Austria

## Other international entities located in Vienna

ECS*	Energy Community Secretariat in Vienna	<a href="http://www.energy-community.org">www.energy-community.org</a>
FRA*	European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights	<a href="http://www.fra.europa.eu">www.fra.europa.eu</a>
HCoC*	The Hague Code of Conduct Against Ballistic Missile Proliferation Executive Secretariat	<a href="http://www.hcoc.at">www.hcoc.at</a>
ICMPD*	International Centre for Migration Policy Development	<a href="http://www.icmpd.org">www.icmpd.org</a>
ICPDR*	International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River	<a href="http://www.icpdr.org">www.icpdr.org</a>
JVI*	Joint Vienna Institute	<a href="http://www.jvi.org">www.jvi.org</a>
KAICIID*	King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue	<a href="http://www.kaiciid.org">www.kaiciid.org</a>
OFID*	OPEC Fund for International Development	<a href="http://www.ofid.org">www.ofid.org</a>
OPEC*	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries	<a href="http://www.opec.org">www.opec.org</a>
OSCE*	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Countries	<a href="http://www.osce.org">www.osce.org</a>

OSCE PA	OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Liaison Office	<a href="http://www.oscepa.org">www.oscepa.org</a>
OSCC*	Open Skies Consultative Commission	<a href="http://www.osce.org/oscc">www.osce.org/oscc</a>
JCG*	Joint Consultative Group (CFE Treaty)	<a href="http://www.osce.org/jcg">www.osce.org/jcg</a>
WA*	Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies	<a href="http://www.wassenaar.org">www.wassenaar.org</a>
CoE	Council of Europe, Liaison office	<a href="http://www.coe.int">www.coe.int</a>
EIB	European Investment Bank, Liaison office	<a href="http://www.eib.org">www.eib.org</a>
EPO	European Patent Office	<a href="http://www.epo.org">www.epo.org</a>
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Liaison office	<a href="http://www.worldbank.org">www.worldbank.org</a>
IFC	International Finance Corporation	<a href="http://www.ifc.org">www.ifc.org</a>
MIGA	Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency	<a href="http://www.miga.org">www.miga.org</a>
INCB	International Narcotics Control Board	<a href="http://www.osce.org">www.osce.org</a>
ISCC*	Interim Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention	<a href="http://www.carpathianconvention.org">www.carpathianconvention.org</a>

\* headquartered in Austria

### International entities located outside Vienna

ECML	European Centre for Modern Languages of the Council of Europe - Graz	<a href="http://www.ecml.at">www.ecml.at</a>
eu-LISA	European Union Agency for the Operational Management of Large-Scale IT Systems in the Area of Freedom, Security and Justice, agency back-up site - St. Johann im Pongau	<a href="http://www.eulisa.europa.eu">www.eulisa.europa.eu</a>
IACA*	International Anti-Corruption Academy - Laxenburg	<a href="http://www.iaca.int">www.iaca.int</a>
IIASA*	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis - Laxenburg	<a href="http://www.iiasa.ac.at">www.iiasa.ac.at</a>
PSAC	Permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention - Innsbruck	<a href="http://www.alpconv.org">www.alpconv.org</a>

\* headquartered in Austria

### Quasi-international organisations located in Austria

BKMC	Ban Ki-moon Centre for Global Citizens	<a href="http://www.bankimooncentre.org">www.bankimooncentre.org</a>
FES ROCPE	FES Regional Office for Cooperation and Peace in Europe	<a href="http://www.fes-vienna.org">www.fes-vienna.org</a>
	Women Without Borders	<a href="http://www.women-without-borders.org">www.women-without-borders.org</a>
IUFRO	International Union of Forest Research Organizations	<a href="http://www.iufro.org">www.iufro.org</a>
	Multilateraler Dialog KAS	<a href="http://www.kas.de">www.kas.de</a>
REEEP	Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership	<a href="http://www.reeep.org">www.reeep.org</a>
SEforALL	Sustainable Energy for All	<a href="http://www.seforall.org">www.seforall.org</a>
	The Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime	<a href="http://www.globalinitiative.net">www.globalinitiative.net</a>
VCDNP	Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation	<a href="http://www.vcdnp.org">www.vcdnp.org</a>

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