INTERETHNIC DIALOGUE
NANSEN DIALOGUE NETWORK
ANNUAL REPORT 2004

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INTRODUCTION

Ten years after the signing of the Dayton Agreement that ended the brutal war in Bosnia Herzegovina, the Western Balkan region remains split and still capable of producing violent conflict. In fairness, the region is not likely to return to the level of bloodshed we saw through the 1990s. Yet, we see that the most powerful duplicitors of public opinions are still giving the old messages of ethnic-politics, self-victimisations and blaming of the “others”. The result is a highly dysfunctional division of politics, where ethno-nationalist interests has become more important than broader social and economic challenges.

There is hence a pressing need to address lacking inter-ethnic dialogue and hostile relations in the Western Balkans. That is not to make enemies love each other, but to bring about a minimum of trust and ultimately some degree of cooperation and mutual confidence between them. There is of course a moral case to be made that reconciliation and promotion of dialogue is the right thing to do. Still the most powerful pragmatic argument is that positive working relationships generate an atmosphere within which governance and democracy can thrive, while negative working relationships would undermine even the best system of governance. No democratic system, regardless of the quality of its creators and leaders, will survive if the general population to which it applies are not minimally prepared to trust the system or each other. Nevertheless promotion of inter-ethnic dialogue and processes of dealing with the past have been widely neglected or delayed. The sooner the region’s central and local political leadership realise the need to build trust and mutual confidence, the sooner will stability and general security, economic prosperity and general welfare be achieved.

For the Nansen Dialogue Network the major challenge is: how can we change opinions and perspectives of those “duplicitors of opinions”? How can we reach people with influence and motivate them to contribute to positive change? The Nansen Dialogue Centres’ answer has been to increasingly target individuals and institutions that influence larger groups in society. Professional adults such as teachers, media workers, municipal officials and local political representatives are vital groups in that respect. In the local communities inter-ethnic dialogue relates to practical issues such as health care, schooling and public renovation as well as to values of tolerance, mutual understanding and general security and protection. The Nansen Dialogue Network’s experience is that local leaders are often more able and willing to enter a dialogue on everyday policy that directly effects its people.

The Nansen Dialogue Network comprises nine dialogue centres, staffed by local dialogue workers located in Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, Macedonia and Kosovo. As a network we recognize that each local political and interethnic contexts shape different challenges for each and every centre. Yet the network shares a methodology and a vision: The process of establishing stability and sustainable democratic societies in the Western Balkans is not solely about institutional and macro-economic reforms. It is equally important to work to change people and their leaders’ attitudes. Hence, we see that the Nansen Dialogue Network has an important role to play in facilitating inter-ethnic dialogue in the most conflict-ridden areas in the Western Balkan region.

Ingrid Vik – Project Director
Oslo, March 2005
INTERETHNIC DIALOGUE

DIALOGUE CENTRES

coordinators and thousands of people who have participated in dialogue activities organised by the centres.

establishing 8 Nansen Dialogue Centres with offices in 10 different cities in the region from 2000 – 2004:

With financial support from the, the Kosovo model was applied by

The war in 1999 temporarily ended these activities, but the lesson learned was that it was too little, too late.

that propaganda and enemy images flourished on both sides, with limited possibilities for corrections from

this was the first time they sat down in a long serious conversation with the other side. They both realised

organised between Serbs and Albanians from Pristina. The most important lesson learned from this period

region. In 1997, on the initiative of previous participants from Kosovo, a series of dialogue meetings were

Academy provided a safe dialogue space for people from former Yugoslavia. The break up of Yugoslavia

was followed by an equal break down in communication; the closing of borders between countries; and

limited freedom of movement across ethnic divides within the new states. Continuous propaganda in state

controlled media and segregated education contributed to the solidifying of one-dimensional enemy

images. Through the establishment of a safe space where people could come together, compare notes

and share their stories, these enemy images quickly broke down and the participants could see how

civilians on all sides had paid a high a price.

The idea was that new knowledge would change behaviour and attitudes in such a way that the

participants were motivated to engage in peacebuilding efforts upon return home. It was quickly realised

that it was limited how much the participants could learn from Norway. On the other hand, the Nansen

Academy provided a safe dialogue space for people from former Yugoslavia. The break up of Yugoslavia

was followed by an equal break down in communication; the closing of borders between countries; and

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civilians on all sides had paid a high a price.

The war in 1999 temporarily ended these activities, but the lesson learned was that it was too little, too late.

With financial support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Kosovo model was applied by

establishing 8 Nansen Dialogue Centres with offices in 10 different cities in the region from 2000 – 2004:

Skopje, Belgrade, Podgorica, Pristina, Mostar, Sarajevo, BanjaLuka, Osijek and Mitrovica, and finally in

Bujanovac. The core staff members were recruited from the Lillehammer alumni, thereby creating a

network of people with a common dialogue experience. These centres are all locally registered and

perceived as local NGOs, with Norwegian funding and support. By 2004 there are around 50 full time

coordinators and thousands of people who have participated in dialogue activities organised by the centres.

Target Groups

The participants are recruited from all the areas of ex-Yugoslavia, from various ethnic and religious groups. The network selects target groups who are believed to have an impact in their societies. They are recruited from the education sector, media, public administrative institutions and the NGO sector. Other important target groups are local political leaders, young politicians and informal leaders.

Activities

Activities during 2004 show that the Nansen Dialogue Centres have built up the reputation and authority to engage skilful professionals from different levels of society in meaningful inter-ethnic dialogue about the most urgent problems in their societies.

- Nansen Dialogue Seminars: These are inter-ethnic seminars where the root causes of experienced conflicts are analysed, the current political situation is mapped, and future solutions are explored through dialogue.
- Interactive workshops address specific topics such as: conflict management, human rights, strategic peacebuilding and strengthening of civil society.
- Media projects: Supporting radio and television programmes, and publication of magazines and books that promote interethnic dialogue and multietnic coexistence.
- Instant response activities are: lectures, public debates and hearings, roundtables and poster campaigns, organized ad-
  hoc in response to burning issues to raise public awareness.
- Conferences have been organised in cooperation with other NGOs on topics related to conflict prevention and peacebuilding.
- Follow-up Activities: Follow-up seminars, workshops and public lectures ensure continued contact between individuals
  and groups in the network.
- Other activities address specific needs in each area, and vary from centre to centre.

Each centre targets specific local challenges, while joint network projects ensure a regional approach to regional challenges.
**NDC OSIJEK**

**Introduction**

When NDC Osijek was established in 2001, the reconciliation process in Eastern Croatia had largely stagnated. The two largest national groups, Croats and Serbs, led separate lives in almost completely divided communities. The Croatian Government continued with the reconstruction of houses, but economic instability, lack of job opportunities and distrust between Croats and Serbs undermined the return of refugees and IDPs in the area. There was an evident need for dialogue between the Serbian and Croatian populations as a precondition for successful reconciliation processes.

NDC Osijek was established by a group of young, local enthusiasts, who wished to work jointly for interethnic dialogue and reconciliation. The multiethnic structure of the team gives NDC Osijek credibility as an unbiased organisation, and enables the centre to communicate on an equal basis with both national groups.

In 2004 Croatia gained status as a candidate for EU membership. Although Croatia has made significant steps in improving its relations and cooperation with neighbouring countries, there are still large challenges within Croatia: lack of cooperation with the ICTY, reconciliation and normalisation of relations between Serbs and Croats and the slow process of minority return in post-war communities. Vukovar is still a deeply divided city, and ongoing segregation in all spheres of life is the greatest threat for a future multietnic, tolerant Vukovar. NDC Osijek is therefore determined to initiate and realise projects that will help put a stop to the segregation in Vukovar and the ethnic division throughout Croatia.

