

Young Women and Next Generation Initiative (YWNGI) Event: Mentorship Alumni Regional Meeting in Vienna

07 May 2025, 15.00-18.30 CEST

VCDNP, Donau-City Strasse 6, Andromeda Tower, Floor 13/1, 1220 Vienna, Austria

The Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP) and the International Affairs Institute (IAI), in the framework of the Young Women and Next Generation Initiative (YWNGI) are organizing the second regional alumni event for participants of the YWNGI Mentorship Programme. The event will be held in Vienna on **07 May 2025**, from 15.00 to 18.30 (CEST) at the VCDNP.

The event will **gather Mentors and Mentees based in Vienna** and in nearby locations, and it will be open to participants from the **current and previous cohorts**. This format represents not only an opportunity to meet in-person, but also to exchange personal experiences regarding four editions of the Mentorship Programme and enable networking opportunities. In addition, it will be an occasion for current Mentors and Mentees to meet before the formal conclusion of the 2024-2025 Mentorship Programme (14th May 2025).

Tentative Agenda

15.00 Welcome remarks

Elena Sokova, Executive Director, VCDNP

15.15 Session 1: *Mentorship Speed Round*

16.15 Session 2: *Brushstrokes of Experience: A Cross-Generational Creative Dialogue*

18.00 Networking Reception

Background

The Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP) and The International Affairs Institute (IAI), in the framework of the [EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament \(EUNPD\) Consortium](#) have launched a *Young Women and Next Generation Initiative (YWNGI)*, an initiative to encourage young women and the next generation to enter the non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament field.

Driven by the widely shared awareness of the persistent age and gender imbalances among experts and practitioners in the non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament field, the *Young Women and Next Generation Initiative* aims to help address such imbalances by exposing college and university level students to arms control issues, increasing awareness and encouraging participation in events and workshops. The initiative also aims to respond to the very limited offering of relevant courses on WMD issues in colleges and universities at undergraduate and master's level. The goal is to help students understand how to pursue a career in the field, making the best use of their own skills. The Initiative includes the creation of a [mentorship programme](#), the conveying of workshops and meetings, and the organization of outreach visits at universities.

The YWNGI is possible thanks to the generous support of the European Union.

