

8th UNESCO MOST Winter School

Lasting Peace and Human Security

February 22– 27, 2026, Kőszeg, Hungary

Venue: Zwinger, Chernel Str. 16.

The Winter School is organized by the Institute for Advanced Studies Kőszeg (iASK) in cooperation with the Ludovika University of Public Service, UNESCO Chair for Cultural Heritage Management and Sustainability, and the Institute for Social and European Studies Foundation.

The 8th UNESCO MOST Winter School brings together scholars, artists, diplomats, politicians, policymakers, students, and civil society actors to explore how peace can be reimagined as a long-term, anticipatory process grounded in human civilization and social sustainability. As a key networking event, it connects young and senior representatives and members of the United Nations University and UNESCO communities with culture, academia and civil society. This year's program will focus on new threats and challenges to human security, as well as the complex conditions for lasting peace rooted in the transformation of social, cultural, political and economic systems and weakening institutions.

The participation of senior representatives and leaders of the United Nations University global network and representatives of UNESCO Chairs offers a unique opportunity to open dialogue and deliberation about common aspirations and responsibilities both locally and globally.

Topics:

- Geopolitical Alternatives and Local Perspectives
- Innovative Peace Initiatives
- Paradoxes of Military Defense
- The Future University and Citizen Science
- Multifaceted Human Security
- Civil Societies and the Imperatives of Cross-Border Cooperation
- Transformative Technologies, Sustainability and Digital Peacebuilding
- Emerging Regions
- Futures Literacy

Program

Sunday, February 22nd

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm Arrivals and coffee

3:30 Welcome & Introductory Remarks:

- Ferenc Miszlivetz (Director of iASK)
- **Tshilidzi Marwala** (Rector of the United Nations University, Tokyo, Japan; Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations)
- Péter Balázsy (Vas County & Vas County Government Office)

3:50 pm – 6:10 pm Roundtable: **Lasting Peace and Human Security**

The roundtable will reflect on the inter-connected challenges of our time, including armed conflicts, climate change, social inequalities, and the accelerating overall impact of transformative technologies. The discussion emphasizes how integrative approaches can generate new pathways toward peace and resilience.

Roundtable moderator: Jody Jensen (iASK, Hungary)

Participants:

- János Székely (Bishop of Szombathely, Hungary)
- H. E. Gergő Kocsis (Deputy State Secretary for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Hungary)
- H. E. Katalin Bogyay (President of UNESCO National Commission of Hungary; President of UN Association of Hungary; Founder of Women4Diplomacy International)
- Gergely Deli (Rector of the Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary)
- Donato Kiniger-Passigli (World Academy of Art and Science; Global Peace Offensive Center, Italy)
- Sean Cleary (Strategic Concepts, South-Africa)
- Elira Luli (Luarasi University, Albania, iASK Hungary)

6:30 pm – Capella Savaria concert (Venue: Synagogue, Kőszeg Várkör 38.)

7:30 Dinner Reception (Venue: Europe House Cellar)

Monday, February 23rd

8:00 am – 8:20 am Welcome Speeches:

- Balázs Hankó (Minister, Ministry of Culture and Innovation of Hungary)
- H.E. Katalin Bogyay (President of UNESCO National Commission of Hungary, President of UN Association of Hungary; Founder of Women4Diplomacy International)

8:20 am – 10:15 am Panel: **The Global Vortex: Geopolitical Alternatives and Local Perspectives**

The panel explores how economic competition, technological dominance, energy dependencies, and regional ambitions are redrawing the global map. The discussion will examine how states navigate uncertainty, assert influence, and adapt to a rapidly changing geopolitical and technological environment characterized by increasing multipolarity and unpredictability.

Chair: Elira Luli (Luarasi University Albania; iASK, Hungary)

Keynote Speech: H.E Malkhaz Kakabadze (Former Ambassador, Former Minister, Georgia)

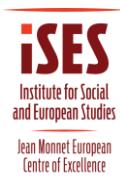
Panelists:

- Başak Alpan (Middle East Technical University, Turkey)
- Iván Bába (iASK; Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary)
- Vedran Džihić (OiiP; University of Vienna, Austria)
- Vujo Ilić (IFDT, Serbia)
- Nenad Markovikj (Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, North Macedonia)
- Mirela Metushaj (Aleksandër Moisiu University, Albania)

10:15 am – 12:00 pm Panel: **Ambassadors for Peace Initiative: Pathways and Challenges to Cooperation**

The panel explores innovative peace initiatives that foster cooperation across sectors and communities to strengthen resilience in the face of interconnected global risks. As conflicts, climate change, and technological disruption increasingly shape human security, the discussion focuses on how collaborative approaches in governance, education, and culture can prevent violence, support recovery, and promote long-term stability.

