

## **CENTRO STUDI DIFESA CIVILE (CSDC) - *Civilian Defence Research Centre***

The CDSC was founded in 1988 and has since then contributed to the development of social research on peace and security issues in Italy.

Since the year 2000, CSDC members formed a cooperative enterprise, called **Mediazioni**, to deal with operational, administrative and organisational aspects of training and communication activities.

CSDC adhere to:

- the Italian network **Associazione per la Pace** (Peace Association);
- the **European Network for Civil Peace Services** (EN.CPS);
- the International NGO **Nonviolent Peaceforce**.

### **Vision and Mission:**

Conflict is a natural and unavoidable aspect of human existence. The way in which we manage personal and social conflicts influence chances to accomplish a balanced and open society. The responsibility to control violence is up to State-directed armed forces. The transformation of violence, the research for less destructive defence methods and the effective reduction of conflicts negative effects is up to the responsibility of society. Social cohesion doesn't only come from declared goals, it depends mainly on the quality of its glue – interpersonal relations. A mature and safe society should:

- face and resolve daily conflicts constructively;
- use appropriate instruments for dialogue, defence of civil rights, civil protection and humanitarian aid, also in other countries.

CSDC mission is the spreading of constructive conflict management tools to overcome intra and inter state tensions. CSDC operates in the fields of research and training to promote collaborations at a national and international level. Principal aims of the CSDC are:

- to promote non armed civilian defence (or non violent popular defence);
- to analyse the transition from armed to non armed defence;
- to promote the research concerning non violent conflict management;
- to develop historical researches on non armed cases of Resistance.

The CDSC working method is inspired by Gandhi's principle that a seed is equivalent to a tree.

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### Publications:

- *Una forza non armata sotto l'egida dell'ONU – utopia o necessità* ("An Unarmed Force under the aegis of the UN - utopia or necessity"). Edited by CSDC; published by Edizioni formazione e lavoro, Roma 1988.
- *La resistenza NON armata* ("The Unarmed Resistace"). Edited by Giorgio Giannini; published by Editrice SINNOS, Roma 1995.
- *L'opposizione popolare al fascismo* ("People's Opposition to Fascism"). Edited by Giorgio Giannini; published by Edizioni Qualevita, Torre dei Nolfi 1996.
- *La difesa civile e il progetto caschi bianchi. Peacekeepers civili disarmati.* ("Civilian Defence and the White Helmets Project. Unarmed civilian peacekeepers"); edited by Francesco Tullio; published by Franco Angeli, Milano 2000, pp. 158. Research commissioned by the Military Centre for Strategic Studies (**Centro Militare di Studi Strategici - CeMiSS**), **Ministry of Defence**, Italy.
- *Le ONG e la trasformazione dei conflitti. Le operazioni di pace nelle crisi internazionali. Analisi, esperienze, prospettive.* (NGOs and conflict transformation. Peacebuilding activities in international crises. Analysis, experiences and perspectives). Edited by Francesco Tullio; published by Editrice Internazionale, Roma 2002, pp. 520. Research commissioned by the Office for UN matters, **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, Italy.

### Research activities

The CSDC promoted the Committee for a *Research and Training Centre on Conflicts and Peace* (CeCoP) c/o the **University of Perugia**. In collaboration with the Rectorate of the **University of Perugia** a set of meetings on *Research, conflict and development* were organised for University professors, students and representatives of the civil society.

The CSDC, in collaboration with other Italian associations, is campaigning in Italy to support the realization by law of an *International Institute of Research on Conflict Transformation and Peace* ("Istituto Internazionale di Ricerca per la Pace e la Risoluzione dei Conflitti"). A presentation of the law to the National Parliament is expected soon.

The CSDC, along with several partners from different european countries, has proposed two Expression of Interest to the VI Framework program of the EU for the realization of:

- a network of excellence titled *The European Network for Research on Nonviolent Conflict Transformation*, and;
- an integrated project titled *Chances and Methods for Violence Prevention and Nonviolent Conflict Transformation*.

CSDC members collaborated in the research *Kurds in Europe. From asylum right to social right*, co-ordinated by the **Italian Peace Association** and financed by the **European Commission, DG Employment and Social Affairs**.

CSDC is partner, in the Socrates framework, of a Grundtvig 1 preproposal with a German leadership titled *Entwicklung eines europaeischen Curriculumms fur die Ausbildung zum "Trainer/ Trainerin in zivilier gewaltfreier Konfliktbearbeitung" mit Modellausbildung* ("Development of a European Curriculum for training of "Trainers in civil and nonviolent conflict management ", with a pilot training course).