**ACTIVITIES IN 2004**

**Never-ending stories**

Hate speech in the media in former Yugoslavia is still one of the biggest obstacles of the reconciliation process. The media is partially controlled by the political parties in power, who still have mechanisms for controlling media and presenting one-sided truths. The project: “Never ending stories” is a response to this media reality. In the project NDC Osijek explored and collected stories about ethnic cooperation. These stories involve people who were and are ready to risk their lives in order to save the lives or property of their neighbours with different national identity. The collected stories will be included in a documentary film, which will be presented in the region of former Yugoslavia and in other interested countries.

During 2004, the first phase of the project was completed. One story from Mostar and two stories from Kosovo were filmed. The story from Mostar tells how a young Croat who was wounded in the minefield, was saved by soldiers from the Bosniak army. The first story from Kosovo is about Serbian Orthodox monks in the monastery of “Visoki Deani”. These monks gave shelter and took care of 200 Albanians from the nearby village of Deceani, who had fled to escape the terror of Serbian paramilitaries. The second story from Kosovo is about the courage of Albanian villagers from Runik and Serbian villagers from Banje, who consciously took a risk by cooperating during and after the conflict. As a result of their past cooperation a number of Albanians from village Runik, led by their local teacher, were able to calm down and persuade Albanians from the village not to go forward with the demolition of the neighbouring Serbian village during ethnic clashes in Kosovo.

The film project has received positive feedback from the citizens of Mostar and Kosovo. This has assured us that the main goal of the project is understandable and appealing to people in the region.

The New School Project

The New School Project responds to the ethnic segregation of children in primary schools in the post war area of Eastern Croatia. The project has two objectives: to create conditions for integrated basic schooling in Vukovar and Eastern Croatia, and to develop a quality plan of education and a curriculum that emphasizes respect for personal differences, upbringing for tolerance and development of individual potential and creativity. The curriculum will be adjusted to the needs of multiethnic communities but first and foremost it will be shaped in the best interest of the children.

The project involves around 50 primary school teachers and expert associates, school children and their parents, as well as groups and individuals who are formal or informal decision makers in the community. NDC Osijek has established partnerships with schools in the region and with the Institute for Schooling of the Republic of Croatia.

The project started in 2003, with the establishment of the project’s working group, which developed a plan of education for teachers. It involved a number of individuals, institutions and NGOs whose work is relevant for the project.

During 2004, two main objectives were in focus: (1) to empower and educate a group of teachers and other school staff who will promote the idea of quality and integrated schooling, and (2) to involve parents directly in the project. NDC Osijek organised two seminars for teachers, which were facilitated by psychologists from Society for Psychological Assistance from Zagreb. Four teachers participated in a summer school in Lillehammer, called: “The Teacher, the School and the Building of Peace”. The education of teachers continued in September by establishing Small Teacher’s Support Groups that meet every second week. The teachers in these groups work on professional capacity- and teambuilding, but also on finalising the curriculum of the New School.

Towards the end of 2004, the parents were informed about the project and invited to take an active part in it. Parents are, together with children and teachers, the main actors in the process of education and upbringing. We therefore asked for their opinion about the quality of primary school education with special accent on the existing ethnic division and the way that the education of minorities is organised in their community. To this end, we have conducted 256 interviews with parents of primary school children (that makes a sample of 15% of primary school children in Vukovar). The first results show that more than 70% of parents (of Croatian, Serbian and other nationalities) are not satisfied with the present segregation of children in the education sector, and see it as a threat to the future of their children. These parents will also be invited to contribute to the development of the curriculum. The project is co-financed by INFORMEST.

NDC Osijek also started a big public poster campaign in December 2004, called: “Children Rule! - The best interest of the child is our most important interest”.

**Network projects (see separate section)**

NDC Osijek was involved in the following network projects in cooperation with the other Nansen Dialogue Centres in 2004:

- Regional School for Young Politicians
- Divided Communities
- Balkan Regional Conference on Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Virtual School (with NDC Montenegro, NDC Sarajevo and NDC Mostar)

**Participants’ views**

“I was drawn to the project “Neverending stories” because of its aim to present real basis for coexistence and reconciliation. This could set up an example how media can have a positive influence on the people in the post-war areas. This is something new, considering mainly negative role of media in conflicts.”

Milan Dzidzic - Film director

“Being a journalist from Vukovar, which is still a mostly divided community, this cooperation was a real opportunity to raise new issues and to rethink existing problems that have not been adequately solved for year. I have been involved in a series of media projects over the last ten years. However, the project that was initiated by NDC Osijek is the first time that I have been fully involved in a project, not just as a journalist who needs to carry out his part of the job.”

Sanja Vukiczevic, Director of Radio Danube, Vukovar

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**DJECA SU ZAKON!**

Najbolji interes djeca je razlučiv interes.

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**The Teacher, the School and the Building of Peace**

NANSEN DIALOGUE NETWORK ANNUAL REPORT 2004
NDC SERBIA

Introduction
Nansen Dialogue Centre Serbia (originally Belgrade Nansen Centre) was established in the end of 1999, during Slobodan Milosevic’s rule. During this regime Serbia had many enemies, both internally and internationally. This situation worsened with NATO’s bombing, which aggravated the already xenophobic and intolerant environment. Under these circumstances, when anyone could be declared a traitor, Nansen Dialogue Centre Serbia began its difficult, but very important work on promoting dialogue as a vital tool for interethnic reconciliation.

After Milosevic was ousted from power in 2000, Serbia entered the challenging and difficult process of transition. The assassination of Prime Minister Zoran Djindjic considerably slowed down the reform processes, leading to serious political crisis. The 2003 elections were marked by very low voter turnout with right-wing parties winning a majority of votes, leaving the people of Serbia in midair between the democratic and nationalistic option.

In 2004 Nansen Dialogue Centre Serbia worked hard on strengthening and improving its presence in regions of Vojvodina, Sandžak/Raska and South Serbia, which have a delicate and complex ethnic and political situation. In 2004, higher level groups were targeted, such as representatives of local authorities, national councils, local political leaders and NGOs. These were influential local decision-makers from all ethnic groups, political parties, NGOs and local media, who were motivated to work together for a better national councils, local political leaders and NGOs. These were influential local decision-makers from all ethnic groups living in this region. The project continued targeting groups from the NGO sector and local organisations, adding more influential groups such as local authorities and members of national councils and Vojvodina Assembly, taking special care to include representatives of all ethnic communities. The main challenge was to improve cooperation on building a progressive multiethnic society. NDC Serbia was successful in establishing strong relationships and cooperation with the most important representatives of local authorities in Vojvodina, including the Province’s Ombudsman.

New Nansen Dialogue Centre in Bujanovac, South Serbia
In 2003 and the first half of 2004, Centre for New Visions, Presevo was an associated NGO of the Nansen Dialogue Network. CNV organised several seminars facilitated by NDN members and cooperated on several network activities. However, in 2004 all necessary preparations (programmes, staff, logistics) for establishing NDC Serbia’s branch office in Bujanovac were made, since the multi-ethnic town of Bujanovac is the focal point of the network’s activities in South Serbia/Presevo Valley. The main task of NDC Bujanovac is to promote interethnopolitical dialogue and development together with international cooperating partners. Additionally, the centre will work with broader interethnic dialogue in the community, in order to ensure local support for positive social development.