Chair: János Bogárdi (iASK; Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary)



Keynote: Philippe De Lombaerde (UNU-CRIS, Belgium)

Panelists:

- Emil Brix (President of the Austrian Research Association, Austria) - online
- Donato Kiniger-Passigli (World Academy of Art and Science, USA; Global Peace Offensive Center, Slovenia)
- Réka Varga (Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary)
- Emma Slažanska (Global Peace Offensive Center, Slovenia)

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Lunch break and coffee

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm Panel: **The Complexity and Paradoxes of Military Defense: Fear, Uncertainty, Technology and Causes of War**

The panel examines the paradoxes of military defense and the underlying causes of war in the contemporary world. Moving beyond immediate political triggers, participants explore deeper structural and psychological factors such as fear, inequality, competition for resources, and arms race over emerging technologies. The panel aims to identify ways to transform these root causes into opportunities for dialogue, prevention, and collective resilience.

Chair: Ferenc Miszlivetz (iASK, Hungary)

Panelists:

- Lika Chimchiuri (UN ECOSOC NGO CIRID, Sokhumi State University, Georgia)
- Erzsébet Nagy Rózsa (Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary)
- Luka Martin Tomažič (Alma Mater Europaea University, Slovenia)
- Sean Cleary (Strategic Concepts, South-Africa)

3:45 pm Transfer to Szombathely - Departure from the Castle Parking Lot

Visit to the Episcopal Palace (Venue: Berzsenyi Dániel tér 3, 9700 Szombathely) (invitation-only event)

5 pm Concert (invitation-only event)

7 pm Dinner Reception (invitation-only event)

Tuesday, February 24th

9:30 am Registration

**10:00 am – 12:00 pm Panel: The Future University and Citizen Science:
Bridging Nations through Knowledge, Culture and Education**

Beyond formal diplomacy, universities and cultural institutions play a growing role in fostering peace through education, research, and international collaboration. The panel examines how these institutions contribute to dialogue across borders, promote mutual understanding, and support long-term efforts toward stability and reconciliation.

Chair: Tamás Novák (iASK; Óbuda University, Hungary)

Panelists:

- H. E. Klára Breuer (Ambassador of Hungary to the Republic of Finland)
- József Fülöp (iASK; former rector of Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design, Hungary)
- Zsolt Kosztyán (iASK; Pannon University, Hungary)
- Szabolcs Márka (iASK, Hungary; Columbia University, USA)
- Zsuzsanna Márka (iASK, Hungary; Columbia University, USA)
- Pier Paolo Pigozzi (Vice-Rector for International Affairs, Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary)

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch Break

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm Panel: The Revival of Local Civil Societies and the Imperatives of Cross-Border Cooperation: A New Generation for Peace

Across the world, a new generation is breathing life into civil society and redefining peace as a shared civic duty. The panel explores how contemporary movements renew social engagement and solidarity. By combining creativity and digital mobilization, these initiatives move beyond traditional diplomacy and show how civic action can become a powerful force for dialogue, non-violence, and social transformation.

Chair: Jody Jensen (iASK, Hungary)

Panelists:

- Blerta Tuci (EU Policy Hub, Albania)
- Rodoljub Jovanović (IFDT, University of Belgrade, Serbia)



- Igor Stipić (iASK, Hungary)
- Ivana Stepanović (iASK, Hungary)

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm Coffee break

Optional: 3:45 pm - 5:15 pm KRAFT Town Walk with historian Mónika Mátay (iASK; ELTE, Hungary)

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Roundtable discussion: **Citizen Science as a Two-way Street**

The panel will discuss the need for, feasibility and benefits of citizen-science partnerships as co-development initiatives, with value flowing to citizens, scientists and institutions that provide their funding. Three projects will be discussed: an EU-wide tick and tick-borne disease surveillance network; an effort to document and assess the significance of microbial pathogens circulating in schools in Vienna; and the parataxonomist concept in Costa Rican conservation areas.

- Daniel R. Brooks (University of Toronto, Canada; iASK Hungary)
- Orsolya Bajer-Molnár (Center for Pathophysiology, Infectiology and Immunology, Medical University of Vienna, Austria)
- Gábor Földvári (Institute of Evolution, HUN-REN Centre for Ecological Research)

6:00 pm Károly Binder Concert: “*Bartók and His World*”

(Venue: Jurisics Castle Kőszeg, Rajnisi u. 9.)

7:00 pm Ballet Camara - Senegalese Drum & Dance Show

(Venue: Jurisics Castle Kőszeg, Rajnisi u. 9.)

Wednesday, February 25th

9:30 Registration

10:00 am – 12:00 pm Panel: **Transformative Technologies, Sustainability and Digital Peacebuilding**

Digital technologies are transforming how societies communicate, govern, and respond to conflict. The panel explores how innovation in data analysis, automation, and digital connectivity can support peacebuilding, social inclusion, and sustainable development but also challenge them. The panel discusses how new tools can transform societies, increase productivity and improve sustainability while addressing ethical challenges, inequalities, and risks of misuse.

