

Civilian Defence Research Centre

Report 2003

The present report is a synthesis of the Italian version

From research to action for a constructive transformation of conflicts

The CSDC was born in 1984 as an association of social promotion operating at a local, national and international level, in order to spread an operating culture and the tools for the prevention and the nonviolent transformation of conflicts.

Targets: CSDC promotes researches on the subjects of constructive conflict management as well as on alternatives to military defence and to the security policy of Italy and of the European Union. As far as training is concerned, CSDC plans and carries out trainings aiming to give professional skills to humanitarian workers and to peace mediators committed into conflict situations and in *peacebuilding*. Finally, CSDC promotes and/or takes part to political events and to information campaigns aiming to awaken public opinion and institutions to the power and the strategies of constructive conflict management and prevention.

Networking: CSDC takes part to coordinations and campaigns together with other subjects (movements, associations, groups, parties, enterprises, institutions) giving priority to those activities supporting both the unity and a greater influence of the organization networks working in Rome, in Italy and in Europe in the field of constructive conflict management. In this sense, CSDC aims to become a resource available to civilian society and to the State for both alternative policies to military defence and nonviolent training. CSDC works to improve communication between institutions and civilian society, in order to make civilian intervention of conflict prevention, management and transformation as effective as possible. In the long term, CSDC perspective is to contribute to the building of a national infrastructure for conflict transformation in Italy, within which different actors meet the research, training, intervention and evaluation demands as good as they can.

CSDC is a thematic group supporting the Associazione per la Pace (The Peace Association). Thus, through its scientific and training activity, it contributes to the growth of the Italian peace movement as well as to spread within it the culture of constructive conflict management.

From a gandhian point of view, according to which the seed is equal to the tree, CSDC takes a great care of the working method, beyond its contents.

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Letter of the President

We feel that the international system is going through an epochal transformation. All over the world, millions of citizens are becoming aware of how important such a moment is, and they show their preference for the forms of the diplomatic management and prevention of international crises. The crisis of the international normative system after the Iraq war on the one hand, and the proliferation of conflicts and of "forgotten" war on the other hand, compel us to materialize the thought and the values of nonviolence into practicable political options. Choosing peace means building it into concrete actions, into our everyday choices and into the foreign political ones, bringing our country contribution even to those processes less followed by media, but crucial to ensure stability and a welfare future to our planet.

Born within the peace movement of the '80s, CSDC has operated with continuity and perseverance, especially promoting the idea of civil peace corps since 1984. CSDC is presently committed to single out peace tools and grounds at an Italian and European level, as for instance the proposal to create an European *peacebuilding* agency or the training of new professional characters appointed to work in these fields.

Since 2001, CSDC promotes professional trainings for international peace operators and mediators. Last year, the Self-governing Province of Bolzano and the Alexander Langer Foundation have approved this idea and have offered, together with CSDC, a yearly training course for "peace operators", launching an inter-regional project on this theme, to which several other regions have joined. It is a great success for the creation of an Italian expert pool on the themes of peacebuilding and of constructive conflict management.

Such an important training work has allowed us to qualify peace operators as professional man and women. In this sense, we hope and aim to make the most of these new professions, hopefully creating peace civil corps and also including the operators in different frameworks, which might be enriched by them, such as: development cooperation, voluntary apprenticeship, "third sector", education, training, local bodies.

It is CSDC's belief that the contribution coming from below be very precious, in that it is something that brings richness and value in itself.

In 2004 *Centro Studi Difesa Civile* celebrates twenty years of life, recently crowned by a constant growth, which allowed CSDC to become a landmark in training and research on the nonviolent conflict transformation in Italy. All this would not have been possible if CSDC members had not given it a great deal of energies and resources during these years.

In the future, we will more and more promote the peace research trend, supporting those young researchers who are willing to set out on the uncertain way of *peace research* in our country. It would thus be possible to carry out researches of immediate importance for the Italian peace movement and especially for peace workers committed into conflict situations and in *peace building*.

We are satisfied with the job we have done so far, and we are sure that in the next few years, the CSDC activity will still grow as far as its quality and incisiveness are concerned. Therefore we wish to keep on receiving your attention and your support.

