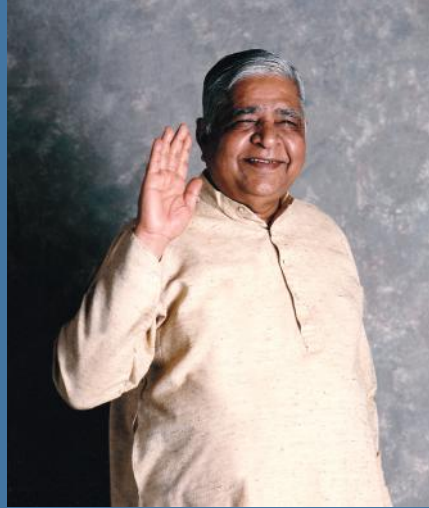


# Dhamma Mudita

The construction of the Vipassana Centre in Austria



Plans, funding and ways to help



*„The Vipassana centres must spread love and spread goodwill, so that those who come here feel that they are entering a temple of peace. May each centre become a true abode for Dhamma, a refuge that will enable countless people to come out of their suffering.“*

S.N. Goenka

## A response to a growing demand

Vipassana meditation courses as taught by S.N. Goenka in the tradition of Sayagyi U Ba Khin have been offered in Austria since 1997. In recent years, five courses were held annually with about 130 participants and 20 Dhamma servers per course. On average, more than twice as many interested people from Austria and other countries apply as there are course places available. The availability of suitable course locations is limited and it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet the growing demand for course places. For this reason, a location for a Vipassana Centre in Austria has been sought for about 10 years. Since suitable properties with existing buildings could not be found, the option of building a new centre from scratch on a greenfield site was considered from 2015 onwards. With the acquisition of the property near Rechberg, all energy could now be invested in the concrete planning and realisation of a Vipassana Centre in Austria.

Properties in a secluded location, which are also suitably zoned and can be developed to an appropriate centre size, are very rare. We are very fortunate to have found exactly such a location with the property in Rechberg. Due to its unique location, its size and its surroundings with a protective forest belt, the site offers ideal conditions for the long-term operation of the centre.

## Development steps so far

### Beginnings

- Nov. 2015 First inspection of the property near Rechberg
- Febr. 2017 Signing of the purchase contract
- Mar. 2017 The centre is given the name „*Dhamma Mudita*“ (sympathetic joy for others' achievements in Dhamma)
- Nov. 2017 The architects „Mia2“ from Linz are the winner of the architectural competition

### First Meditations

- June 2018 First group meditations on the site with 39 meditators
- Oct. 2018 First 1-day course in a tent
- Aug. 2019 Construction of the first building for regular meditation on the centre grounds

### Further development steps

- June 2020 Purchase of an approx. 1.1 ha piece of forest in the south-east of the site
- Sept. 2020 Official building permission granted for the construction phases 1 and 2
- Jan. 2021 Completion of the access road with fixtures for water and sewage as well as parking spaces

As soon as sufficient funds are available, construction phase I will be implemented and regular centre operations with 10-day courses will begin. The current development status can be found on our website.