Chair: Ivana Stepanović (iASK, Hungary)

Panelists:

Keynote Speech: **Tshilidzi Marwala** (Rector of the United Nations University, Tokyo, Japan; Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations)

- Balázs Barta (Pannon Business Network; iASK Hungary)
- David Daou (UNU-EHS, Germany)
- Szabolcs Márka (iASK, Hungary; Columbia University, USA)
- István Peták (Genomate Health, USA; iASK, Hungary)
- Anni Dasho Sharko (Luarasi University, Albania)
- István Tarrós (University of Pécs, Hungary)
- Zsolt Zödi (Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary)

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch break

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm Panel: **Multifaceted Human Security: Human Wellbeing in the Age of Global Turmoil**

Security today extends far beyond borders, weapons, and geopolitics. It is about food on the table, clean water, meaningful work, and resilience to a changing climate. The panel includes practitioners and policymakers to discuss the multidimensional nature of human security. By connecting global frameworks with local realities, the discussion highlights how sustainable peace depends on our ability to safeguard human dignity and planetary health.

Chair: Balázs Barta (Pannon Business Network; iASK Hungary)

Panelists:

- István Peták (Genomate Health, USA; iASK, Hungary)
- Ferenc Petruska (Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary)
- András Szöllősi-Nagy (iASK; Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary)
- Charles J. Vörösmarty (The Advanced Science Research Center, CUNY, USA)
- János Bogárdi (iASK, Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary)

3:30 – 4:00 pm Coffee break

4:00 - 5:00 pm Workshop: **Spatializing Cooperation: Public Spaces for the Common Good**

Led by Boglárka Jakabfi-Kovács (MOME, Hungary)

This interactive workshop explores how public spaces can enable cooperation, trust, and shared responsibility in everyday life. Participants will examine how spatial arrangements influence social interaction, inclusion, and access to collective resources, and how these dynamics shape cooperation across diverse communities. Through discussion and practical reflection, the workshop invites participants to rethink public space as an active social environment that supports collective wellbeing and civic engagement.

5:30 pm Introduction of the Town Hall - Béla Básthy (Mayor of Kőszeg)

6 pm Strings of Kőszeg concert, Hajnalcsillag Folk Dance Group & Dance Jam performance at Jurisics Castle (Venue: Kőszeg, Rajnis u. 9)

Thursday, February 26th

9:30 Registration

10:00 am – 12:00 pm Panel: **The Balkans and the Caucasus: Culture, Dialogue, and the Conditions for Peace**

The panel explores how culture, education, and dialogue can support reconciliation and stability in the Balkans and the Caucasus. Drawing on regional experiences of transformation, participants will discuss how shared histories, creative expression, and cross-border collaboration can build trust and lasting peace in two of Europe's most dynamic and emerging regions.

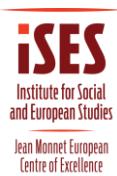
Chair: Igor Stipić (iASK, Hungary)

Panelists:

- Sajma Ademović (University of Donja Gorica, Montenegro)
- Kivanç Ulusoy (Istanbul University, Turkey)
- Rubin Zemon (Centre for Advanced Researches, North Macedonia; iASK Hungary)
- Mariam Bregvadze (ECOSOC, RECOVI, CEDAC, Caucasus International University, Georgia)
- Elira Luli (iASK, Hungary; Luarasi University, Albania)

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm Lunch break and coffee

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Panel: **Africa: Emerging Pathways to Peace through Culture and Education**



Focusing on Africa as a continent of innovation and renewal, this panel examines how culture and education contribute to dialogue, social cohesion, and peacebuilding. It highlights examples of community-based initiatives, creative industries, and academic cooperation that strengthen resilience and create the foundations for sustainable and inclusive peace.

Chair: Izabella Agárdi (iASK, Hungary)

Panelists:

- Timothy Yaw Acheampong (University of Szeged, Hungary)
- Kehinde Balogun (Catholic University of Portugal)
- Rock Aime Missamou (International Affairs Expert of Africa and UNESCO Chair, Ludovika University of Public Service, Hungary)
- Feyrouz Ahlam Saidi (iASK, Hungary)

Friday, February 27th

9:30 Registration

10:00 am – 11:00 am Roundtable Discussion: **The Futures We Choose: Peace, Social Transformation, and Shared Responsibilities**

The final roundtable invites participants to reflect on the challenges and possibilities that lie ahead for building peaceful and resilient societies. In a world shaped by uncertainty, inequality, and rapid change, peace must be understood as an active, ongoing process grounded in dialogue, cooperation, and long-term thinking. The conversation will explore how cultural institutions, education, governance, and civil society can contribute to meaningful social transformation, while maintaining stability and a sense of shared responsibility for the future.

Chair: Ferenc Miszlivetz (iASK, Hungary)

Panelists:

- Winter school participants

12:00 pm Certificate Award ceremony

The right to make changes is reserved.