The President
Giovanni Scotto

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1 Cultural and Political Initiatives

In the year 2003, CSDC activities for the promotion of a culture of constructive conflict management has focused on the relationship with the peace movement and with the members of parliaments at a local and national level. In this sense, the Italian six-month period of European Union presidency has given an unique chance to relaunch the themes of violent conflict prevention and transformation in Italy. CSDC, even through its commitment into several European and international networks, has played an important part in connecting north European and Anglo-Saxon organizations and Italian grass-root organizations.

Although the dialogue with central Institutions is sometimes difficult, CSDC activity has done very well at the local organization level, carrying out initiatives on the themes of civil intervention in international conflicts and of training to constructive conflict management at both local and international level (see also chapter 4). The dialogue with academic Institutions as well has been very good. In fact, during this year, the CSDC reporters' attendance, as well as the integration of CSDC forms, into university Masters and in specialization courses on the themes of peace and of constructive conflict management have increased.

1.1 National Networks and Campaigns

Campaign for the realization of an International Institute for Peace and Conflict Management (IIPCO): CSDC has contributed to the writing of a project of law for the creation of the IIPCO. This project has later on been presented in the Italian Parliament from parliamentarians of the government and of the opposition coalitions. Afterwards, in collaboration with the International Fellowship of Reconciliation of Padua and with the financing of Banca Etica ("Ethic Bank"), CSDC has promoted a campaign for the creation of IIPCO.

Italian Network "Towards Civil Peace Corps": CSDC has actively participated in the secretariat of this network, composed by 10 Italian associations, that promotes a Civil Peace Corp consisting in special civil professional men and women who can operate in crisis or in conflict situations.

Italian Network for Disarmament: CSDC is among those associations who have given birth to the organizing Committee for the creation of a standing network on the issues of trade control and weapon production.

Colombia Lives! CSDC has actively participated to the *Colombia Lives!* campaign and network, supporting the civil nonviolent resistance of Colombian peace communities.

1.2 International Networks and Campaigns

European Network of Civil Peace Services (EN.CPS): CSDC joins the European Network of Civil Peace Services (EN.CPS), which is an European NGOs network working in the field of violent conflict prevention and management through the training and/or the sending of civil teams in conflict areas. CSDC has especially taken part to the preliminary meetings of the steering committee for the preparation of an intervention in Cyprus.

Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP): CSDC, as a member organization of NP, has taken part to the preliminary meetings as well as to the launch of the International Organization of Nonviolent Peaceforce held in India, where Francesco Tullio was elected in the International Governing Council.

European Peace Building Liaison Office (EPLO): CSDC takes part to several initiatives of the European NGOs network office, working in the Peacebuilding. In September 2003, CSDC and EPLO have organized the *Inter Agency Forum* (that is a meeting gathering NGOs and Institutions working in conflict prevention); in such meeting, the Italian Presidency was received. CSDC has also taken part to a group working on a European Agency for Peacebuilding proposals as well as to the meeting with the Greek Presidency.



On the occasion of the Italian six-month period of the European Union Presidency, CSDC has edited and promoted the Italian edition of the following document "*Consolidare l'impegno nella prevenzione dei conflitti violenti: Priorità per le presidenze greca ed italiana dell'Unione Europea nel 2003*" (Ensuring Progress in the prevention of violent conflict: priorities to the Greek and Italian Presidency of the European Union in the year 2003) taking up the sending of copies to the Foreign Commissions of the Chamber House and of the Senate, to the Italian members of the European Parliament and to the NGOs joining the NGO Italian Association.

1.3 Institutions

Italian and European Parliament: CSDC has organized and taken part to several public and informal meetings to find alternatives to the European Security and Defence Policy (PESD) and for civil intervention in those conflicts where Italian and European Members of Parliament, belonging to different political line-ups, have taken part.

