



Nonviolent Alternatives

Newsletter 1/2012

In this issue:

News

...News around the EU

Inside EN.CPS

Country Updates on...

...Activities and Projects

...Political Developments

...Future Activities and Projects

...Publications and Announcements

...Job Openings / Internship / EVS

News

Annual Meeting in Norway

The annual meeting will be held in Oslo on September 20-23, where the first two days will be for EN.CPS and the last two days will be for NP. We have applied for funding, but it's possible that we don't get a response in time. Although EN.CPS has some funds from member contributions that can be used, network members should prepare for the possibility that they have to cover most of the costs themselves for participating at the annual meeting.

News around the EU

EPLO

Bernardo Venturi (CSDC) attended as EN.CPS representative the EPLO General Assembly in Belgrade at the end of May. EPLO has two general Assemblies every year. Usually, in November is based in Brussels and in Spring is in one of the members' country. This Assembly was organized by Nansen Dialogue Network in Belgrade. Bernardo circulate an internal report, if you have not received it you can email him (b.venturi@pacedifesa.org).



Aland 2011

Country Updates

Activities and Projects

Federation for Social Defence (BSV)

One of the current fields of action in the work of the federation of social defence is Education for a non-violent society. Therefore BSV initiate several campaigns against an agreement between the German Federal Armed Forces and the Ministry for Schools in North-Rhine Westphalia (NRW), which manifests the military access to schools and education. BSV endeavours to dissolve the agreement between the ministry for Schools in NRW and German Arme. Therefore we asked candidates from several parties for the next State Parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia for their opinions regarding the agreement between the German Federal Armed Forces and the Ministry for Schools.

BSV joined "Countering the Militarisation of Youth" international study conference, which took place from 8-10 June 2012 in Darmstadt, Germany, have been organised by War Resister's International. For more informations: <http://wri-irg.org/de/node/15308>

Forum Civil Peace Service (*forumZFD*)

Forum CPS has moved its office from a small and narrow house in Bonn to a much bigger and brighter house in Cologne. By quite a lot of more than 50 supporters, who each gave a smaller or bigger loan of money, forumCPS was able to buy the house by a special "owners-society". The house offers lots of space and modern equipment for the staff people including rooms for smaller gatherings and conferences up to 30 participants.. The new office is called "Kölner Friedenshaus/ Peace House" and has been opened by a special public ceremony an May 12th, 2012.

NOVA – Center for Social Innovation

Nova (thru it's Institute Active Nonviolence, INA) has just published two researches in english available in pdf. on the web <http://noviolencia.nova.cat/en> and <http://www.novatrainings.org/en>, both pages are in the throes of development but both well worth giving them a look! It continues in it's projects in the Middle East.

CSDC - Centro Studi Difesa Civile

We just started last March the one year project called "Moldovan Peace Scholars and Practitioners Network (MPSPN)". In Moldova peace studies and conflict transformation do not receive great attention in the universities and just few curricula are focused on peacebuilding and peace theories. In addition, very little connections are present between universities and the NGOs working on peace and related issues. The main aims of the project are to create a peace studies network in Moldova with international connections and foster new links between academic scholars and peacebuilding practitioners. The main activities are non-governmental-academic joint seminars, public event and a booklet publication. The project has as lead partner Civil Defence Research Center CSDC together with CReDO, MSU-FRISPA, Independent Institute for Law and Civil Society (IILCS), Univ. of Tiraspol.

Also for the year 2012-2013 CSDC will carry out the annual campaign aimed to promote the work of NP and, at the same time, to further develop the studies on civilian peacekeeping methods and practices. The main activities are seminars for the general public, round tables with experts, guest lectures by NP peacekeepers at Universities, newsletter with the updates from NP's missions. This year we are planning to edit a new publication in Italian language about Peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

Norwegian Peace Council

After a while with quite limited activity things have picked up in the last weeks. We decided to apply for funding to have the annual meeting 2012 in Oslo in September, the invoices for the membership fee went out, we paid for the EPLO membership this year and we finally started with a new effort to update the resource area on the webpage.