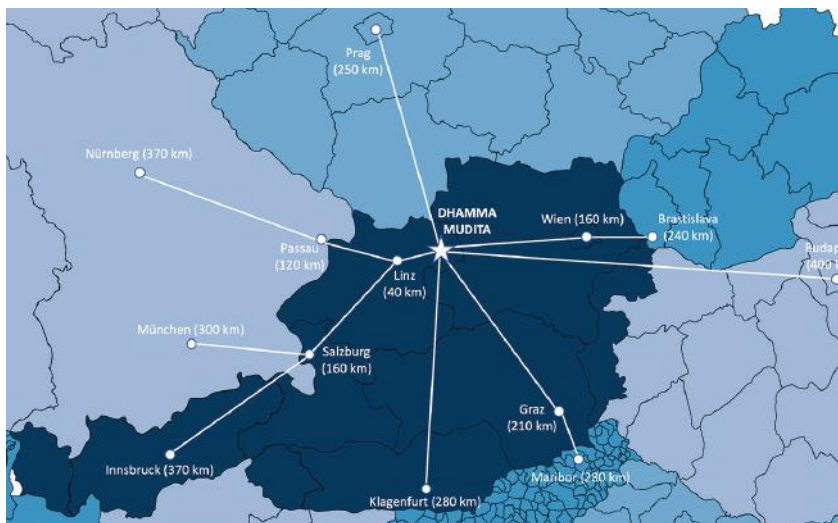


## Location of the new centre in Europe

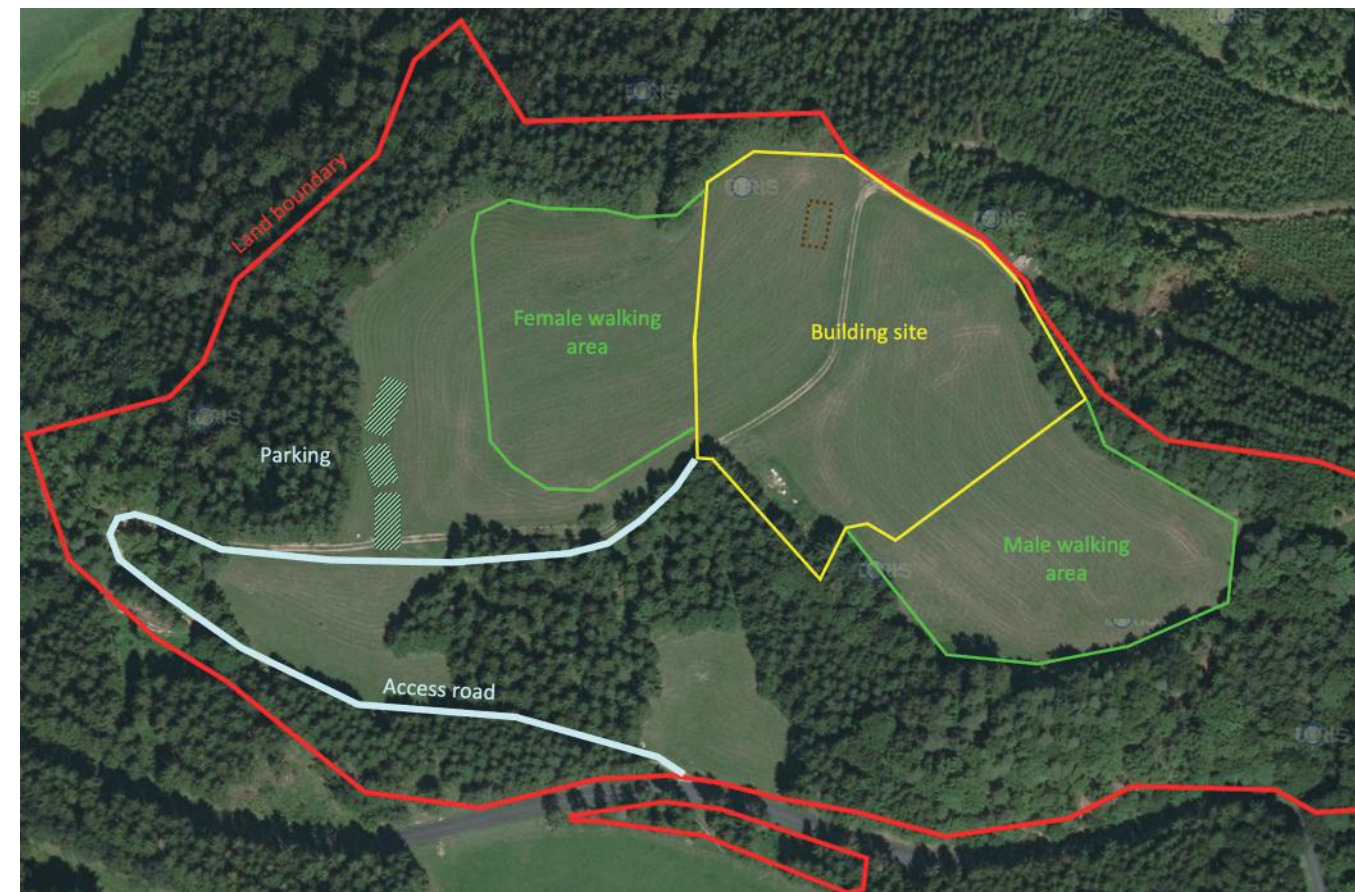
Due to its location in the centre of Europe, *Dhamma Mudita* (blue star) is an optimal addition to the existing family of Vipassana centres in Europe (blue dots). In addition to meditators from Austria, southern Germany and Switzerland, many people from neighbouring Eastern European countries will have easier access to Vipassana courses.