At the local level, CSDC has had collaboration with the following administrations: *Municipality of Rome, Self-governing Province of Bolzano, Municipality and Province of Ferrara, Municipality of Narni and Province of Terni*

1.4 Universities, Training and Education Centres

Members of CSDC have collaborated to university courses, masters and seminars held in several Italian universities and research centres. The CSDC theoretical and cultural guide-lines have won the interest of many post-university internationalist courses, among which we mention those having included the intervention of CSDC members and/or CSDC forms in their teaching planning:

- *University of Florence*, Faculty of Letters and Philosophy;
- *University of Rome La Sapienza*, Department of Sociology and Communication;
- *University of Rome III*, Faculty of Political Sciences, master in Peacekeeping and Security Studies;
- *University of Perugia*, Faculty of Letters and Philosophy;
- *University of Siena*, at the centre of Arezzo, Faculty of Letters and Philosophy;
- *SIOI* (Italian Society for the International Organization); *ISIG* (Gorizia Institute of International Sociology);
- *Alex Langer Foundation*, Euromediterranea 2003 (Summer school).

2. Research and Publications

Within the promotion of the research on violent conflict prevention and management, CSDC has strengthened the relationship with institutional representatives, offering an effective and concise knowledge (policy paper and recommendations) of the civil society possible contributions in this field. The promotion of the above-mentioned document "Ensuring Progress in the prevention of violent conflict" is an example of this proposal acting in synergism with institutions. This document has been sent to 140 members of both the parliament and the ministries concerned with this theme, as well as to many organizations of the civil society, and has had a good success in terms of interest and evaluations.

In the year 2003, the CSDC activity of research and publications was given a new impulse especially from planning in the European circle and especially within the VIth Framework Programme, expressly dealing with research projects. Nevertheless, it is still very difficult to obtain sufficient funds that enable us to publish the numerous research outcomes in a satisfying and autonomous way. This does not allow us to attach a practical aim to the numerous contributions of CSDC collaborators in terms of publications made by the Associations, nor to include them into systematic and far-reaching research programmes.

Volumes:

Giovanni Scotto, *Conflitti e Mediazione* (Conflicts and Mediation), in collaboration with Emanuele Arielli. Bruno Mondadori Edizioni, Milan 2003

Giovanni Scotto, *Die Rolle von externen Nicht-Regierungsorganisationen im Friedensprozess in Bosnien-Herzegowina am Beispiel der Stadt Mostar* (The role of international NGOs in the peace process in Bosnia-Herzegovina: the case of Mostar), Münster, 2003.

Articles and Contributions:

"Consolidare l'impegno nella prevenzione dei conflitti violenti: Priorità per le presidenze greca ed italiana dell'Unione Europea nel 2003" (Ensuring Progress in the prevention of violent conflict: priorities to the Greek and Italian Presidency of the European Union in the year 2003), Saferworld and International Alert, Italian Edition by CSDC, Rome, May 2003.

Feasibility Study on the European Civil Peace Corps (ECPC), study ordered by the DG for Research of the European Parliament; main author Catriona Gourlay (ISIS

Europe); contributions of Martina Fischer (Berghof Research Center), Alessandro Rossi (CSDC), Babs Sivertsen (Nowergian Peace Alliance), January 2004.

Alessandro Rossi and Davide Berruti, *Prevenzione, trasformazione e gestione dei conflitti nelle strategie delle organizzazioni internazionali* (Conflict prevention, transformation and management in the international organizations' strategies), edited by the Alexander Langer Foundation, in course of publication.

Alessandro Rossi, *L'Unione Europea per la trasformazione dei conflitti: dalla gestione civile delle crisi ai corpi civili di pace* (The European Union for conflict transformation: from the civil management of crises to peace civil corps) in "Terrorismo, pace e la possibile politica estera europea" (Terrorism, peace and the possibile Europe foreign policy), ISIG – Istituto di Sociologia Internazionale di Gorizia (Gorizia International Institute of Sociology), Franco Angeli 2003.

Giovanni Scotto and Karl Giacinti: *Global governance e prevenzione dei conflitti violenti: il ruolo delle istituzioni e della società civile europea* (Global governance and violent conflict prevention: the role of institutions and of the european civil society), in "Volontari e Terzo Mondo XXXI" (Volunteers and Thirld World XXXI), 1-2/2003, p. 81-93.