UCP Comitee

Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping training session from August 29th to September 6th in Poissy 2011 (France)

For the third year running, the UCP Committee organized an UCP training session in partnership with Nonviolence Peaceforce. The bilingual French/English training session introduces UCP key principles and methods with theoretical presentations, testimonies and role plays. Fourteen participants took part in this 2011 session. Their feedbacks were once more really positive which conformed the UCP Committee in its desire to perpetuate UCP training sessions in France.

During this intensive training session, the participants had a chance to discover the key principles and values underpinning Unarmed Civilian Peace Keeping (Nonviolence, Nonpartisanship, and Conflict Sensitivity); to discuss key strategies that can be used by unarmed civilian peacekeepers to protect civilians and create safe space for civilians to transform their own conflicts; to analyse the main actors in the field, their relations to other actors, and their role in the protection of civilians; to identify the circumstances (local, national and international) under which this type of intervention is warranted (the opportunities and limits of the work). Moreover, participants were trained on basic personal and collective security guidelines and procedures. They could also test basic tools of understanding conflict and conflict analysis; their team work skills (listening, participation, cooperation, leadership, decision making, group analysis, etc...); their ability to work under pressure (calm, patience, resilience, etc...); their ability to empathize and work diplomatically with various conflict actors. Besides, this introduction to UCP concepts and non-violent conflict resolution allows trainers and organizations responsible to meet with potential candidates for this UCP work. Those who want to work in the field have to apply in the selection process of international organizations such as Guatemala Collective, Peace Brigade International or Nonviolent Peaceforce. One of the 2010 participants was involved with PBI and went for a 10 months mission in Nepal.

The three last UCP training sessions were organized by the consortium of PBI, Guatemala collective and NP. The Nonviolent Alternative Movement, the Loire and Rhone IFMAN, Non-Violence XXI and the French Government Development Agency (AFD) supported this project. The AFD hasn't renewed its funding. Therefore 2012 is a transition and restructuration year for the UCP Committee which plans the next UCP training session in 2013.

UCP Committee/Master GSI Partnership

In 2011, the UCP Committee experienced a new form of cooperation: the UCP training session was adapted and introduced in a Master Degree entitled "Geopolitics and International Security", a diploma of the Social and Economic Sciences Faculty (FASSE) of the Catholic Institute of Paris.

The GSI master's degree's main objective is to train future professionals so that they are able to perform methodological analysis of armed conflict situations and to develop preventive options or conflict resolution strategies. Classes bring together professionals (from national administrations, international or diplomatic organizations, private consultants, security businesses, reporters and teachers) and non-professionals more often foreigners from warring nations or post-conflict nations (Angola, Colombia, Lebanon, Mauritania, RDC, RIC, Senegal...).

The training session was split in two: a theoretical preparation week at the University followed by a UCP practical introduction in Poissy (France). From October 12th to October 16th, 17 students were involved in workshops and role plays, this session enabled them to test their motivation, their ability to respond in crisis situations, their team working skills. The volunteers who attended this practical instruction considered it as a very formative experience. The Master group came out of the exercise very strengthened. Early in 2012, one of the students was selected to join NP team in South Soudan.

This academic partnership is a great opportunity to introduce UCP into French University and to make students who plan international or governmental careers aware of UCP values and methods. The UCP Committee organizes another session in October 2012.

UCP Committee members' activities

The Nonviolent Alternative Movement (MAN)

In 2012, the MAN (Lyon group) assists with the development of a Rhone-Alpes network called "Peace, Human Rights, Cooperation and Development". This network brings together organizations working on these issues and it's supported by the regional council. This project aims at making exchanges easier and promoting partnerships and joint projects in the Rhone-Alpes area.

The MAN is taking the opportunity to introduce UCP concept and raise individual and political awareness. It could be a chance to implement new projects with potential subsidies. The regional council might be an interesting support for international project.

Political Developments

NOVA – Center for Social Innovation

The crisis, especially in this country, has halved any funding for cooperation and development, and the CSOs are in desperate competence for surviving. Nova (INA) has built such credibility as to receive attention still. But strategy and common sense are making INA focus on foreign stakeholders.