South Serbia Activities
Nansen Dialogue Centre Serbia and the new office in Bujanovac continued to promote and stimulate interethnic and political dialogue between ethnic communities (Serbian, Albanian, Roma) in South Serbia in 2004. In 2003, NDC Serbia organised a visit of representatives of Serbian and Albanian local authorities to their Norwegian counterparts, as well as a return visit for Norwegian politicians to South Serbia. In 2004, we continued to bring the municipalities of Bujanovac and Lillehammer closer together in their cooperation on the administrative level, adding international support to our efforts to improve the delicate situation in this region. Our main target groups were municipal authorities, representatives of political parties and other decision-making structures, from all ethnic communities. Public debates, lectures and newspaper articles, stressing the importance of interethnic cooperation in South Serbia, followed these efforts. Particular attention was paid to Roma politicians, who, despite being a very important and large community, have been neglected in political life. The project aims at bringing them on equal footing with other political actors in the region. As part of this effort, we organised a visit of Roma politicians to their counterparts in Northern Ireland in cooperation with INCORE. In addition, a public debate with Dr Billy Leonard from the University of Ulster was organised, entitled: “Experiences from the peace process in Northern Ireland”.

The magazine Hapi-Korak was a joint project between Novine Vranjske and CNV Presevo. It was the first multiethnic magazine in South Serbia to combine Albanian and Serbian language, and it was frequently read. It aimed at providing objective information about the economic, social, political situation in the area. The magazine was financed by Norwegian People’s Aid. Some of the journalists participated in a seminar in the Nansen Academy for journalists from divided communities. In addition to taking part in these activities, NDC Bujanovac and CNV took responsibility for including the Nansen alumni from South Serbia in the various activities.

Network projects (see separate section)
NDC Serbia and NDC Bujanovac were involved in the following network projects in cooperation with the other Nansen Dialogue Centres in 2004:

- Interethnic Political Dialogue in the Sandžak/Raska region (*one of NDC Serbia’s main activities – in cooperation with NDC Montenegro)
- Balkan Regional Conference Conflict Prevention and Peacemaking
- Divided Communities
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Regional School for Young Politicians

ACTIVITIES IN 2004

Vojvodina Programme
The objective of the project in Vojvodina was to gather decision-makers on the local level who were willing to support and contribute to interethnic dialogue in order to bridge the gap between the ethnic groups living in this region. The project continued targeting groups from the NGO sector and local organisations, adding more influential groups such as local authorities and members of national councils and Vojvodina Assembly, taking special care to include representatives of all ethnic communities. The main challenge was to improve cooperation on building a progressive multiethnic society. NDC Serbia was successful in establishing strong relationships and cooperation with the most important representatives of local authorities in Vojvodina, including the Province’s Ombudsman.

PARTICIPANTS’ VIEWS

““In 2003 and 2004 I participated in NDC Serbia’s seminars and I was impressed by the openness of all participants for dialogue and with how the participants from various communities were selected. As a member of the Vojvodina government I tried to connect people from the local and province administration with the NGO sector and NDC’s activists. I hope to continue my cooperation with NDC Serbia in the future.”
Duško Radosavljević, PhD, Vice President of the Executive Council of Vojvodina

“NDC Serbia’s activities were aimed at building trust among members of different ethnicities and of different political views. Despite different opinions there was a significant positive change among all of them during the seminars and other activities. By the end of the year many of us also became very good friends, even though we had many disagreements in the beginning.”
Bajram Šehović, President of the Main Board, Sandžak Democratic Party

“We think that the experience of taking part in the Divided Communities project for journalists will be very useful for us in the future”
Belgzim Kamberi “Novine Vranjske” and Jelena Stankovic, “Radio Ok”

Monitoring and Evaluation

Peacebuilding

Balkan Regional Conference Conflict Prevention and Peacemaking

Divided Communities

Regional School for Young Politicians

NANSEN DIALOGUE NETWORK ANNUAL REPORT 2004
The year 2004 was marked by several events, which did not bring about any positive change for most citizens. Bosnia and Herzegovina failed to become a part of the NATO Partnership for Peace, contrary to the expectations of most politicians and citizens. The report of the Commission for investigation of the events in Srebrenica presented by the President of the RS was severely criticized and disputed. The local elections in October added to the complex situation. The opposition is largely in power on the local level, while the nationalist parties remained in power on the entity level.

Distrust between the nations who live in Bosnia and Herzegovina has remained since the war and is being deepened by the present political situation. The politicians in power do not have the strength or skills to confront the real problems in society and to start dealing with the past in a sincere manner. The work aimed at improvement of multiethnic trust is therefore a great challenge and requires a continuous, serious and unbiased approach. The process of reconciliation, interethnic dialogue and reintegration of returnees, refugees and internally displaced persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina, such as legal issues related to returnees and refugees, poor economy, corruption, injustice, apathy and lack of responsibility on all levels. Exploration and presentation of these key issues in the play brought them out into the public rather than keeping them behind closed doors in the separate communities.

The play was shown in the towns of Kozarac (Republica Srpska), Prijedor and Sanski Most (Federation of BH), contributing to much needed cross-entity cooperation. The project succeeded to engage over one thousand people, indirectly and interactively, reaching a much wider audience by broadcasting the play several times on the Independent TV station “101” in Sanski Most.

Media TV project: “BUKA”

The TV talk shows "BUKA" are the continuation of a joint media project, organized and produced in cooperation with Youth Centre for Informative Decontamination (C)ID and Alternativna TV station, Banjaluka. “BUKA” serves as instrument for public awareness on burning issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and represents a useful collaboration between NGO sector, media and politicians. By broadcasting the shows entitled: “Religion and Politics”; “Media and Reconciliation”; “Ethnic Stereotypes as Political Notions”; “NGO Sector”; “Dealing with Truth”; “Is there a Republica Srpska?” and “Sustainable Return – Reality or Politicians’ lies?” BUKA initiated public discussion and dialogue on these issues. This is extremely important since these issues were not so often dealt with in the RS media. The TV talk show BUKA also serves to promote NDC Banjaluka as the initiator of a significant media product in accordance with the Nansen Dialogue Network mission.

PARTICIPANTS’ VIEWS

"Your projects are a great contribution to the development of the NGO sector and to the promotion of interethnic dialogue. Our Municipality will support all your reintegration projects in the future. I saw the ‘False bottom’ theater play and I loved it. Wish you all the best in the future.”

Ms. Dubravka Milobara – Banjaluka City Administration Department for returnees, refugees, IDPs and national minorities

"A moral need of a Norwegian to help other nations in danger, which is generally accepted, has been as well expressed in this region. Cooperation between my media house and NDC Banjaluka is just a part of my moral debt to Norway, the country which embraced me and my family in the hardest times of our lives”

Mr. Rezak Hukanovic, Director of the Independent 101 TV station, Sanski Most

Activities in bordering areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina

This activity is a continuation of the project that NDC Banjaluka launched at the end of August 2003 in the area of Canton 10 (Fed.) and Novi Grad (RS). The main aims were to re-establish cooperation between communities opposed to each other during the war and to initiate communication between members of different national groups in the communities that were directly involved in the war.

Instant response activities

These are ad-hoc activities that were initiated in immediate response to burning issues related to inter-ethnic relations. Within this project we initiated a dialogue process between the two bordering municipalities Prijedor and Sanski Most. A part of the dialogue initiative was a local conference called: “Prijedor- Sanski Most 1992 – 2004 – 2010”.