Giovanni Scotto, *Whither world peace? Six theses for security and conflict transformation in the XXI century*, edited by Jörg Calliess, Die Erneuerung der transatlantischen Partnerschaft (The renewal of the transatlantic partnership), Loccumer Protokolle, 10/01, p. 359-365.

Sandro Mazzi and Davide Berruti, *I Corpi civili di pace e la collaborazione tra difesa civile e difesa militare: esperienze formative a confronto* (Peace civil corps and the collaboration between civil defence and military defence: comparing training experiences) edited by the Alexander Langer Foundation, in course of publication.

Sandro Mazzi, *Danilo Dolci e la santità laica* (Danilo Dolci and lay holiness) in "Convertirsi alla nonviolenza" ("Becoming nonviolent"), Il Segno dei Gabrielli Editori, Verona 2003, pp. 141-152

3. European Projects

Through the establishment of partnerships with the organizations working at a national and international level and through a remarkable development of projects, CSDC has obtained the financing admission for certain project proposals on adults training (SOCRATES Programme). In this sense the collaboration with the cooperative Mediazioni (Mediations), the latter having started as a CSDC link, has grown thanks to European projects of training innovation where Mediazioni itself is partner or leader. Great project care has been taken of research projects, taking part to three proposals within the VIth Framework Programme of the UE for research, one of which as leader of 28 European research institutes.

Socrates Programme (Minerva and Grundtvig)

- A Minerva project for the innovative use of new technologies in education, titled: "*Train POCODIMA – Training instruments for Positive Conflict and*

Difference Management with ITC tools” in partnership with other nine organizations belonging to different European countries (in course of realization).

- A pilot project of adults’ education (Grundtvig programme): *Interactive relationships and development of employment*, having the Association for vocational training (AFEC), a French training organization, as a leader (in course of realization).
- A Grundtvig project titled: *Trainern und Trainerinnen in ziviler gewaltfreier Konfliktbearbeitung mit Modellausbildung*, having the German training organization Kurve Wustrow as leader, for the creation of an European Curriculum for nonviolent and constructive conflict management training (in course of realization).

VIth European Framework Programme for Research

CSDC has bestowed a great project commitment within the European VIth FP (*Sixth Framework Programme*) for research in the 7th thematic zone “Citizenship and Governance in the Knowledge Society”. CSDC has taken part to the following project activities, which unfortunately have not passed the Commission very strict selection, also from a financial and administrative point of view:

- Leader of an Integrated project titled: *“Para Pacem”*; *New approaches to security and the role of Europe to enhancing violence prevention and facilitating conflict transformation: European Policies and Research, Alliance for Peace and Conflict European Management*, through the creation of a partnership made of 28 European partners.
- Partner of a *Network of Excellence* titled: *New Approaches to Security and the role of Europe*, having the Centre for European Studies, University of Helsinki (CESUH) as a leader, on the institutional aspects of the European policy in conflict management .
- Partner of a project STREP (*Specific Targeted Research Projects*) titled: *Social Cohesion Spread of Knowledge and Nonviolent Solution to Conflicts*, having the institute Gestalt H.C.C. as a leader, on the psychological and social aspects tied up to the constructive conflict management.

4 Training

The work of prevention of violence and of construction of peace, calls for the appointment of highly qualified people as well as for the training of experienced and adequately prepared personnel to the constructive management of conflicts. This is a key dimension to get the maximum effectiveness of the interventions. For this reason, CSDC invests important resources in the promotion and management of training courses for constructive conflict management. In the year 2003, these activities reached a public of around 250 people, with an approximate time of training of 1000 hours. Moreover, CSDC’s trainers and tutors have participated in numerous formative experiences promoted by ecclesiastical associations and groups.

