Institute for Peace and Dialogue
Trust, Act & Achieve

Swiss School of Peacebuilding, Conflict Transformation, Mediation, Security, Intercultural Dialogue, Leadership & Human Rights

17th Summer Academy: 3 - 11 August, 2027

- Early Bird Application Deadline: 30 April, 2027

- Late Application Deadline: 30 June, 2027

Trainers & Topics

IPD Academic Programs: Theory - Practice - Research - Exchange - Networking - Contribute

I LECTURER - Ms. Sibylle Ruprecht Class Days: 4 & 5 August, 2027



For 30 years, **Sibylle Rupprecht** headed profit centers, SMEs or international NGOs. Her rich and varied experience makes her a consultant with an excellent understanding of the challenges faced by companies and organisations. She has also created her own consulting companies, accompanying her clients in their growth, reorganization and political representation.

An experienced advocate at the UN and the European Union, she appreciates the importance of governance, negotiations, advocacy and communication.
Building on her experience as a member and chair of various boards and expert groups, Sibylle Rupprecht also brings her expertise to companies, foundations and associations by helping them to embrace diversity, upskill their human capital and enhance performance of the board of directors.

Sibylle Rupprecht is a speaker, trainer and certified coach. A former mentor at the Cherie Blair Foundation, she teaches at various training institutes and is a consultant and mentor to establishing NGO's and companies.
She holds a postgraduate diploma in Management of International Organizations of Fribourg University, an Executive Certificate in International Advocacy from the Graduate Institute in Geneva, and is certified in Human Behavior Analysis as well as Relationship and Intimacy Coaching.

Day 1 Topic: Ethical Leadership
From accounting scandals and political misconduct to pollution and executive pay, business ethics is never far from the headlines. It sits within the wider field of Corporate Social Responsibility, shapes ethical investing, and increasingly influences how organisations approach sustainability.
At its heart, ethical leadership means leading with integrity, courage and purpose. It is not only about making the right decision, but about inspiring others to do the same. Ethical leaders set the standard by putting their values into action. They build trust and shape cultures where fairness, respect and accountability can thrive, and in doing so they create lasting impact that values people as much as progress.
This matters well beyond ethics itself. Organisations that build ethical leadership into their culture are better placed to attract and keep talented employees, donors, voters, clients and supporters.

The day at a glance

1. **Leading with integrity.** What ethical leadership means, why it matters, and how character and choices come together in the four values of integrity, compassion, humility and courage.
2. **Trust and legitimacy.** Why trust is a leader's most valuable asset, and how it is built or lost.
3. **Making better decisions.** A practical six-step decision process, a decision tree and a values test, and how to recognise dilemmas and grey zones.
4. **Putting it into practice.** An ethical decision simulation in small groups, and a personal reflection on your own toughest dilemma.
5. **Learning from real cases.** What the experiences of Patagonia and Oxfam teach us about purpose, culture and accountability.
6. **Building an ethical culture.** Psychological safety, speak-up culture, and governance that goes beyond compliance.
7. **From insight to action.** A personal action plan and leadership commitments to take back to your organisation.

Methodology

The course combines four approaches: lectures and theory to provide the frameworks, group work and presentations to put them into practice, case studies to integrate the content, and interactive discussions and experience sharing so that participants learn from one another's real situations.

Day 2 Topic: Advocacy and Conflict Negotiation for Successful Strategic Influence

Having strong evidence, compelling arguments and a worthwhile cause does not necessarily lead to change. Decisions are rarely based on facts alone. They are shaped by political priorities, competing interests, relationships, public opinion and the ability to influence those who hold power.

Advocacy is the strategic leadership process of transforming evidence into influence, and influence into meaningful change. It enables organisations to move beyond raising awareness towards shaping policies, influencing decisions, mobilising support and achieving lasting impact.

Effective advocacy also requires the ability to navigate disagreement. Different stakeholders often pursue legitimate but conflicting objectives, making negotiation, coalition building and conflict resolution essential leadership skills. Understanding the interests behind opposing positions can open the door to dialogue, constructive compromise and sustainable solutions.

This training provides participants with the strategic frameworks and practical tools to design effective advocacy campaigns, engage decision-makers, manage competing interests and translate organisational objectives into measurable results.

The day at a glance

1. **Understanding advocacy.** What advocacy means, why it matters, and how it differs from lobbying, communication and public relations.
2. **From evidence to influence.** How decisions are really made, who holds power, and why strong evidence alone is rarely enough to create change.
3. **Stakeholder engagement and coalition building.** Identifying decision-makers, mapping influence, understanding opposition and building strategic alliances.
4. **Conflict resolution and negotiation.** Navigating competing interests, distinguishing positions from underlying needs, identifying common ground and negotiating constructive solutions.
5. **Designing effective advocacy campaigns.** Defining objectives, developing strategies, applying the advocacy logic model and translating priorities into concrete actions.
6. **Measuring success.** Establishing meaningful indicators, assessing outcomes and adapting strategies to achieve sustainable impact.
7. **Putting advocacy into practice.** An interactive case study in which participants develop competing advocacy campaigns, negotiate conflicting interests and defend their strategies before a simulated board of directors.
8. **From strategy to leadership.** Understanding the leader's role in building influence, mobilising stakeholders and turning strategic intentions into meaningful organisational change.