Network projects (see separate section)

NDC Banjaluka was involved in the following network projects in cooperation with the other Nansen Dialogue Centres in 2004:

- Balkan Regional Conference on Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding
- Divided Communities
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Regional School for Young Politicians
- Upbringing and Education for Human Rights (with NDC Mostar and NDC Sarajevo)
- “Stop the violence against Returnees!” (with NDC Mostar and NDC Sarajevo)
NDC SARAJEVO

Introduction

NDC Sarajevo was established in 2000, when the situation was still tense between the various population groups as a consequence of the brutal war in the 90’s. The need for inter-ethnic dialogue and confidence building was evident, and NDC Sarajevo aims to contribute to the development of a culture of dialogue, particularly between the different ethnic groups.

Although nine years have passed since the Dayton Peace Agreement was signed, inter-ethnic relations in Bosnia and Herzegovina are still marked by distrust and ethnic division. In October 2004 local elections were arranged. The election process went quite smoothly without any major incidents, but the voter turnout was only 45%. The national parties won the majority of the vote, which indicates that nationalistic rhetoric still prevails over inter-ethnic dialogue and reconciliation. The international community continues to put pressure on Bosnia and Herzegovina considering its internal structure, interethnic cooperation and its potential to solve intra-ethnic problems. This consequently raised tensions between the two entities and resulted in a crisis in the Council of Ministers.

Interethnic dialogue and freedom of choice.

The overall objectives of NDC Sarajevo activities are: political, social and economic changes in both Bosnia and Herzegovina as a consequence of the brutal war in the 90’s. The need for inter-ethnic dialogue and confidence building was evident, and NDC Sarajevo aims to contribute to the development of a culture of dialogue, particularly between the different ethnic groups.

The activities of NDC Sarajevo in 2004 were divided into three programme lines:

Interethnic dialogue in Community

In 2004, the main tool of NDC Sarajevo continued to be dialogue seminars, which proved to be an effective pedagogical tool in motivating the participants for social activism. All activities in this programme aim at information sharing and better human relations.

- Dialogue seminars for school teachers from Northeast & Eastern Bosnia
  This was a continuation of the project “Upbringing and Education for Human Rights” from 2003. During 2004, NDC Sarajevo together with OSCE – Field office Tužla, organised four seminars for schoolteachers from schools in Northeast and East Bosnia. Through realisation of these seminars we created space for promotion of interethnic dialogue, reconciliation and tolerance.

- Round tables in Central and East Bosnia:
  NDC Sarajevo organised four round tables in Eastern and Central Bosnia, Foca (RS), Vareš (Federation of BiH), Srebrenica (RS) and Višegrad (RS) in order to get better knowledge of the problems connected to return of refugees and displaced persons in this region. The roundtables were entitled: “Position of youth in the region”, “Rights of returnees” and “Building Trust”, and explored possible solutions to the existing problems.

- Round table: “Mine action and Peace building in BiH”
  This round table was a part of a policy research project conducted by FAFO - Institute for Applied International Studies, Norway and Landmine Action, UK in 2004. Nansen Dialogue Centre Sarajevo was the implementing partner in BiH. The main objective of this round table was to explore how mine action policies and practices interact with initiatives to resolve conflict and build peace.

- Journal for Literature and Culture – ALBUM
  In 2002, NDC Sarajevo took over the Journal for Literature and Culture ALBUM. This was a continuation of the co-operation between NDC Sarajevo and a local literary journal the first of its kind after the war. It is an open, textual space that includes and transcends diversities.

- United for Multicultural Action
  This was a continuation of the co-operation between NDC Sarajevo and the Dutch NGO network UNITED. The main goal for this year was to inform the public about the problem and the concept of racism.

Network projects (see separate section)

- Balkan Regional Conference on Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Regional School for Young Politicians
- Divided Communities
- Upbringing and Education for Human Rights (with NDC Banja Luka and NDC Sarajevo)
- “Stop the Violence against Returnees!” (with NDC Mostar and NDC Banja Luka)
- Virtual School (with NDC Osijek, NDC Montenegro and NDC Mostar)

Participants’ Views

“The Divided Communities project helped me to better understand human relations, both, as a journalist and as a human being. I believe that by participating in this project in future, I will be able to extend my expertise in dealing with conflict situations as a professional journalist.”

Vedrana Živak, Journalist in “Oslobodjenje”, Sarajevo

“It was a very positive experience. All practice gained from both seminars “Upbringing and Education for Human Rights” can be used in real life situations (active listening, non-violent communication, problem solving). I would recommend that other people from the educational sector attend such seminars in order to improve their skills in communication.”

Olivera Spremo, Teacher in Zvornik elementary school
NDC MOSTAR

Introduction
From 1992 – 1995, the war in and around Mostar was very brutal and destructive and included fierce fighting between Bosnian government forces and the Croat forces of Herzeg – Bosnia. The physical destruction of the town was heavy, and included the loss of the famous old bridge. The war left Mostar as one of the most shattered cities in former Yugoslavia. The legacy of war included the division of the city into two zones – one Bosniak, one Croat – and deepened interethnic tensions, suspicions and rivalries. Since the administrations of the city did not support interaction between the two sides of Mostar, there was a need for establishing an organisation, which would encourage all forms of dialogue among politicians and ordinary citizens and promote cohabitation and reconciliation as the only way to achieve economic prosperity and a peaceful, democratic society. NDC Mostar started its activities in September 2000 as a response to this need.

On January 28, 2004, the High Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Paddy Ashdown, imposed the new Statute of Mostar. It was sought to promote the identity, interests and cultural values of Both communities. However, the implementation of the statute implies serious challenges. Politics, education, economy and infrastructure still function separately. Displays of ethnic and religious hatred, discrimination and intolerance were a widespread occurrence in everyday life.

NDC Mostar sees itself as an agent of change, which creates a space for inter-ethnic dialogue between citizens of both sides of Mostar and their political representatives in power. The multi-ethnic team organises seminars, workshops and public debates with the aim of building confidence and educating the citizens on democratisation, peaceful conflict transformation and human rights.

ACTIVITIES IN 2004

NDC Mostar developed a series of activities in 2004 that provided space for opposing sides to identify common interests and realise that dialogue and reconciliation are the only ways to build a prosperous future. NDC Mostar succeeded in involving more than 1000 people in its activities. As a result, a large number of students and professionals created their own projects in different fields of civil society. Due to solid coverage by the media, NDC Mostar is in the position to attract high-ranking politicians and well-known persons to the centre’s activities, in addition to ordinary citizens. In that sense, NDC Mostar is acknowledged by the City administration as an organisation that successfully works on the interethnic dimension.

NDC Mostar’s activities in 2004 included two main programme lines: Interethnic Dialogue Seminars and Instant Response Activities, both with the aim of encouraging dialogue on topics of interest to all ethnic groups in Mostar and to promote human rights issues of returnees and IDPs in the Herzegovina region.

Dialogue Seminars
NDC Mostar organised several dialogue seminars in 2004. The seminars provided opportunities for interethnic, local cooperation among different professional groups and political currents, but also for regional cooperation through joint seminars with the two other NDCs in B&H and the Nansen Dialogue Network. NDC Mostar is widely renowned for its dialogue seminars, as it is the only approach of its kind in Herzegovina.

A seminar organised in Mostar encouraged local politicians and municipality officers to make serious steps in the direction of political cooperation, which could generate concrete initiatives aimed at breaking down divisions in this city by supporting the New Statute of Mostar.

The target groups of the seminar in Stolac were local authorities and young politicians from this region. The aim was to break down enemy images and stereotypes in an area of Herzegovina where political stands are dictated by national/religious interest.

A seminar organised with NDC Montenegro aimed at strengthening the links between young politicians.

