



AUSTRIAN
OMBUDSMAN BOARD



**Statement by Günther Kräuter, Member of the Austrian Ombudsman Board and
Secretary General of the International Ombudsman Institute**

Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the International Ombudsman Institute is hosting a very special NPM training next week.

After two successful trainings of this sort in Riga, Latvia in 2015 and Vilnius, Lithuania in 2016, - where in Riga a more general approach was taken and in Vilnius a focus was laid on visits in psychiatric clinics - , the third round of NPM training which we will be hosting in Vienna takes a special approach.

With this innovative training seminar, the IOI strives to create a new format that enables participants to learn through a practical approach, while at the same time upholding the “do-no-harm” principle, which is so essential when monitoring places of detention.

How can we manage this challenge?

Besides holding lectures on NPM-issues, we will offer interactive role play scenarios with professional trained actors to improve communication skills and techniques; they play dementia, post-traumatic disorder, borderline, alcoholic in forensic facility.

Further we will provide our participants with a livestream of a visit to two institutions: a nursing home and a facility that provides aftercare to former prison inmates (without disturbing them with a larger group of visitors).

Members of the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) and the Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture (SPT) will contribute to these sessions by adding their expertise. This will additionally enrich the overall experience of the training for all participants, who are mainly from Europe and Africa.

Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am convinced that trainings, workshops and learning from each other are the best ways to further NPM work in countries in Europe and around the world, which in turn, serve the development of the OPCAT-Mandate and the protection and promotion of human rights.

Thank you !