*Dhamma Mudita* is easy to reach within Austria and has good transport connections to neighbouring countries.

The location of the centre, only 40 km away from the Upper Austrian capital Linz, the third largest city and the second largest urban centre in Austria, is of particular advantage for meditators who would like to settle near the centre and find good job opportunities in the area.



## A bird's eye view of the Dhamma land



The site covers a total of 7.2 ha, of which 3.5 ha are forest, 2.5 ha meadows and 1.1 ha building land. It is surrounded by a protective forest belt. The building site is large enough to accommodate courses for up to 160 people (meditators, Dhamma servers, teachers) when completed.

*Dhamma Mudita* can be reached from nearby Rechberg by a beautiful fifteen to twenty minute walk in the forest. Coming by car from the district capital of Perg (14 km) or from Rechberg, a separate access road leads from the L1426 road up the hill to the centre grounds.

## What the centre will look like in the future



Protected by a ring of forest and with green roofs, the centre nestles harmoniously into the landscape. The meditation hall—the only building without a green roof—stands out in particular. As the most important building, it is located at the highest point of the site, above the meditators' accommodation.

## Construction phases

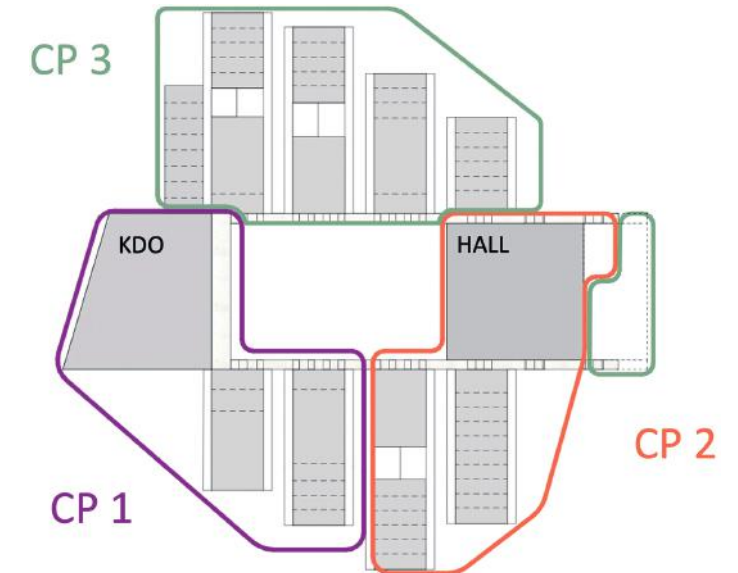
The construction of the centre is to take place in three construction phases (CP)

**CP 1:** The central service building (KDO = Kitchen-Dining-Office) will provide all technical and organisational facilities necessary for the centre's operation. Individual accommodation, accommodation for the disabled and shared rooms will be created on two levels. Together with the temporary accommodation this will enable courses for up to 70 meditators and 10 Dhamma servers.

**CP 2:** In addition to the large meditation hall building—which will contain on two levels the main hall for up to 160 people, discourse rooms for foreign languages and the teachers' accommodation—further accommodation will be added in this construction phase, mainly single rooms with their own bathroom. Including temporary accommodation, about 110 meditators and about 15 Dhamma servers will be able to attend courses after the completion of CP 2.

**CP 3:** In CP 3 the future women's side of the centre will now also be completed, with the final student and server accommodation.

In addition, eight larger single rooms for long-term servers will be built. Finally, the meditation cell complex will be built, partly underground, at the upper end of the site behind the meditation hall. After CP 3, 130 meditators and 30 servers will be able to participate in Vipassana courses at *Dhamma Mudita* and up to 60 meditation cells will be available for students.