Instant Response Activities
Working on interethnic dialogue and staying on the cutting edge sometimes requires activities organised at a day’s notice. Such ad hoc activities were covered by the Instant Response Activities programme line, within which NDC Mostar organised public debates, two-way street forums and campaigns on burning issues related to interethnic coexistence. The activities aimed at providing the necessary information about current economic and political issues, and to clarify the situation for the citizens. An accent was put on the importance of developing interethnic dialogue, cooperation and support for democratic principles between opposing political currents.

The events hosted a number of important names in the political and economic scene of Bosnia Herzegovina as well as a number of prominent journalists and editors-in-chief of some of the most popular media houses in the region. This series of well-attended events, in which guests presented their views, were followed by discussions, which gave the citizens an opportunity to voice their opinion. For a moment, national concerns were put aside and common interests were identified. The objectives of these activities were to inspire the local population to play a more active part in decision-making processes, to increase the level of civic participation, and to generate initiatives to address key problems.

Network projects (see separate section)
- Balkan Regional Conference Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding
- Divided Communities
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Regional School for Young Politicians
- Upbringing and Education for Human Rights (with NDC Sarajevo and NDC Banjaluka)
- “Stop the Violence against Returnees!” (with NDC Sarajevo and NDC Banjaluka)
- Motion in Triangle (with NDC Montenegro)
- Youth of Divided City and Divided Society for Unity” (with NDC Montenegro)
- Virtual School (with NDC Montenegro, NDC Sarajevo and NDC Osijek)
- Dialogue seminar: “Political skills for young politicians from Herzegovina and Montenegro” (with NDC Montenegro)

PARTICIPANTS’ VIEWS

"In the last four years, we organised different activities with NDC Mostar, which promoted dialogue and mutual understanding in our divided society. NDC Mostar is recognized as an organisation that succeeds in working on reconciliation processes in this area, so I think it would be significant partner in our future projects.”

Dzemal Sunje, Helsinki Committee, office in Mostar

"After taking part in the Divided communities project, my colleague and I from RTV Mostar made a set of radio shows, which covered various topics concerning the Herzegovina region. In this way we increased the awareness of community issues and helped to fulfil NDC Mostar’s mission of cooperation and dialogue work.”

Anita Zovko, Editor-in-Chief at TV Oscar-C, Mostar
NDC MONTENEGRO

Introduction
NDC Montenegro was established in May 2000 in a delicate political situation marked by severe tension between pro-federation and pro-independence supporters, which threatened to escalate into armed conflict.

The union of Serbia and Montenegro has failed to resolve the future relationship of the two republics in a long-term perspective. There is total lack of common purpose, consensus or shared commitment between two republics regarding the existence of the union. Besides that, the non-resolved status of Kosovo, and the negative reactions of the international community due to the lack of cooperation of the Serbian authorities with the tribunal in The Hague, further strengthen Montenegro’s strive for independence. Along with these challenges, the political, economic and social crisis is severe. The political and economic transition is slow, and tainted by different social deviations such as corruption and other forms of criminal behaviour, which considerably tarnishes the international reputation of Montenegro.

In 2004, the multiethnic composition of Montenegrin society, with the presence of a large number of refugees and IDPs with non-resolved status, adds to the difficult situation. The Albanian political parties further developed the initiative for pure Albanian regions in Montenegro, with a clear demand for different forms of autonomy for the Albanian population. The work on Law on Protection of Minority was not further developed the initiative for pure Albanian regions in Montenegro, with a clear demand for different ethnic / religious backgrounds.

ACTIVITIES IN 2004

Interethnic Dialogue
- **Public Activities on Interethnic Issues**
  The status of minorities and their rights were addressed in a round table: Harmonisation of Homogenisation, which focused on the draft Law on Minority Rights and by a dialogue evening and two lectures by Veton Surroi, publisher and editor in chief of “Koha Ditore”, Pristina, addressing the status of Albanians in Montenegro.

- **Workshops on Interethnic Dialogue**
  The project aimed at supporting the development of a network of politicians, NGO’s and media in Ulcinj. The programme on democracy, dialogue, communication, conflict management and participation of women in public life, aimed at empowering the participants for direct action in accordance with the community’s needs.

- **Communication School**
  The two-year programme aimed at improving the communication skills of young politicians, NGO activists, media representatives and people working on advocacy and PR, and to motivate them to take part in positive social change with accent on interethnic dialogue and conflict prevention.

Political Dialogue and Democratisation
- **Public Activities on Political Dialogue**
  The programme aims at increasing the awareness about the division lines that are sharply polarizing Montenegrin society, as well as issues that are part of a wider (regional or global) political context. Distinguished guest facilitators addressed: “Constitutional changes in Montenegro”; “Hate speech”; “Current Political Ideologies in Montenegro”, and: “Globalisation and the New Role of the National State”.

- **School of Democratic Leadership**
  The school targeted politicians from isolated municipalities in the North of Montenegro and Ulcinj. The ambition was to increase the participants’ knowledge and motivation for new ways of political organisation and to provide a venue for developing healthy inter-ethnic relations between politicians from different parties with different ethnic / religious backgrounds.

- **Workshops on Conflict Management**
  This series of workshops on Conflict Management detected and addressed the specific needs of municipal workers. It aimed at strengthening them to manage conflict situations they face in their professional life.

- **Friends of the public service**
  This “watch dog” activity was organized in cooperation with Association of Young Journalist with the purpose of creating a network for monitoring processes in the sphere of the public service.

Reconciliation and Conflict Prevention
- **Status of refugees and IDPs in Montenegro**
  This dialogue evening addressed the non-resolved status of refugees and IDPs, who face a slow and difficult integration into society due to a lack of applicable legislation along with the passivity of the state institutions and the Montenegrin society in dealing seriously with this problem.

- **Campaign for Conscientious Objection**
  In 2004, NDC was the only NGO in Montenegro to raise the problems of conscientious objectors and to represent Montenegro in the regional network: “Conscience for Peace”. The aim was to develop a set of legal measures to regulate the civilian service, to increase the number of conscientious objectors and change in the mainstream perception of Montenegro as a “warrior nation”.

Network projects (see separate section)
NDC Montenegro was involved in the following network projects in cooperation with the other Nansen Dialogue Centres in 2004:

- Balkan Regional Conference on Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding
- Divided Communities
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Regional School for Young Politicians
- Motion in Triangle (with NDC Mostar)
- Interethnic Relationships and Cross - Border Activities in Sandzak (with NDC Serbia)
- Seminars for young politicians from Herzegovina and Montenegro (with NDC Mostar)
- Virtual School (with NDC Osijek, NDC Mostar and NDC Sarajevo)
- Youth of Divided City and Divided Society for Unity (with NDC Mostar)

PARTICIPANTS’ VIEWS

“As a representative of the minority population in Montenegro, I am proud to be a member of NDCMN network, which aims at promoting interethnic relations, which is not so common in the Montenegrin context. Advocating dialogue and tolerance, NDCMN through its professional and responsible approach, has showed that the minorities are an advantage in this society and that cohabitation is possible and necessary”.

Izedina Adzovici, editor in chief of informative program of TV “Teuta” and Radio “Mir”, Tuzi

“NDC Montenegro significantly contributes to empowerment and to building mutual confidence among people in prevention of serious conflict. In 2004, the Mission of OEBS for Serbia and Montenegro awarded the municipality of Bijelo Polje as the most tolerant municipality in Montenegro. With no doubt, the activities of NDC Montenegro contributed to this.”

