

resolution cannot be undertaken without them. Therefore we are emphasizing the word "CIVIC" in our name. Active cooperation with different civic groups, organizations and movements will be a significant part of our work.

Our Fields of Activity:

Our work concentrates on research, the analysis of causes, and the possible ways of preventing conflict.

- Studies of public opinion, citizens' participation in the life of local communities, citizens' actions.
- Analysis of (non)representation of language, culture and the views of different minorities in local and central government, schools, social services, the legislature, courts, the arts, the mass - media and bodies which control the governments, and governmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions.

Sending Fact - finding and Monitoring missions and groups to hotspots will be a way of establishing our presence at places where conflicts have emerged. Fact -

finding and Monitoring missions and groups are the real way to tackle and objectively consider the concrete elements of conflicts.

- Education, training, courses and seminars will be a significant part of our activities, since it is necessary to develop the culture of civic life in pluralistic societies. Conferences on ethnic minorities, the identification and prevention of conflict. Seminars and courses on individual and collective rights, different techniques of conflict prevention, management and resolution. Training of volunteers, teachers, physicians, journalists, local community workers, trade unionists and others.

Publishing of books, brochures, a newsletter, networking

- The Council of the ECCR consists of 29 members from Europe and the USA. The Advisory Board consists of 11 members.

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European Civic Center for Conflict Resolution



Introduction:

The long-term and serious crisis faced by the communist systems and authoritarian regimes in Eastern Europe culminated in democratic upheavals and democratic elections in these countries. Different democratic movements led by groups of dissidents and activists for human rights played a crucial role in the democratic reform of the post-communist societies.

Now these countries are passing through a very critical stage of their development. Apparently, transformation of economic, political, legal, social, and cultural institutions and structures is going to be slower than expected.

The lack of a democratic tradition, and absence of a will to respect the culture, religion, or other characteristics of other peoples, became the basis of an escalation of different kinds of exclusivism and discrimination.

Now we are witnessing nationalism, chauvinism, racism, antisemitism and antigypsyism disturbing the integration of Europe and peace in the world.

For this reason it is very important to prevent the further spread of the violence which has already caused immeasurable damage and loss of life in former Yugoslavia.

Therefore different civic groups and movements, churches, trade unions, institutions and other forms of civil society must be helped in their efforts to identify possible conflicts, to prevent their future materialisation and to resolve existing ones.

Civic Conflict Resolution:

The European Civic Center for Conflict Resolution is the common project of the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly, the Open University (Subotica) and the Forum for Ethnic Relations (Belgrade). Its headquarters are in Subotica, a town close to the Hungarian and the Romanian borders, in a region inhabited by more than 20 ethnic and religious groups.

Despite all differences of language, habits, religion, and culture these minorities live peacefully together. For us it is the proper place to study conflict prevention and to begin education on managing interethnic relations in a multiethnic society.

Conclusions drawn from an analysis of mutual understanding between different ethnic and religious groups here, will create a firm basis for initiating projects in other countries.

Methodology:

The European Civic Center for Conflict Resolution bases its methodology on the importance of citizens' participation in politics and the development of a civil society. In reality, it is impossible to resolve conflicts without the active involvement of all parties. That means that in any situation ordinary citizens' must play a significant role in the prevention, identification and resolution of potential conflicts. Although citizens create only one part of the process of conflict resolution, real and long-term

Il Centro europeo per la risoluzione non violenta dei conflitti e' il progetto comune della Helsinki Citizens' Assembly (HCA), dell'Universita' aperta di Subotica e del Forum per le relazioni etniche di Belgrado. La sua sede e' a Subotica, una citta' situata ai confini fra Ungheria e Romania, in una regione abitata da piu' di 20 gruppi etnici e religiosi.

Il luogo e' uno dei piu' adatti per studiare la prevenzione dei conflitti e cominciare ad educare la gente alla gestione delle relazioni interetniche in una societa' multi-etnica. Il lavoro svolto a Subotica dal Centro e' una buona base per iniziative simili da tenere in altre parti d'Europa. Il Centro basa la sua metodologia sull'importanza della partecipazione dei cittadini alla politica e allo sviluppo di una societa' civile. In realta' e' impossibile risolvere i conflitti senza l'attivo coinvolgimento delle parti in causa, il che significa che in ogni situazione "normale" i cittadini devono ricoprire un ruolo significativo nella prevenzione, identificazione e risoluzione dei potenziali conflitti.

Anche se i cittadini costituiscono a volte solo una parte nel processo di soluzione dei conflitti, la risoluzione reale e duratura e' irraggiungibile senza di loro. Dunque bisogna organizzare la gente e costruire la societa' civile. In questa prospettiva la cooperazione attiva con differenti gruppi civili, organizzazioni e movimenti e' una parte significativa del lavoro del Centro. Nel suo primo anno di vita il Centro per la risoluzione non violenta dei conflitti ha prodotto due convegni, uno di sindaci d'Europa sulla gestione dell'amministrazione pubblica all'interno delle societa' multi-etniche ed un altro sull'organizzazione delle minoranze e sul riconoscimento dei diritti delle stesse in rapporto al progetto di un'Europa delle regioni. E' stato anche possibile, nel caso di un conflitto scoppiato nella citta' di Pancevo a 40 chilometri da Belgrado, applicare i metodi elaborati dal Centro e pervenire alla soluzione del conflitto. La documentazione di questo caso e' disponibile presso l'Arco provinciale.

Il consiglio del Centro e' costituito da 29 membri europei e statunitensi, e' presieduto da Sonja Licht, sociologa e pacifista di Belgrado, e produce una news letter trimestrale a cui e' possibile abbonarsi (nei prossimi mesi potremo comunicare i costi) per riceverla tramite posta o via modem.