## Construction phase I: The central service building



The **central service building** (KDO) will be built on two levels at the lower end of the construction site. This picture shows the view from the north-west towards the large west-facing windows of the kitchen, the rest rooms for the servers and the offices. To the side (front left in the picture), eight comfortable single rooms with bathrooms for long-term servers adjoin to the north.



### Ground floor

On the ground floor level, kitchen, offices, rest rooms for the Dhamma servers and corresponding sanitary facilities, as well as all necessary technical rooms for heating, electricity, hot water, etc., laundry and storage rooms and a workshop will be built in approx. 600 m<sup>2</sup> of floor space.



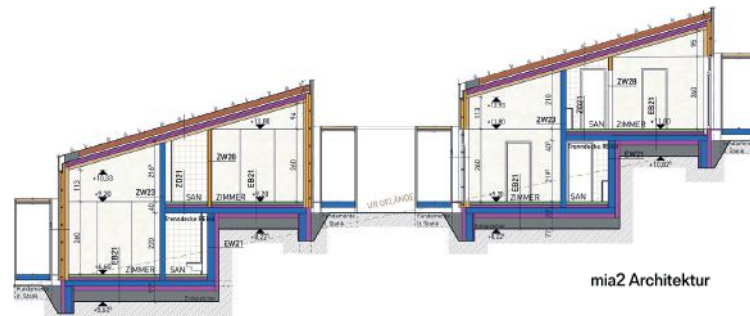
### Upper floor

The dining rooms for female and male students are located on this floor. They have access to a beautiful terrace overlooking the inner garden of the centre and with a view up to the meditation hall building at the top.

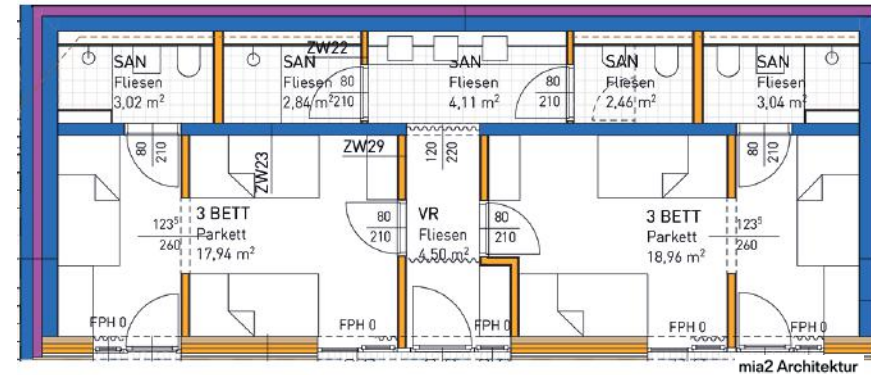
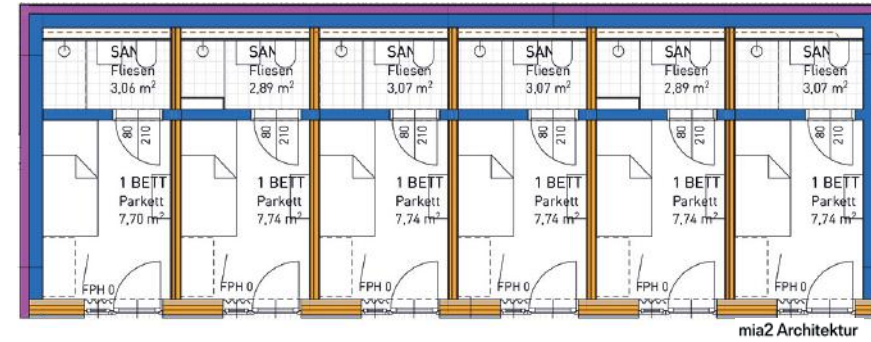
## Construction phase I: Accommodation



The accommodation for meditators and Dharma servers is built on different levels according to the sloping hillside. Each accommodation building has entrances on the lower and upper level. The bathrooms are always exactly one above the other.



## Floor plans of the single and multi-bed rooms



When completed, the centre will have 75% single rooms with attached bathrooms and 25% double rooms with shared bathrooms. The single rooms all have their own doors to the outside to minimise contact with others and allow meditators to work more within themselves. Some of the single rooms are designed with disabled access and will be suitable for wheelchair users.