Refik Bojadli, lawyer, Vice President of the Bijelo Polje Municipality
KOSOVAN NANSSEN DIALOGUE

Introduction
The first Nansen Centre to facilitate interethnic dialogue in the Balkans was established in Pristina in 1998. Due to the war in 1999, the centre was temporarily closed. However, a new office opened in June 2000, named KIDS. The war had worsened the conditions for interethnic dialogue, and in order to meet the new situation, the initial focus of KIDS was to promote respect for human rights, and to work for an open, inclusive, transparent and democratic society. At the time, a burning issue was the situation in the ethnically divided city of Mitrovica. To meet this challenge, Nansen Dialogue Mitrovica was established. The multi-ethnic team focused on dialogue between Serbs and Albanians from the two sides of the city. In the years that followed, the two centres cooperated regularly. As a natural consequence, they merged into one organization in 2003, called Kosovan Nansen Dialogue (KND), with offices in Pristina and Mitrovica. After joining forces, a more efficient multietnic team now works to improve interethnic relations in Kosovo.

During 2004, the fragile nature of interethnic relations in Kosovo came to the centre of the international spotlight during the riots of March 17 and 18. These events were partly a consequence of the lack of genuine community based interethnic dialogue and reconciliation.

“We don’t repair houses, we prepare neighbourhoods” is a formulation we use to explain KND’s work and approach: The physical reconstruction of damaged buildings should be a priority. However, without communication and confidence building between the various ethnic communities living in Kosovo, the society will continue to be vulnerable to violence and instability. There has never been a greater need for interethnic dialogue at all levels of Kosovan society. It is the task of KND to do its part in offering opportunities for dialogue across the ethnic divide.

ACTIVITIES IN 2004
The KND mission is to build a peaceful, democratic, open and inclusive society in Kosovo by providing a safe space for interethnic dialogue and reconciliation; facilitate and contribute to the public debate in the Kosovan society; develop peace-building and conflict management capacities; and to strengthen regional cooperation. The KND Plan of Action for 2004 was interrupted because of the March riots. Therefore, it had to be adapted to the new situation by tackling the issues more directly at the community level.

Interethnic Dialogue with Municipal Officials
The aim of the program was to facilitate the dialogue between municipal officials of different ethnicities on issues that concern their community. The municipal officials are close to the people because they live in the community. Thus it is easier for them to point to common challenges and needs, such as employment, health, education, infrastructure, and issues relating to integration and return. The interethnic dialogue meetings of the municipal politicians and other officials organised by KND have also set an example for the citizens.

In 2004 KND organised several successful multi-day dialogue meetings with the officials from the municipalities of Fushë Kosova/Kosovo Polje and Obilje/Obljic. These dialogue meetings focused on dialogue as a tool for dealing with concrete problems and needs faced by the population in the respective municipalities. We have experienced that community based dialogue has increased the will to address important issues and has produced new ideas and increased the genuine will for interethnic cooperation on shared challenges in the municipal structures.

Dialogue on Returns Project
During 2004, KND was asked by UNMIK and the OSCE to provide staff and apply the Nansen dialogue methodology to facilitate the return processes in Kosovo. This is a pilot dialogue programme focussing on returnees and the receiving communities in Kosovo.

The program focused on the Mitrovica and Skenderaj/Srbica region and was conducted in cooperation with the OSCE, UNMIK, KFOR, UNHCR, NRC, NCA and other international actors. Mitrovica was chosen because it is considered as one of the key areas in Kosovo regarding return. The approach was not intrusive. It initially included separate meetings with both communities, which then were followed up by joint dialogue meetings. The advantage of KND is its positive reputation among the local communities, and different governmental and nongovernmental structures. This makes its access to these stakeholders more open, which increases the chances for success in this complicated process.

Work with the Kosovo Serb Community
Different communities in Kosovo have different needs and different perceptions of the situation and how to go about improving it. The ten years of segregation and five years of segregation and tension after the war have made some communities lose the will for and belief in dialogue with the neighbouring communities. In the recent years this has particularly been the case with the Kosovo Serb community, which has been living in separate enclaves in a parallel society. The activities with this community were designed to encourage and increase the willingness of people from the enclaves to start a dialogue with other ethnic groups in Kosovo, since dialogue is essential for establishing contact and cooperation between the communities.

Research on Organizations working with Interethnic Dialogue in Kosovo
Logical Solutions Group – LOGO – is a think tank project coordinated by KND, which functions as a body of knowledge on interethnic dialogue in Kosovo. The aim is to study what has been done, what has worked and what has not worked in terms of dialogue and reconciliation. It is very important to study the experiences and identify lessons learned from work on interethnic dialogue, in order to improve our engagement and provide the necessary information sharing.

Network projects (see separate section)
KND was involved in the following network projects in cooperation with the other Nansen Dialogue Centres in 2004:
• Balkan Regional Conference on Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding
• Divided Communities
• Regional School for Young Politicians
• Monitoring and Evaluation

Participants’ views

“With the inclusion in the work of Kosovan Nansen Dialogue, the Municipality of Fushë Kosova/Kosovo Polje has been able to get involved in the very important issue of interethnic dialogue and has made great achievements towards interethnic reconciliation. The usefulness of these trainings was in finding alternative methods of political dialogue with the aim of increasing the ability of conflict management and providing space for cooperation between different ethnicities, all this with the goal of joint accountability for better development of democratic processes. After participating in the KND dialogue seminars I can say very openly that I have started to think “a bit differently” on issues.”

Skënder Zogaj, President of the Municipal Assembly of Fushë Kosova/Kosovo Polje

“The positive outcome of the seminars is in that it created space for dialogue between experts dealing with dialogue issues and “workers” who face dialogue issues in their everyday work. It has given us the opportunity to develop meaningful dialogue using different approaches”.

Milan Djekic, Vice President of the Municipal Assembly of Fushë Kosova/Kosovo Polje
**NDC SKOPJE**

**Introduction**

By the end of 1999, the Republic of Macedonia was strongly affected by NATO’s intervention in Kosovo, and the Macedonian public was totally divided over the justification of the intervention. While ethnic Macedonians considered it to be an act of aggression, ethnic Albanians considered it to be an act of liberation. At the same time, several internal issues affected inter-ethnic relations in Macedonia, such as: the dispute over legalization of the Tetovo University in Albanian language; the use of Albanian in official communication; and proportional representation of Albanians in the state administration. When NDC Skopje was established in 2000, Macedonian society was strongly divided along ethnic lines, with no common vision for strategic development based on the multi-ethnic nature of the state.

The political landscape in Macedonia in 2004 was still highly unpredictable, and the process towards decentralized government turned out to be difficult and disordered. The new laws on decentralisation are among the reforms foreseen in the Ohrid framework agreement, which ended the armed conflict in 2001. In November, the oppositional political wing initiated a referendum in an attempt to abolish the new laws, which give more power to the municipal level. However, the attempt failed due to low voter turnout. This indicates that most citizens were not willing to risk reviving the ethnic conflict. Other important events in 2004 were that the USA officially accepted Macedonia by its constitutional name, and that the application for becoming a candidate for EU membership arrived.

NDC Skopje strives toward secure and sustainable development of Macedonia. Our objectives are to: strengthen our beneficiaries’ awareness, acceptance, understanding and appreciation of Macedonia’s and the region’s multi-ethnic and multicultural identity; and promote democracy, human rights, tolerance and peaceful conflict resolution.

According to its objectives, Nansen Dialogue Centre Skopje continued its inter-ethnic activities in 2004, promoting dialogue, multiculturalism and peaceful conflict resolution. NDC Skopje’s activities covered two main components: High school students, and representatives of the political parties’ youth organisations.

