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1. Editorial

In 2013, the focus of our work is once again the training and further education in conflict transformation and mediation. We completely revised the CAS *The Art of Conflict Transformation* and partly adjusted it, orienting it strongly towards the classical mediation rules. We are also pleased to be able to offer a block module in Marrakech (Morocco) which will be realised with an accompanying programme in the next revised course.

The preparation and planning of the South-East European Masters Programme in Peace Studies started its accreditation phase and stands in its third project year. It is a great opportunity for our project partners to find another approach to process the conflict in their region.

The focus of the Summer Academy 2013 was the South Caucasus region and brought together experts from various fields. Our concept of knowledge transfer – discipline-specific on one hand and practice-oriented on the other – proves its worth especially on an international level due to its help to quickly overcome language barriers. And once more it has been shown that the ICP can rely on a network of excellent experts for its trainings and further education. There are a lot of ways to contribute to peace. We think that one of them is the education in conflict transformation.

We were also able to develop and extend the activities of the Konfliktbüro Bern. The ICP invited key personalities of the migration field to a first *Exchange Apéro* in the Käfigturm Bern, which was highly appreciated by the participants. Exchange also contributes to a better mutual understanding and thus to a more peaceful society.

Our main concern is to put the theoretically imparted knowledge into practice. That's how we were able, among other things, to realise with a group of NGOs in Morocco that are actively engaged in the field of mining companies a conflict transformation analysis and support, which provided the parties concerned with a lot of clarity on how to proceed.

We would also like to offer our special thanks at this point to our employees; without their effort, creativity and commitment the ICP would not be what it is today.



Tanja Mirabile, Co-Director ICP

2. Review: The International ICP Summer Academy 2013

The yearly ICP Summer Academy has established itself internationally as a representative platform for the field of peacebuilding, mediation and counseling. The academy offers participants the opportunity to get information on the latest debates and projects within their field of expertise, as well as to exchange and network with other participants.

The 6th international Summer Academy took place in Caux from August 6 to 10 in Caux on the topic of *South Caucasus – Inclusive Peace Process and Mediation*.

In the South Caucasus Region, the concentration of conflicts is extremely high – some of them have existed for a long time and are to be characterized as “frozen” conflicts. Inclusive and well coordinated peace processes became extremely important to tackle the complex situation and protracted conflicts. The ICP Summer Academy addressed these issues and analyzed the dynamics, catalysts and perspectives of conflicts and their potential transformation in the region, with a focus on Armenia and Azerbaijan. Thanks to numerous international and local experts, first-hand insights could be gained and theory and practice of conflict transformation in general and regarding the South Caucasus in particular were discussed.

Lectures like *Conflict Analysis of the Region* by Marina Nagai, Senior Projects Manager International Alert; *Political Development in a Post-Soviet Conflict Zone* by Asbed Kotchikian, Professor at the Global Studies Department, Bentley University, USA; *Role of Media in International Conflicts* by Margarita Akhvlediani, Director GO Group Media or *Identity, Memory and Political Institutions* by Phil Gamaghelyan, Co-Director Imagine Center for Conflict Transformation and also Simulation Games contributed to the great success of the 2013 Summer Academy.



A big thank you to all participants who with their interesting contributions made the 6. ICP Summer Academy an unforgettable experience!

3. Portrait: Pascal Gemperli, Co-Director ICP

Pascal Gemperli is one of the two Co-Directors at ICP.

Pascal is a communications engineer (FH/HES) and holds a Masters degree in Peace and Conflict Studies as well as a post-graduate diploma in Intercultural Communication. He is a mediator certified by the Swiss Federation for Mediators (SDM/FSM) and sworn by the Cantonal Tribunal of the Canton of Vaud. His research and work interests are: comprehensive approaches to mediation, conflict transformation and peacebuilding; Security Sector Reform and Governance as well as the Middle East and North Africa region.



Pascal is a member of the communal council (legislative) of the city of Morges (VD) and of the inter-communal council (legislative) of « Police Region Morges ». He also presides the « Union Vaudoise des Associations Musulmanes ». He speaks fluently German, French and English and has an intermediate level in Arabic. Pascal has more than ten years experience in his fields of expertise working with NGOs, governmental and international organisations in the Arab region, South-East-Europe as well as South-Caucasus.

Interview

What fascinates you about mediation, conflict transformation and peacebuilding and why?

As Jean-Jacques Rousseau said, I think that man is good by nature, but he's corrupted by society. This leads to conflictive behaviours and attitudes through to violence. Such conflicts are not only wasting resources and painful, they also discourage people to develop themselves together in the best way possible. Conflicts are a part of our daily lives and are only negative when settled destructively. A positive and cooperative handling of conflicts resolves synergies and can lead to social change and development. In this sense, the strengthening of conflict competences of people, the active support in conflict situations as well as the training of mediators are an important contribution to society.

In your opinion, why is there a need for institutions like the ICP?