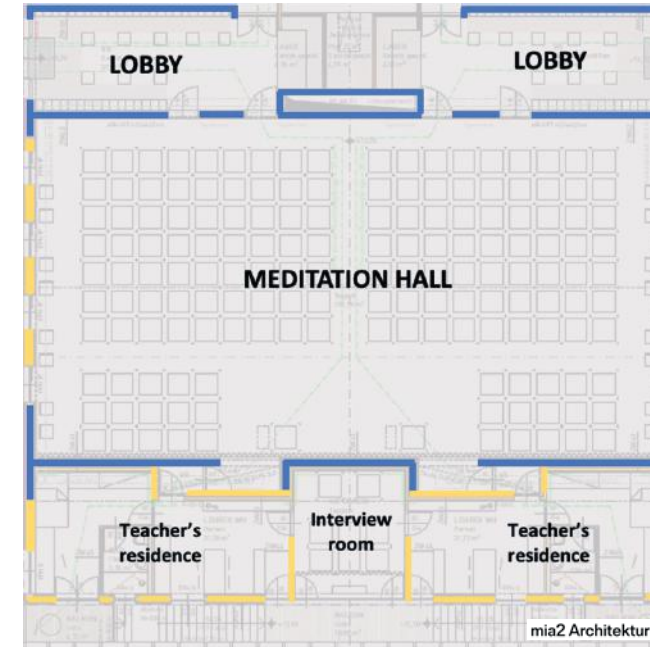
After construction phase I, the centre will initially also have 3-bed rooms, which will then be divided into single and double rooms in a later phase. The shared bathrooms are designed in such a way that they can also be used by meditators sleeping in tents in the beginning, when accommodation is still scarce.

## Construction phase 2: Meditation Hall



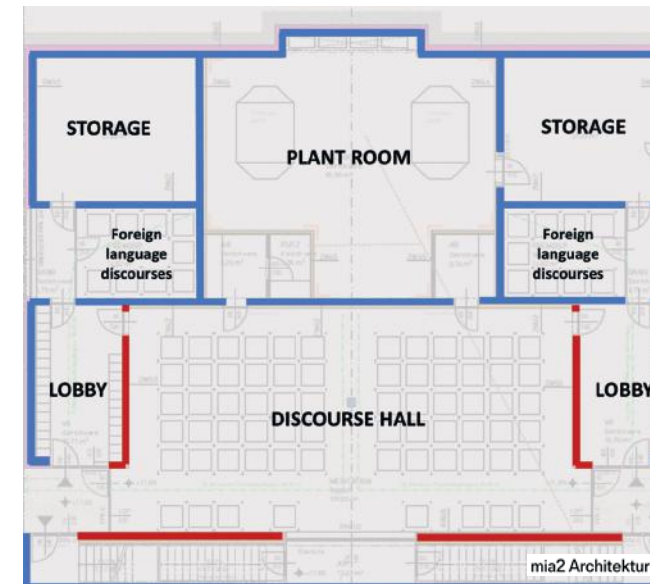
The large meditation hall is designed for 130 meditators and 30 Dhamma servers. It is located in the upper part of the two-storey hall building and thus at the highest point of the site.

## Floor plans of the main hall and the discourse rooms



One enters the **upper floor** of the hall building through a spacious entrance lobby where shoes and coats are taken off. From here you can enter the large meditation hall through two doors on each side. At the same time, the lobby also provides access to the 60 meditation cells, some of which are underground.