**Programme for the Political Parties’ Youth Organisations**

In this programme NDC Skopje continued to foster and strengthen cooperation among young members of the different political parties in Macedonia. The programme aims at raising the awareness of, and preparedness for the responsibilities and challenges they will encounter as senior politicians. “School for Young Politicians” took place in spring and autumn 2004. NDC Skopje also facilitated the establishment of “Forum of youth organisations of the political parties in Macedonia – UNITAS”. It aims at initiating and stimulating the process of dialogue and cooperation between the youth organisations of the political parties on the local, national and international level, despite their different ethnic backgrounds and political orientations. The forum consists of the 9 major political parties in Macedonia, and it is the first organisation of this kind in the Balkans.

**Programme for High School Students**

This programme targets inter-ethnic relations between high school students. The high schools in Macedonia are faced with firm division between Albanians and Macedonians as a result of the recent ethnic conflict. The programme aims at reestablishing trust between Macedonian and Albanian students, and promoting communication and dialogue between them. Other important aims are to strengthen the students’ capacity for overcoming and transforming conflicts and to promote multiculturalism and tolerance. Interactive methods are applied in the teaching process. A series of seminars took place in 2004: “Building Self-Confidence”, “Dialogue and Communication Skills”, and “Conflict Management”.

**Network projects (see separate section)**

- Divided Communities
- Balkan Regional Conference on Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding
- Regional School for Young Politicians
- Monitoring and Evaluation

**Participants’ Views**

“I have many impressions from the School for Young Politicians. First of all, I would like to mention that NDC Skopje is a very professional organisation, which showed generous hospitality and made us think and speak freely. My second impression is the good cooperation of all the participants from different political parties. My third and most important impression is that it changed our way of thinking.”

Ferdi Asani - Member of Party for Democratic Prosperity (PDP)

“Dialogue and debate, education and equality are key concepts when establishing healthy communication as a tool in conflict resolution. NDC Skopje was among the first to gather important actors in Macedonian society, in order to increase their awareness of these concepts in relation to peacebuilding and conflict prevention.”

Olivera Simovska – Macedonian Educational Forum

- Participant in Programme for the Political Parties’ Youth Organisations
Introduction

The NDCs experience themselves as a network. Their coordinators are largely recruited from previous participants in the dialogue training in Lillehammer, which gives them a joint frame of reference, with the same, underlying goals. The combination of personal contact and shared dialogue experience gives life to the common vision of a regional network. The network is not only working together on the net, but consists of people who have developed close relationships over the years. Thus, the Nansen Network promotes interethnic dialogue and is itself an expression and a model of such interethnic dialogue, both locally and regionally.

Although every conflict has its own story and identity, the conflicts in Western Balkan are interrelated. Thus, solutions to many of the challenges are not only to be found within each of the new states, but must partly be found in the relationship between them. The Nansen Network has a comparative advantage in this regard, since joint activities between different centres can address a variety of problems that are shared or interrelated, which require joint regional efforts. Some of the activities include all the different Nansen Dialogue Centres, while other activities include two or more centres. While a few activities aim at shared or interrelated, which require joint regional efforts. Some of the activities include all the different Nansen Dialogue Centres, while other activities include two or more centres.

Joint Activities in 2004

Political Dialogue in the Sandzak/Raska Region (NDC Serbia and NDC Montenegro)

The two centres continued the dialogue work with municipal political structures in the Sandzak/Raska region, which faces serious challenges due to its low level of inter-ethnic communication and its geographical position between Serbia and Montenegro. Local political actors came together to address the most burning political, territorial, intraethnic and interethnic issues in the area. A series of public debates and lectures emphasised the importance of inter-ethnic cooperation and tolerance, and visit to their counterparts in Norwegian municipalities was organised. So far, the project has resulted in several initiatives for smaller joint projects for the benefit of five municipalities.

Motion in Triangle (NDC Montenegro and NDC Mostar)

This project initiated inter-regional cooperation in the “triangle zone” between Croatia (Dubrovnik region), Montenegro and Herzegovina where previous close contacts were broken off during the 90’s. It was conceptualised and developed as cultural project, since culture can transcend division/conflict lines and clear the way for more direct dialogue and conflict management in the future. The main activity was a joint exhibition of respectable artists from the three countries entitled: “Distant Neighbourhoods – Restoring Closeness”, presented in the three towns: Dubrovnik, Mostar and Celinje. The exhibition got massive public attention and was recognised as a high quality cultural event that contributed to reconciliation.

Upbringing and Education for Human Rights (NDC Sarajevo, NDC Banjaluka and NDC Mostar)

The education sector in BiH is still severely ethnically divided. In order to stimulate positive change in the education sector, the three NDCs in Bosnia and Herzegovina and OSCE co-operated on tailor-made seminars for teachers from both entities of BiH. The main goals were increased understanding and communication; better conditions for children to attend school according to territorial belonging rather than ethnic background; more focus on the needs of returnee pupils; and ultimately integrated schools and classes.

Seminars for young politicians from Herzegovina and Montenegro (NDC Mostar and NDC Montenegro)

Two seminars in Dubrovnik and Kotor gathered young politicians from Herzegovina and Montenegro. The purpose was to strengthen their skills in dialogue and non-violent communication and to establish and develop multidimensional links between the participants and between the two NDC’s.

Youth of Divided City and Divided Society for Unity (NDC Montenegro and NDC Mostar)

The project gathered young NGO members, young politicians, journalists and NDN activists from Niksic and Mostar. It aimed at improving communication between these communities through exploring the concept of national/cultural identity and discussing common problems and the importance of cross border cooperation.

Stop the Violence against Returnees! (NDC Sarajevo, NDC Banjaluka and NDC Mostar)

The three Nansen Dialogue Centres in Bosnia and Herzegovina jointly organised the campaign: “Stop the Violence Against Returnees” as a response to frequent violence against these citizens.

Virtual School (NDC Montenegro, NDC Sarajevo and NDC Osijek)

“Dialogue, Democracy and Peaceful Conflict Resolution”

This school was based on Internet communication between the participants and lecturers. The aim was to exchange and express opinions on different topics related to: Democratic Order, Conflict Analysis, Overcoming Conflicts, Human Rights, Conscientious Objection, Tolerance and Dialogue Practice.

Divided Communities (all NDCs)

One of the consequences of the wars in ex-Yugoslavia is ethnically divided communities. The network therefore decided to create a space for sharing experiences related to this situation. The project aimed at contributing to dialogue between media representatives, and gave opportunities for discussing the particular challenges and responsibilities of the media in war and interethnic conflict. In 2004, a summer school was organised in the Nansen Academy, in addition to several meetings locally, for strategic planning and follow up of joint media projects.

Regional School for Young Politicians

The aim of the project was to establish relations and explore the potential for future cooperation between young politicians from various political parties in the South West Balkans. The participants were selected by the different NDCs and the school took place in Ohrid. The programme focused on the region’s relations to the EU and NATO and the relations between the different states in the region.
The Balkan Regional Conference on Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding (all NDC’s)
In accordance with the UN Secretary-General’s Recommendation 27 in his report on the Prevention of Armed Conflict, a global conference on the role of NGOs in conflict prevention will take place in July, 2005. The Nansen Dialogue Network was asked to coordinate these efforts in the Balkan region. In 2004, the network organised the various national conferences in addition to the Balkan Regional Conference on Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding, which took place in Herzeg Novi in November.

Monitoring and evaluation (all NDC’s)
The Nansen Dialogue Network regularly conducts systematic evaluation of its activities. In 2004, the focus of this long-term project was on impact assessment on the network level. Some of the strategies and tools for impact assessment were modified and tested, based on the experiences of the network, international consultants and up-to-date literature. In 2004 the M&E team went through a thorough, impact assessment training, to strengthen their skills for monitoring and evaluating the network’s performance and impact.

