



UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ
EUROPEAN TRAINING & RESEARCH CENTER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY



Human Security Focus Group

**Institute of International Law and International Relations
University of Graz**

**European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and
Democracy (ETC) Graz**

A The Concept of Human Security

The concept of human security is a **political concept with legal implications** and a security model with paradigmatic potential for international affairs. It militates for a new perception of threats and a humanized conception of security. It thus aims at balancing the concept of state sovereignty with a concern for the individual, complementing state-oriented security concepts by including threats that would not be classified as threats from a traditional, state-centred perception of security.

The concept of human security is **holistic** and not sectoral, **participative** instead of exclusive, **preventive** and not reactive, and entertains a close relationship with the concepts of human rights and human development. It seeks to identify and eliminate the **root causes** of conflicts and promote sustainable, bottom-up conflict-resolution processes, and not superficial top-down solutions without long-term stabilizing effects.

Having been introduced into the international security discourse by the 1994 Human Development Report, the concept has evolved and solidified over the past one and a half decades. Figuring prominently in the World Summit Outcome Document of 2005, the last years have been crucial for the evolution of human security on the United Nations level as they saw the move away from purely conceptual work to the **mainstreaming of human security** in all UN activities through a **multi-stakeholder approach**.

In 2010, human security has experienced its international coronation when the UN Secretary-General, in his report on the concept, requested the General Assembly to take into account the “added value of the human security concept.” In Graz, we work on developing strategies to flesh out this added value and to facilitate the concept’s international implementation.

B Human Security Focus Group

Starting in 2000 the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (ETC) Graz and the Institute of International Law and International Relations of the University of Graz have developed a **research and teaching focus** on the concept of human security.

With Austria's 2003 chairmanship of the **Human Security Network** and the support of the drafting process of the Graz Declaration on Principles of Human Rights Education and Human Security which was adopted by the conference, the scholarship was brought to a new level.

Notable successes include the **Manual on Human Rights Education**, a book with an eminent focus on human rights and human security that has already been translated into 15 languages and is used in human rights education worldwide.

By 2011 some ten security scholars of various academic backgrounds have founded the Human Security Focus Group to streamline their research, to promote the added value of human security, and to ensure that the human rights city Graz remains a center of excellence for human security research, teaching and practice.

"In today's increasingly interlinked world, where threats can potentially spread rapidly within and across countries, human security is a practical approach to the growing interdependence of vulnerabilities facing peoples and communities. As a result, the application of human security calls for people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific and preventive responses. [...] Furthermore, such an approach promotes multi-stakeholder responses that enable the protection and empowerment of people and communities. Together these aim to advance freedom from fear, freedom from want and freedom to live in dignity for all."

Source: Human security, Report of the Secretary-General, UN Doc. A/64/701 of 8 March 2010, para. 69

C Successful Initiatives

- Yearly **Graz Workshop on the Future of Security**. The 4th Graz Workshop on the Future of Security will take place from 7-8 April 2011 and will be dedicated to "**Sustainable Peace Building: Humanizing Peace and Conflict Studies**"
- Multi-lingual development and continuous updating of the **Manual on Human Rights Education**, "**Understanding Human Rights**" (<http://manual.etc-graz.at>) combined with seminars and workshops on human rights education based on the Manual in various regions
- An annual **lecture series** on "**Understanding Human Rights**" at the University of Graz, based on the Manual

- **International Summer Academy** on Human Security and Human Rights since 2003. The Summer Academy 2011 took place from 10-20 July 2011 and was dedicated to the implementation of Human Security at the local level
- **Human Security Perspectives**, a peer-reviewed electronic journal
- **“Human Security in the Western Balkan region: the impact of transnational terrorist and criminal organisations on the peace-building process of the region”**, a project funded under the EU’s 6th Framework Programme
- **“Future of Security”**, a project analyzing the influence of the concept of human security on international law and European security policy supported by the research fund of the Austrian National Bank
- **“Student Exchange Programme in Human Security”**, enjoying funding from the European Commission’s Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)
- a contribution to the EU COST 28 project on **“Human Security and EU Crises Management”**
- consortium partner in the project **“Multi-stakeholder Partnerships in Post-Conflict Reconstruction: The Role of the European Union”** (MULTIPART), funded under the EU’s 7th Framework Programme
- **consultancy** for, and **research cooperation** with, renowned international research and policy institutions, including UNESCO, OSCE, the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Joint Forces Command of the Austrian Armed Forces, its Federal Academy for Defence and international teaching programmes and institutions from the European Inter-University Center for Human Rights and Democratization to the London School of Economics