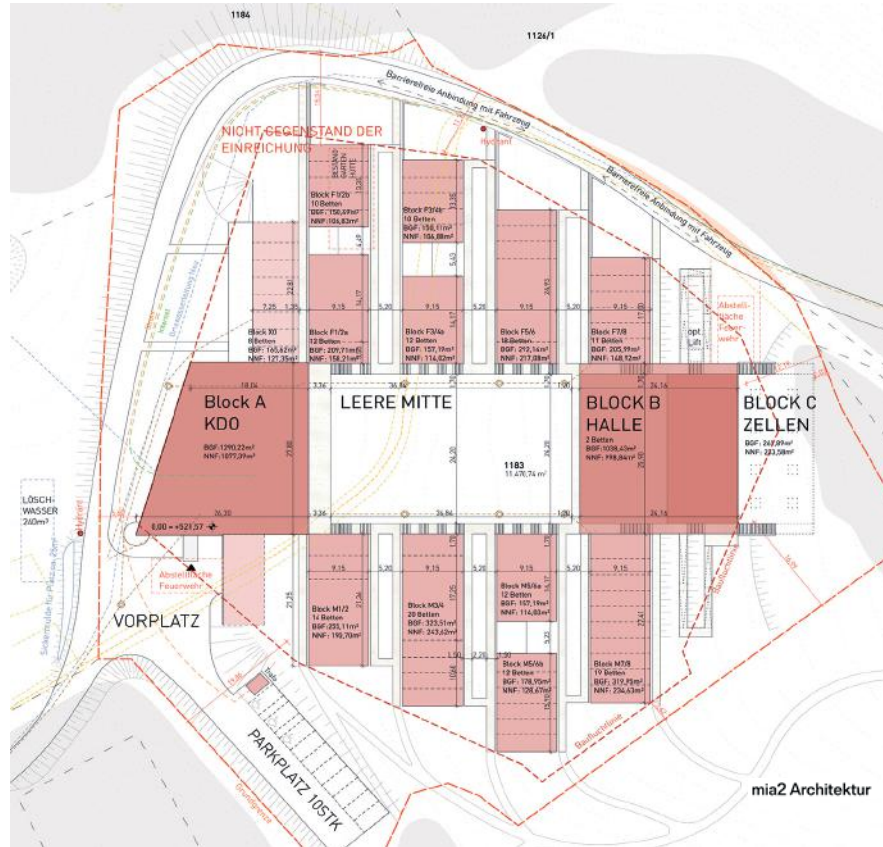
The teachers' accommodation is on the same level as the hall and the cells. Teachers can enter the hall via a direct entrance from their living area.



On the **lower floor** of the hall building there is another meditation hall where the evening discourses are played in one of the two course languages. Additional rooms are available for discourses in other foreign languages. In the rear area, a special, very quiet ventilation system ensures pleasant fresh air in all rooms on both floors at all times.

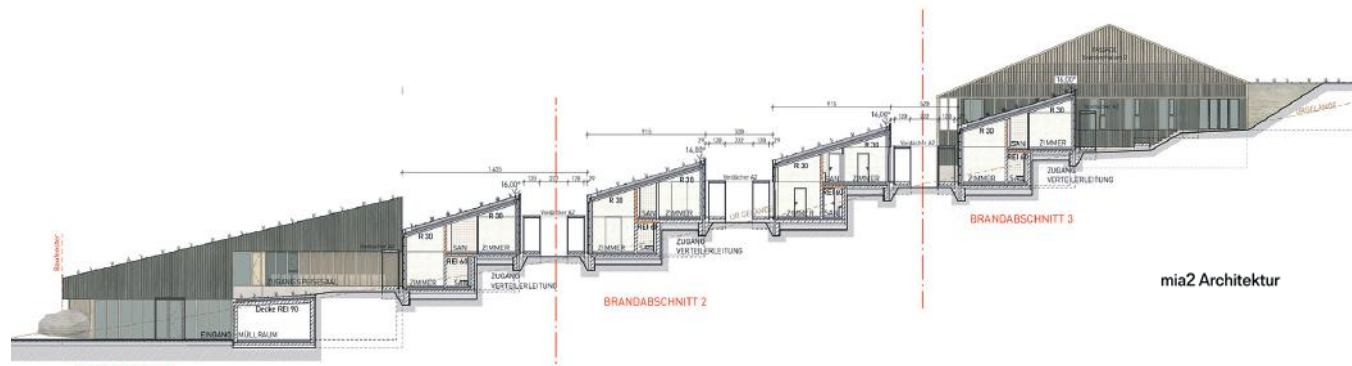
In addition to the hall building, **further accommodation** will be built in the upper area of the course site in construction phase 2, namely 34 single rooms with attached bathrooms and four double rooms.

## Outlook: Construction phase 3



The third construction phase completes the master plan for *Dhamma Mudita*. Now, on the still unbuilt women's side (at the top of the plan to the left), all the remaining accommodation for course participants and servers will be built up the hill, similarly to the men's area.