Network Committee (all NDC’s)
The Network Committee has one representative from each Nansen Dialogue Centre and a representative of the project management, and has bi-monthly meetings in the region. The NetCom deals with issues that are relevant for the network as a whole, and is a consultative body for the Project Management.

Annual Report (all NDC’s)
The annual report is a joint effort between all the Nansen Dialogue Centres and the Project Management. The editorial board consists of one representative from each centre and one representative of the Project Management. The report is a joint product, - a visual demonstration of a network that surpasses ethnic divisions and geographical borders in Western Balkan.

Supporters of the Nansen Dialogue Network in 2004:
The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs remained the main financial supporter of the Nansen Dialogue Network in 2004. Other supporters of specific projects were:

- An International Centre of Excellence for the Study of Peace an Conflit – University of Ulster (INCORE)
- Austrian Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Balkan Trust for Democracy
- Centre di servizi documentazione per la cooperazione economica internazionale (INFORMEST)
- Council of Europe
- Delegation of the European Commission to the Republic of Croatia
- European Centre for Conflict Prevention (ECCP), Netherlands
- European Union
- Human Rights Centre, University of California, Berkeley
- HELP, Germany
- Institute for Applied International Studies Norway
- Interkulturelles Zentrum, Vienna, Austria
- Monet GSM
- Open Society Foundation of Montenegro
- Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
- Oktidal Municipality, Norway
- Pax Christi, Netherlands
- Swedish Youth Council
- Swiss Cultural Program Bosnia and Herzegovina
- United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)
- USAID
- World Bank
- AIESEC, Macedonia
- Albanian Peace and Disarmament Project
- Albert E, Osijek
- Alternativa TV station, Banjaluka
- Altritrust Centre, Split
- Association for National Minorities in RS, Banjaluka
- Associations of Kosovo Municipalities
- Association of Young Journalists
- Association “Truth and Reconciliation in BH”, Sarajevo
- Aurora (NGO), Ucinj
- Balkan radio, Banjaluka
- Banjaluka City Administration Department for returnees, refugees, IDPs and national minorities
- Belgrade Open School
- BRICC, Beli Manastir
- Bulgarian School of Politics
- B92 TV station, Belgrade
- Centre for Informative Decontamination of Youth, Banjaluka
- Centre for Civil Initiatives, Banjaluka
- Centre for International Relations, Banjaluka
- Campaign for conscience objections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo
- Center for promotion of the Civil Society – Sarajevo, BiH
- Centre for New Visions, Prijedor
- Centre for Non-violent action, Sarajevo
- Centre for Peace, Non-violence and Human rights, Osijek
- Centre for Peace Studies, Zagreb
- Civic Initiatives, Serbia
- Croatian Academic Association, Split
- Croatian Helsinki Committee, FO Karlovac
- Coalition for Work With Psycho-trauma and Peace, Vukovar
- Coalition for promotion and protection of human rights, Osijek
- Consenquents for Peace - Regional Network
- Coordination Body for South Serbia
- Council of Europe
- Danish Refugee Council
- Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Republica Srpska – Bijeljina
- Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Sarajevo
- Institute for Applied International Studies (FAFO), Norway
- Institute for Education of the Republic of Croatia, branch office Osijek
- Integra, Prijedor
- International Centre of Excellence for the Study of Peace and Conflict – University of Ulster (INCORE)
- International Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO)
- ITC (field office of Radio and television of RS), Prijedor
- Jasenka Pregrad, Psychologist
- JIP Poljine – Media House, Prijepolje
- Esprit radio, Prijedor
- European Centre for Conflict Prevention (ECCP)
- European Commission delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina
- European Law Student Associations
- Faculty of Philosophy, Banjaluka
- Forum of Citizens of Tuzla
- Forum of Women, Bratunac
- Foundation for Creative Development
- Genesis – project, Banjaluka
- Glas Srpse - daily newspapers, Banjaluka
- Helsinki Citizens Assembly, Banjaluka
- Landmine Action, UK
- Life Centre International, Fužine
- Local Democratic Agency, Mostar
- Local Democracy Agency, Niksic
- “Maja” – Kravice, BiH
- Mali Korak, Zagreb, Croatia
- MAP consulting services, Zagreb
- MANS – Network for Affirmation of NGO sector, Montenegro
- Mixed secondary school, Sanski Most
- Most, Split
- Mostar City administration and city municipalities
- Mostar Intercultural Festival (MIFOC)
- Muslim Charitable Society “Herhamet”, Banjaluka
- Nansen Academy
- National Democratic Institute for International Affairs - NDII
- Kozarski vjesnik, weekly newspaper, Prijedor
- National Museum of Montenegro
- National Theatre, Prijedor
- Nezavisna TV 101 station, Sanski Most
- Nezavisne novine, daily newspapers, Banjaluka
- NGO Most, Visegrad
- Norwegian Church Aid
- Norwegian Helsinki Committee
- Norwegian People’s Aid
- Novine Vranjanske
- Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Monitor Yugoslav Affairs, Belgrade
- Institute for Applied International Studies Norway
- Mittellandmedien, Stuttgart
- Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Berlin
- Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Vienna
- Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Washington, DC
- Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Leeuwarden
- Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Brussels
- Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Stanford
- Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Münster
- Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Bonn
- Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Frankfurt
- Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Brussels
- Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Washington, DC
- Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Leeuwarden
- Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Brussels
- Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Berlin
- Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Washington, DC
- Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Leeuwarden
- Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Brussels
- Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Bonn
- Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Frankfurt
- Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Brussels
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- Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Brussels
- Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Berlin
- Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Washington, DC
- Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Leeuwarden
- Institute for Middle Eastern Studies, Brussels
• Oksigen radio, Banjaluka
• Organisation for Civil Initiatives - OGI, Osijek
• Organization for Promotion of Humanity and Urban Culture (HUK), Knin
• Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Mission in Kosovo
• Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina
• Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Mission to Croatia
• Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Mission to Serbia and Montenegro
• Orkdal Municipality, Norway
• Pax Christi, Benkovac
• Peaceful Action of Humanists, Rakovica
• Political Resource Centre Mostar
• Primary school, Kozarac
• Radio Danube, Vukovar
• Radio Ok
• Radio television of Republika Srpska, Banjaluka
• Refugee Return Service, Dvvar
• Research and Documentation Centre, Sarajevo
• Sanus, Prijedor
• School of Peace, Mrkopalj
• Society for Psychological Assistance, Zagreb
• Srcom do mira, Kozarac
• SRNA news agency, Prijedor,
• St. Sava Youth Association, Banjaluka
• SWEDISH YOUTH COUNCIL
• Tintilić, Benkovac
• The Executive Council of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina
• Theresianum, Presnace parish, Banjaluka
• Trebinje Alternative Club
• TV Spekti
• UNITED, Netherlands
• UNION OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN MACEDONIA
• Union Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina
• UNITAS
• United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
• United Women, Banjaluka
• University of Montenegro
• University of Oslo
• Urban IN, Novi Pazar
• UrbaNS, video productions, Novi Sad
• Women Action “Vidra”, Banjaluka
• Women's Association “Women to women”, Sarajevo
• Wolf and Water Arts Company, Devon
• Youth Centre, Gornji Vakuf
• Youth Communication Centre, Banjaluka
• Democratic Centre “Nove nade”, Foca
• Democratic Centre “Nove nade”, Visegrad
• Democratic Leadership Program
• Dijakom, Prijedor / Sanski Most
• Electro-technical secondary school, Prijedor