The cooperative **Mediazioni** has been/is involved in the following european projects:

- in the Socrates framework, is leader of a Minerva project on *Training Instruments for positive conflict and difference management with ITC tools*, with 9 partners from 7 different countries;
- in the Socrates framework, a Grundtvig 1 preproposal with a Polish leadership titled *How to deal with a professional Burn Out among teachers*;
- in the Socrates framework, a Grundtvig 1 preproposal with a French leadership titled *Relations interactives et Développement de L'Employabilité*.

### Main Conferences

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- *La lotta non armata nella resistenza* ("The Unarmed Fight during the Resistance") held in Rome, 25/10/1993;
- *L'articolo 11 della Costituzione: una scelta di pace per l'Italia* ("Article 11 of the Italian Constitution: a choice of peace for Italy"), with a contribution by the Committee for the 50th Anniversary of the Republic and Constitution, Rome, October 1997.
- *Ricerca, conflitti e sviluppo* ("Research, conflicts and development") in collaboration with and c/o the **University of Perugia**; eight meetings, held in the period April - October 2001, between University professors and representatives of the Church and professional Umbrian institutions.
- *Il ruolo delle ONG nelle crisi internazionali* ("The role of Non Governmental Organisations in International Crises"); in collaboration with and c/o the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**, General Secretariat, Unity for Analysis and Programs, Villa Madama, Rome, 25/07/2001.

### Training activities

- In 1999, the **CDSC** held, in collaboration with the **Municipality of Rome**, three courses for *Operatori civili di pace nelle missioni internazionali* targeted to civil servants involved in international peace missions;
- in the year 2000, in conjunction with the Italian **Association for Peace**, two training courses for *Operatori di pace nelle missioni internazionali* were held in the Campania region;
- a 500 hundred hour training for *Mediatori Internazionali di Pace* ("International Peace Mediators"), financed by the **European Social Fund** and the Lazio Regional Administration were held in Rome by the **CDSC** and the **Municipality of Rome** in the period Maj- November 2002, the course will be presented in other Italian regions;
- in the year 2002, in Arezzo, in conjunction with other associations were held the training course *Intermediare i conflitti* for the prevention and management of micro-conflicts in urban areas. The course has been financed by **CESVOT, Centro Servizi Volontariato Toscana**;
- **CDSC** carries out projects, training and direction of urban safety interventions in collaboration with the **Municipality of Rome**, *Roma città di Pace*, and the **Municipality of Perugia**, *Perugia sicura*;
- in the year 2002 in Pozzuoli (Naples) the cooperative **Mediazioni** in collaboration with **Istituto Universitario Orientale** di Napoli and with the Association **SMILE** Campania, is at moment conducting a 1400 h. course for *Tecnico Esperto in Monitoraggio e Tutela dei Diritti Umani e degli Immigrati* (Technician Expert in Monitoring and Defending Human and Immigrants Rights).

The **CDSC** manages and directs training courses for:

- civil servants,
- city centre district operators and volunteers,
- socio-cultural staff,
- observers and operators on peace missions.

### Interventions in schools

In 1999, an interactive exhibition called *Gli altri siamo noi* ("We are the others") was held in the municipality of Perugia, Bastia Umbra and Terni in which 70 volunteers, 300 teachers and 4000 students participated.

The **CDSC** is now collaborating with the *Piacenza psychopedagogic centre for peace* in order to promote the exhibition *Conflitti, litigi e altre rotture* ("Arguments, conflicts and break ups") which demonstrates methods for teaching 9-16 years olds about different cultures and tolerance.

The **CDSC** holds training courses dealing with conflict in the field of education, for both teachers and students of different levels.

### Staff

**Chairman:** Mr. Giovanni Scotto, (Phd.) visiting professor University of Florence, researcher at the Berghof Institute for Constructive Management, Berlin;

**Honorary Chairman:** Mr. Francesco Tullio (Professor), psychiatrist, professor at University of Perugia, international executive board of **Nonviolent Peaceforce**, Perugia;

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Mr. Mario Cucchia, administrative expert, President of the cooperative **Mediazioni**, Perugia;  
Ms. Cristiana De Blasi, researcher in international relations, Rome;  
Mr. Karl Giacinti, international relations expert, responsible office in Rome;  
Mr. Giorgio Giannini (Professor), historian, Rome;  
Ms. Carla Liuzzi, trainer in Perugia;  
Mr. Sandro Mazzi, researcher in philosophy and peace studies, responsible office in Perugia;  
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