



The National Defence Academy, the Partnership for Social Initiatives (PSI), the Institute for Security Policy (ISP) and the Research Group for Polemology and Legal Ethics (University of Vienna | National Defence Academy)

have the honor to invite to

## International Panel Discussion

# The Austrian model of neutrality. An opportunity for Georgia's future?

December 10th, 2019 | 18:00

at Sala Terrena, National Defence Academy (Stiftgasse 2a, 1070 Vienna)

Neutrality has been declared out of date several times in the past. Nevertheless, in the course of history the inherently flexible concept of neutrality has repeatedly and impressively demonstrated its high adaptability to new security policy circumstances.

With the end of the Cold War, the overcoming of political-ideological block confrontation and the collapse of the Soviet Union, the concept of neutrality seemed to be rapidly losing its significance. The annexation of the Crimean peninsula, the outbreak of conflict in Eastern Ukraine, and the renewed alienation and hybrid confrontation between the collective West and Russia became an unpredictable challenge, especially for the states of the so-called Europe-in-between. In this situation of instability and uncertainty, the Austrian model of neutrality could offer an interesting security alternative for the states of Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and the Western Balkans.

The panel discussion will analyze current geopolitical developments in the South Caucasus and the Black Sea region, the role and interests of key regional and supra-regional actors, the security, economic and legal backgrounds of the Austrian neutrality model and its potential applicability for Georgia.



- *Welcoming speech*  
Brigadier General Reinhard SCHÖBERL | Deputy Commandant, National Defence Academy  
Markus TSCHANK | President, Institute for Security Policy (ISP)  
Nikoloz RAMISHVILI | Partnership for Social Initiatives (PSI)
  
- *Key note*  
Christian STADLER | Head, Research Group for Polemology and Legal Ethics (University of Vienna | National Defence Academy)
  
- *Moderator*  
Alexander DUBOWY | Research Director, Institute for Security Policy (ISP)
  
- *Panelist*  
Vasily ASTROV | Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (wiiw)  
Heinz GÄRTNER | University of Vienna; International Institute for Peace (IIP)  
Alexander ISKANDARYAN | Director, Caucasus Institute, Yerevan  
Tornike SHARASHENIDZE | Georgian Institute of Public Affairs

Working languages: German and English | simultaneous interpretation will be provided

After the event, we cordially invite you to join us for a buffet.

**Registration requested to Alexander Dubowy – by Monday December 9th 2019 –**  
[alexander.dubowy@isp.or.at](mailto:alexander.dubowy@isp.or.at)

**NOTA BENE:**

Photographs and video will be taken at the event. By taking part in this event you grant the event organizers full rights to use the images resulting from the photography/video filming, and any reproductions or adaptations of the images for fundraising, publicity or other purposes to help achieve the group's aims. This might include (but is not limited to), the right to use them in their printed and online publicity, social media, press releases and funding applications.

If you do not wish to be photographed please inform an event organizer.