CSDC- Centro Studi Difesa Civile

The new so-called "technical government" (non democratically elected) it is perceived not interested in such field, instead is mainly focused on economic measures to cope with the crisis. As CSDC we proposed a national advocacy event supported by EPLO in the framework of the CSDN but the project was not granted since it was considered not be an optimal moment for peacebuilding advocacy in Italy due to the fact that the current government has limited power on this regards and that the Ministry for International Cooperation and Integration is not the lead Ministry regarding EU peacebuilding policy. Notwithstanding, the civil society organizations are having an important and fruitful new wave of joint strategic planning and for the 8-9 June is planned a big national NGO meeting to reflect together on the on peace policies and political situation in Italy.

Future Activities and Projects

Forum Civil Peace Service (*forumZFD*)

The Academy for Conflict Transformation , Cologne/Bonn continues to offer its qualification courses leading to the certificate as "Peace and Conflict Consultant" in two formats:

4-months-course (one per year in spring, for newcomers to the field)

9-weeks-courses (2 to 3 per year, for people with some field experience)

(A third format in blended learning is as yet only available in German.)

Some modules within these courses can also be attended separately as "Trainings for Peace ". Topics in English language announced for fall 2012 are:

Wed. 10. October 2012, 9.00 until Fri. 12. October 2012, 17.30

[Violent Group Conflicts and Approaches to Intervention](#)

Trainer: Beatrix Austin, Alexander Austin

Mon. 15. October 2012, 9.00 until Tue. 16. October 2012, 18.00

[Social Justice and Diversity](#)

Trainer: Timo Kiesel

Wed. 17. October 2012, 9.00 until Fri. 19. October 2012, 17.30

[Acting with Words: Initiating and Promoting Communication](#)

Trainer: Lucy Perry

Mon. 22. October 2012, 9.00 until Fri. 26. October 2012, 17.30

[Analysing and Understanding Conflicts](#)

Trainer: Hagen Berndt

Mon. 29. October 2012, 9.00 until Wed. 31. October 2012, 18.00

[Mediation and Negotiation](#)

Trainer: Cornelis A. Wiebering

Mon. 12. November 2012, 9.00 until Tue. 13. November 2012, 18.00

[Working in Teams in an Intercultural Context](#)

Trainer: Volker Bach

Wed. 14. November 2012, 9.00 until Thu. 15. November 2012, 18.00

[Trauma and the Psychosocial Dimension of Peace Work](#)

Trainer: David Becker

Mon. 26. November 2012, 9.00 until Tue. 27. November 2012, 18.00

[Self-care in Stressful Situations](#)

Trainer: David Becker

For details, see the Website of the Academy:
<http://www.forumzfd-akademie.de/>

NOVA – Center for Social Innovation

We hope to start some trainings on Nonviolent Resistance, based on the experience in Palestine, here in Barcelona, by the end of the year, and INA has developed a joint venture between the Universities of Barcelona and East Jerusalem for a Master in [INTERNATIONAL LAW AND NONVIOLENT POPULAR STRUGGLE](#).

CSDC -- Centro Studi Difesa Civile

We are just start to work on a new booklet on Pk, Pb and NP work . The publication will contains interviews, analysis and a short theoretical framework about the key concepts. The publication should be ready for next October 2012.

Publications and Announcements

NOVA- Center for Social Innovation

Find publications under
<http://www.novatrainings.org/en/policy-papers/96-Policy-Papers>

Job Openings / Internship / EVS

NOVA – Center for Social Innovation

We are working on it... especially EVS or volunteer jobs on web, for english/spanish speakers.

Federation for Social Defence (BSV)

The BSV has a Spanish EVS volunteer, Ainara Tudanca, supporting us since February 2012. She received a master degree in political sciences. The sending organization is a non-EN.CPS organization.

Norwegian Peace Council

We will get some support from two volunteers who will especially help us with the resource page and the preparations for the annual meeting. Anne Kristine Giltvedt is a law student from Norway and will support us presumably until September. Kamila Wisz is undertaking an EVS internship starting from may at the Oslo Peace House and will beside other task be able to support us as well.

What does the Easter Bunny do after Easter?



Special thanks to Elias Bierdel ;-)