In addition, the eight separate individual rooms with bathrooms for long-term servers will be built now at the latest. They will be at the lower end of the construction site, outside the course area. With the completion of the meditation cells next to the hall, *Dhamma Mudita* is complete.



## We are looking ahead



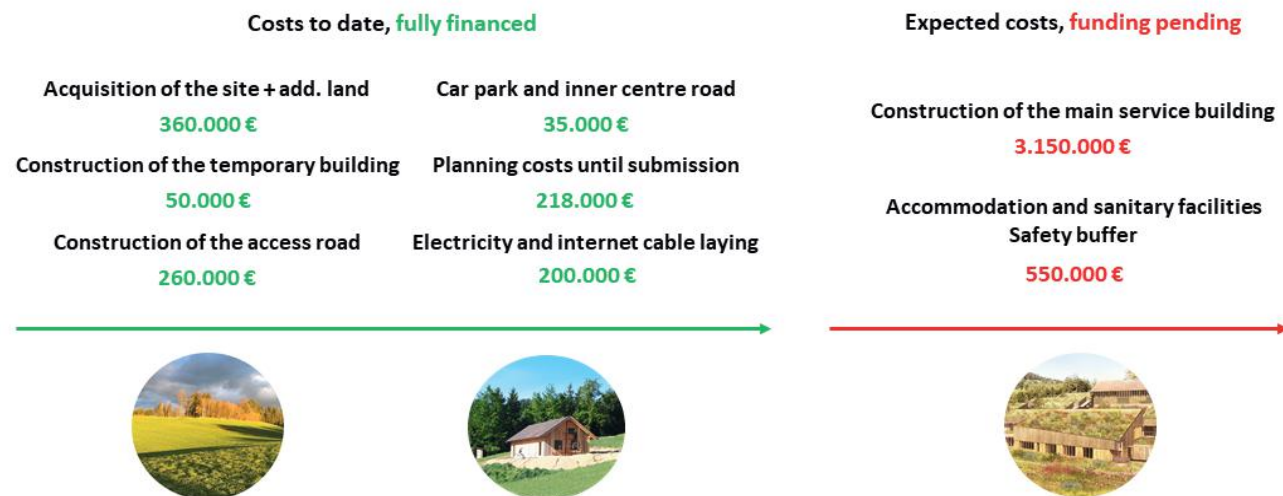
**How it will be one day:** From the terrace in front of the dining rooms, the view sweeps across the large open green area in the middle of the course grounds upwards to the meditation hall, the core of the Vipassana centre.



## Costs / Finances

An important goal of the development of *Dhamma Mudita* is to be able to offer the first 10-day courses on the site as soon as possible. The minimum conditions for this are the necessary infrastructure, the basic technical requirements as well as sufficient accommodation and bathroom facilities.

As of April 2021, more than **1.1 Million €** could go towards building the centre



In order to be able to offer regular courses in *Dhamma Mudita*, approx. **3.700.000 €** are still missing.

The technical and other facilities for running a course are housed in the main service building. These are the office, kitchen, servers' accommodation, laundry and other storage rooms, workshop, heating, ventilation system, electrics, etc., and the dining rooms. After the first construction phase, a temporary meditation hall for 70 meditators and some accommodation for servers and course participants will be available in this building. The construction of this building complex is the focus of our next efforts.

For more information on the development of *Dhamma Mudita*, especially on the funding of the centre, please visit the specially created *Mudita* website <https://www.dhamma-mudita.at>.

## Funding the centre

The Vipassana community comprises many thousands of meditators, all striving towards a common goal: the spread and practice of Dhamma and thus liberation from all suffering. Committed meditators and strong Dhamma motivation are the power which makes it possible to overcome even big hurdles. This is an experience repeated in many countries around the world and from which we can also draw inspiration in Austria.

If each meditator contributes according to his or her own capacity to the realisation of this great goal of a Vipassana centre in Austria, courses in *Dhamma Mudita* will soon be a reality. The Dhamma will be brought to more and more people and thus open up the path of liberation for them. We offer different ways of contributing to the financing of the centre, so that all meditators who would like to make a contribution have a chance to personally support the project. Every contribution to the building of a new Vipassana centre brings great merit and is thus also a support on one's own Dhamma path.