D Human Security Scholars

- **Wolfgang Benedek**, Head of the Institute of International Law and International Relations, University of Graz and Director of the UNI-ETC Graz
- **Gerd Oberleitner**, Institute of International Law and International Relations, University of Graz /ETC Graz
- **Matthias C. Kettmann**, Institute of International Law and International Relations, University of Graz
- **Markus Möstl**, Institute of International Law and International Relations, University of Graz /ETC Graz
- **Heike Montag**, Institute of International Law and International Relations, University of Graz/University of Bochum
- **Pascoal Santos Pereira**, Institute of International Law and International Relations, University of Graz/University of Coimbra
- **Veronika Apostolovski**, ETC Graz
- **Maddalena Vivona**, ETC Graz
- **Barbara Schmiedl**, ETC Graz
- **Simone Philipp**, ETC Graz
- **Alline Pedra**, ETC Graz

E Key Publications

Wolfgang Benedek/Florence Benoit-Rohmer/Wolfram Karl/Manfred Nowak (eds.), **European Yearbook on Human Rights 2011**, NWV, Vienna/Intersentia, Antwerp/BWV, Berlin 2011

Wolfgang Benedek/Matthias C. Kettmann/Markus Markus (eds.), **Mainstreaming Human Security in Peace Operations and Crisis Management. Policies, Problems, Potential**, Routledge, London 2010

Wolfgang Benedek/Christopher Daase/Vojin Dimitrijevic/Petrus van Duyne (eds.), **Transnational Terrorism, Organized Crime and Peace Building. Human Security in the Western Balkans**, Palgrave, London 2010.

Wolfgang Benedek (ed.), **Manual on Human Rights Education**, 2nd ed., NWV, Vienna/Intersentia, Antwerp/BWV, Berlin 2009

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Benedek/Kettmann/Möstl, Mainstreaming Human Security: A Research Agenda, in: Benedek/Kettmann/Möstl (eds.), **Mainstreaming Human Security in Peace Operations and Crisis Management. Policies, Problems, Potential**, Routledge, London 2010, 1-11

Benedek, Mainstreaming Human Security in United Nations and European Union Peace and Crisis Management Operations: Policies and Practice, in: Benedek/Kettmann/Möstl (eds.), **Mainstreaming Human Security in Peace Operations and Crisis Management. Policies, Problems, Potential**, Routledge, London 2010, 13-31

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Benedek, The Human Security Approach to Terrorism and Organized Crime in Post-Conflict Situations, in: Benedek/Daase/Dimitrijevic/van Duyne (eds.), **Transnational Terrorism, Organized Crime and Peace Building**, Palgrave, London 2010, 3-16

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Gruber/Wintersteiner (eds.), Menschenrecht und Frieden. Jahrbuch Friedenskultur 2009, Klagenfurt, Drava Verlag, 2009, 110-123

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Kettemann/Möstl, Die Bedeutung menschlicher Sicherheit [The Meaning of Human Security], Global View 1/2009, 10

Oberleitner, Human Rights and Human Security, Human Security Journal: HSJ/Revue de la Sécurité Humaine; The Journal of the CERJ Program for Peace and Human Security, 8 (2009), 8-9

Oberleitner, Human Rights and Human Security, Human Security Journal 8 (2009), 8

Möstl, Das Konzept der Menschlichen Sicherheit in der Europäischen Sicherheits- und Verteidigungspolitik, in: Universität Graz (ed.), Erstaussgabe, Vol. 2, Graz, Uni-Press Verlag 2009, 181-188

Möstl, Human Security and the European Security and Defence Policy: Achievements and Challenges, in: Hudson/Benedek/Ferrándiz (eds.), Peace, Conflict and Identity. Multidisciplinary Approaches to Research, University of Deusto, Bilbao, 2009

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