Particularly, during the year 2003, CSDC participated in the following training activities (also see chap. 4 for the collaborations with Universities):

- Self-governing Province of Bolzano – since October 2003 - FSE Course of highly vocation training for *Male and Female Peace Operators*, having tasks of planning and formation;
- Perugia – February, with the collaboration of the Umbrian Association for Conscience Objection, of the Agency of Peace and with the sponsorship of the Municipality of Perugia - cycle of workshops conducted by the Swedish psychologist Lennart Parknas: *my way for a better world. New ways of working in my pacifist organization.*
- Rome – May: workshop *I have no prejudices! The approach to diversity in intelcultural education*, conducted by Dr. Pasquale D’Andretta.
- Cagliari – November/December, in collaboration with the association *Terra!* (Hearth) – How to work with oneself and overcome the feeling of helplessness and fear, conducted by Francesco Tullio.
- Rome – planning and conduction of a course for female and male Peace Operators (closing conference of the 20th of January 2003) at the councillor’s office; participation to a Leonardo project on the prevention of school students’ fleeing.
- The Civilian Defence Research Centre has provided support to COOPI (International Cooperation) and to the association Specchio del Mondo (World Mirror) for the setting of an interactive exhibition “art. 11th – Italy rejects war”.

5 Communication

CSDC periodically offers its contribution to several independent magazines (Azione Nonviolenta, La nuova Ecologia, Terre di Mezzo, Carta) through article written by its members. The CSDC initiatives have been published on several occasions by national press organs. For its own internal and external communication, CSDC has the following means and channels:

- Website: www.pacedifesa.org
- A wide and well-structured email mailing list (more than 6.500 contacts, divided in different categories: press, local institutions, movements, associations)
- Telematic newsletter: CSDC monthly sends a newsletter consisting of about 6/7 pages to almost 2000 addressees. The newsletter is also available on the website.
- Press contacts: CSDC has been present on the national and local press on several occasions thanks to settled contacts with the editorial staff of local and sector newspapers. CSDC has been present in local televisions and in some regional news-bulletin Tg3 broadcasts.

6 Organization and Financial Management

During the year 2003, CSDC strengthened its trend toward a progressive decrease of dependence upon both substantial money gift and voluntary work of its members. Whereas, the financing sources are diversifying: entrance fees, public job orders, services to members, gifts from third parties, etc

During the year 2004, at least two new project collaboration contracts will be made, in order to support the work of the heads of the offices of Rome and of Perugia. The other members will keep on giving their services on a voluntary or half-voluntary basis; as for instance those collaborators engaged at various qualifications in the planning for public bodies, who will be remunerated only if the projects they are working on will later be implemented.

In March, as usual, CSDC holds the annual Assembly, to approve the asset and liability statement of the year 2003, the activity plan and the respective tasks for next year.

The balance at the 31st of December 2003 was around 13.000 Euros, 9.000 of which coming from gifts for institutional activities (Research and Training) and 4.000 coming from contributions and members' fees. The main outgo items are the expenditures for research and training activities (2.500 Euros), publications (2.500 Euros) and reimbursements to volunteers and collaborators engaged in the association institutional activities (4.500 Euros).

The final balance for the year 2003 has been drawn according to a cost-flow concept of accounting in the income and expense allocation. According to this concept, only the incomes and the expenses concretely occurred in the solar year one refers to can be entered. Such principle does not allow to point out the economic value of the activities done as voluntary job or as gifts in kind. Because of the high quality of the members' work (especially in the research and training activities, plus their organization and publishing work, sometimes done at an international level), the economic value of these activities and the kind of gifts and of free usufructs exceed by far that of the book-keeping entries.

ORGANISATION CHART

Members' Assembly: it represents the total number of the associated; it approves the final balance and the budget; it deliberates all modifications of the Association Statute; establishes the strategic lines of the association activities; it ratifies the size of the annual share established by the Board of Directors.

Board of Directors: it puts into effect the general directives established by the Assembly; it promotes every initiative aiming to obtain social targets; it establishes the governing lines for the ordinary and special management; it prepares the Association budget, drawn by the Treasurer, and submits it to the approval of the Assembly; it establishes the annual share payable by members.

President: **Giovanni Scotto**
Honorary President: **Francesco Tullio**
Director: **Karl Giacinti**
Treasurer: **Davide Berruti**

Steering Committee: **Natascia Berlincioni, Davide Berruti, Monica D'angelo, Cristiana De Paoli, Karl Giacinti, Francesco Loiacono, Sandro Mazzi, Matteo Menin, Alessandro Rossi, Giovanni Scotto, Valentina Talamonti**

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