Only part of the required financial resources can be raised through a bank loan. Approximately two million euros will have to come from our own resources, i.e. from donations or loans from meditators. Our goal is to raise these funds together. May it soon be achieved with the help of many.



The temporary meditation hall. To the right of it and above one sees the construction site for the centre buildings.

## Possibilities of financial support for the construction of *Dhamma Mudita*

### Questions about donations, standing orders, loans or guarantees

will be answered personally at [finanzen@mudita.dhamma.org](mailto:finanzen@mudita.dhamma.org) or Tel. +43 (0) 677 641 763 24

### Donation account

**Recipient:** Verein für Vipassana Meditation, Ottakringer Straße 14/14, 1170 Wien, Österreich  
**IBAN:** AT60 3411 1000 0192 6799  
**BIC:** RZOOAT2L111  
Purpose of use: Dhamma Mudita

You can also donate online via Paypal directly from the Vipassana website: <https://mudita.dhamma.org/de/alte-schuelerinnen/spenden-dana/>

### Tax deductibility in Germany

For a donation receipt, please contact [finanzen@austria.dhamma.org](mailto:finanzen@austria.dhamma.org). If you are liable to pay income tax in Germany and would like to submit your donations as contributions within the terms of §10b of the Income Tax Act to one of the corporations, associations of persons or assets described in §5 section 1 no. 9 of the Corporation Tax Act with your annual income tax statement, you will find links to any documents that may need to be submitted, such as confirmation of non-profit status, on the Vipassana website: <https://mudita.dhamma.org/de/alte-schuelerinnen/spenden-dana/>.

### Donations for the construction

Any progress in the construction of the centre relies on donations, whether small or large, cash or bank transfer. Every donation is a great help.

### Standing orders

Regular bank transfer orders to the donation account of the Vipassana Association are a great support because they are a predictable income from which the Association can reliably pay for regular costs.

### Loans

All Vipassana meditators can give loans for the building of the centre, preferably interest-free. The terms can be set individually: the longer the duration of the loans, the more valuable they are for the Association. The more loans that are given by meditators, the less money the Association has to borrow from banks.

### Donation pledges / loan guarantees

These help to plan the building steps more reliably. They make it clear when donations or loans can be called on for a certain construction phase.

## Supporting the development of the centre through hands-on Dhamma service

### Helping with the construction on site

All meditators are invited to actively participate in the various construction and landscaping works at *Dhamma Mudita*. Skilled workers are especially needed, but there are also ample opportunities for Dhamma service for unskilled workers, who are then instructed on site. Current work periods are announced on the Association's website ([www.mudita.dhamma.org](http://www.mudita.dhamma.org)) and through special mailings and the Vipassana Newsletter.

### Help in the committees of the Association

A number of working groups and committees are wholly or partly concerned with the development of the Centre. These include the Building Committee, the Inreach Committee, the House and Maintenance Committee and the Forest and Garden Committee. In the respective teams, the work programmes are planned and carried out, and information about the Centre is produced in order to keep the Dhamma community informed on a regular basis.

Dhamma service is a way to express one's gratitude and an opportunity to apply Dhamma in daily life.

### Interested in being involved?

Please contact us via [service-kontakt@mudita.dhamma.org](mailto:service-kontakt@mudita.dhamma.org) +43 (0) 680 217 54 65  
[www.mudita.dhamma.org](http://www.mudita.dhamma.org)

Up-to-date information on the development of the Centre and other activities of Vipassana Austria can be obtained through our mailings, for which you can subscribe via the following link: <https://mudita.dhamma.org/de/alte-schuelerinnen/aktuellesnewsletter/>





The Buddha spoke these verses to the Rajagaha merchant who had founded the first meditation centre:

*Protective and conducive to the development of concentration and insight - such places of meditation are appreciated by the Awakened One and considered the most precious gift that can be given to the community.*

*Therefore, a wise person should consider it their duty to establish a pleasant place where those who have heard much about Dhamma can stay and practise Dhamma.*

*Vinaya Culavagga VI.1 (147)*