Methodology
The course combines four complementary approaches: **lectures and theoretical frameworks** to establish a solid understanding of strategic advocacy; **group work and presentations** to develop practical campaign-planning skills; **an interactive case study and negotiation simulation** to experience stakeholder dynamics, competing interests and conflict resolution; and **facilitated discussions and experience sharing** to connect the learning to participants' own professional challenges.
The emphasis is on practical application, strategic thinking and peer learning, ensuring that participants leave with tools and insights they can apply directly within their organisations.

II LECTURER - Ms. Vivienne Gaskell: 6 & 7 August, 2027



Vivienne Gaskell has more than 30 years experience in managing and implementing communication strategies for international institutions and businesses in highly complex environments involving government supervisory boards and political actors.
She headed Communications and Public Relations at the binational EuroAirport Basel-Mulhouse-Freiburg for 18 years, during which time she successfully managed a large number of internal and external crises. In her subsequent position as Head of Communications at the French-German Research Institute in Saint-Louis (ISL), she worked on developing cohesive strategy at Board level, taking into account the differing perspectives and interests of key stakeholders.
Since 2007, she has been teaching courses on topics related to crisis prevention, conflict resolution and intercultural mediation. She also works as a communications consultant and mediator, supporting leaders in international and government organisations undergoing transition.
Vivienne Gaskell holds an MBA in International Organisations with Honours from the University of Geneva, a Diploma in International Negotiation and Policy Making from the Graduate Institute and a Master 2 degree in Communication Science from the CELSA–Paris IV Sorbonne University. She has extensive media experience, is a member of the ANM (National Association of Mediators in France) and certified as an intercultural trainer.

- Day 1 Topic: Conflict transformation – from confrontation to collective action
This class looks at the nature, origine and typology of conflicts and how these can affect individuals, their relationships and organisations. It focusses on the role of human perception and representations, cognitive bias, contextual and environmental factors. Drawing on a practical case study, participants will learn how actors with different interests interact and shift perspective using collective intelligence to transform a difficult situation into constructive action.

Methodology
Theory, group work on a practical case, role-playing, group discussion, observation, feedback experience, PowerPoint

- Day 2 Topic: Peace mediation – from dialogue to sustainable peace
This class explores the principles and dynamics of peace mediation as a means of preventing, managing and resolving complex conflicts. It examines the role and attitude of the mediator as well as the conditions required for effective mediation. Using a practical case study involving competing claims over water resources, participants will learn about the dynamics of conflict escalation and use conflict cartography to map stakeholder relationships, power asymmetries and competing interests. The class combines theoretical insights with practical exercises and role-playing to develop an understanding of the peace mediation process,

Methodology
Theory, group work on a practical case, role-playing, group discussion, feedback experience, PowerPoint

III LECTURER - Doc. Dr. Aleksandar Weisner: 9 & 10 August, 2027



Aleksandar Weisner, PhD, is an Assistant Professor at the European Center for Peace and Development, established by the United Nations University for Peace, where he has been teaching postgraduate courses since 2019.
He also works as a consultant, trainer, and evaluator for numerous international organizations, including HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation, UNICEF Kosovo, the OSCE Mission to Serbia, UNDP, the TEMPUS Foundation, and People in Need. As a trainer within the Erasmus+ programme, he has worked with the National Agencies of Luxembourg, Belgium, Turkey, Austria, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic.
Since 2014, he has also served as a Senior Lecturer at the International Academy of the Institute for Peace and Dialogue (Switzerland), where he teaches courses in conflict management and strategic management.
His academic and professional work focuses on peacebuilding and conflict management, strategic thinking and planning, and negotiation. Through his teaching and training engagements, he has worked with students and professionals from international organizations, universities, and governmental institutions, including diplomats, public officials, and UN personnel from across Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas.

- Day 1 Topic: Conflict Analysis Tools and Techniques
The students will have the opportunity to learn about different conflict analysis techniques and tools and work on analysing structural conflict causes. The workshops also entail identifying the potential risks of conflict intervention. The interactive learning methods include numerous perspectives on the subject of conflict analysis.
Eligible participants: trainers, managers of non-governmental organizations, decision makers, public policy makers, students, government officials, corporation managers, project coordinators.

Methodology
Lectures, group work, video-presentations, case study, educational material, discussions and reflections.
Learning Outcomes: The practical tasks will help the students to develop competencies in a holistic and in-depth conflict analysis approach to address conflict risks at the earliest possible stage, as well as how to implement conflict analysis techniques and tools to facility intervention in violent conflict. The course models are easy to apply as conflict analysis techniques and as a structure for strategic planning of the conflict transformation intervention, locally or internationally.

- Day 2 Topic: Conflict Prevention, Management & Resolution
The course focuses on identifying sources and causes that could result in violence, preventing conflict escalation, and managing and mitigating an open conflict. The topic contains issues such (dis)Obedience, Values and Attitudes, Needs and Political Power.
Eligible participants: trainers, managers of non-governmental organizations, decision makers, public policy makers, students, government officials, corporation managers, project coordinators.

Methodology
Lectures, group work, video-presentations, case study, educational material, discussions and reflections.
Learning Outcomes: Gained competencies in reducing and managing drivers and sources of conflict. Upon attending the course participants will be able to apply the multi- and inter-dimensional conflict resolution theories, applicable approaches, and techniques.

We are looking forward to seeing you in our Basel Summer Programs 2027