In most societies, conflicts are still considered as something negative, their open and constructive resolution is avoided and mostly the awareness of possibilities of constructive conflict resolution is missing. In many places, social and political conflicts lead to violence and war. Institutions like the ICP can help to strengthen the awareness for non-violent conflict resolution, contribute actively and train multipliers who pass on and apply those ideas. Unfortunately, there are almost no organizations in Switzerland that, like the ICP, are committed to conflict transformation on a national and international level and in a focused way.

In what way has 2013 been a successful year for the ICP?

Additionally to our current projects, for example the organization of an academic program in Peace Studies in South-Eastern Europe or the mediation support in a North African mine conflict, 2013 was the year of institutional development. We have been EduQua certified and have received the ECOSOC status. Furthermore, an international foundation has recognized the potential of the ICP and has awarded us with a seed funding. 2013 was a very successful year regarding the strengthening of the organization.

How do you see the future of the ICP?

After seven years of important build-up work, after „norming“ and „storming“, the time has come for „performing“. We will extend our Executive Board this year. In view of what two, later three, board members have established in seven years, the perspective of an Executive Board of six or seven members can only make us feel very confident about the future. Accordingly, a strategy process of the ICP is on our agenda, I don't want to anticipate though. But it is to be expected that the ICP will further strengthen and if need be focus its role as an important actor in the fields of mediation, conflict transformation and peace building. We particularly hope to develop further strong partnerships and be able to increasingly support conflict affected populations. It will also be important to ensure that growth and institutional constraints are not going to influence our basic attitude and principles.

4. Education and Advanced Studies: CAS *The Art of Conflict Transformation*



A big part of ICP's commitment is Education and Advanced Studies in the field of Peace Studies. The goal is to enable professionals, project staff and interested individuals to make a lasting contribution to peace.

From December 2012 to March 2014, the CAS *The Art of Conflict Transformation* took place for the 5th time as a joint venture between the ICP and the *Advanced Study Centre* of the University of Basel. The study course enables candidates to analyze complex constellations of conflict, as well as their social, cultural and unconscious dimensions. The course also provides candidates with options for a constructive and creative conflict transformation.

Candidates are being taught the classical technique of mediation and they can choose one real-life example of a conflict case, which then is mediated.

The 5th edition of the CAS course was – again – a great success.

„The concept of the CAS course combines theoretical approaches with practical applications in a very inspiring way, while still leaving enough room for one's own ideas and developments.“

-Karin Vatter, CAS graduate

We are looking forward to this years' CAS course! The deadline for registrations is 30th September 2014.

5. Overview ICP Projects



- **BERN:** ICP Office.
BERN/CAUX: The ICP Summer Academy *The Art of Conflict Transformation* offers a representative platform for international work in peacebuilding, mediation and conflict transformation.
BERN: The *Konfliktbüro Bern – Space for Intercultural Mediation and Dialogue* by the ICP offers first consultation and mediation to people with migrational background in cases of conflict. Mediations offered are professional, multi-lingual and anonymous.
BASEL: The CAS course *The Art of Conflict Transformation* of the ICP is organized jointly with the Advanced Study Centre of the University of Basel and qualifies candidates to hold the title “Mediator SDM”.
- **BELGRADE, SARAJEVO, ZAGREB:** The study course *South-East European Master in Peace Studies* is a joint venture between the ICP and the Universities Basel, Belgrade, Sarajevo and Zagreb. The one-year-course in Peace and Conflict Studies offers a unique and locally oriented regional master’s program in Peace Studies as a tangible outcome of inter-university cooperation.
- **AZERBAIJAN:** In 2011, the ICP started its activities in the South Caucasus and since then helped facilitate an inner-societal dialogue in the conflict of Nagorno-Karabakh.
- **NIGERIA:** Within the ICP project in the Niger Delta the ICP works together with a local NGO, offering training in conflict transformation to people from the local population.
- **MOROCCO:** The ICP offers support to a local NGO in their dialogue with a mining company.

6. ICP Projects

Konfliktbüro Bern

The Konfliktbüro – space for intercultural mediation and facilitation – opened in May 2012 and aims to reach migrants who want to make use of a professionally supported conflict resolution.

The demand for multilingual conflict mediation specifically focused on interculturality is great and it can substantially contribute to a better integration of people with a migration background. However, among the multifaceted counselling and focal point network, a public authority specifically focused on mediation and conflict resolution does not exist in the city and region of Bern. The Konfliktbüro thus constitutes an appropriate and necessary addition to the existing offer and is amongst others also appreciated by the Forum for the integration of migrants FIMM. Additionally, the collaboration and networking with already existing similar structures is being increasingly pursued and intensified.

The Konfliktbüro has, additionally to the constructive conflict resolution in individual conflict cases, the long-term goal to promote a constructive, non-violent and creative culture of conflict prevention and transformation. In doing so, the transfer of knowledge and competences that should be achieved through training and supervision of key personalities affected by conflicts also plays a vital role. In addition to the specific offer, the Konfliktbüro stands out due to the Integrative Conflict Transformation, a special procedure that aims to realize and transform the unconscious, often not visible aspects of a conflict during the dialogue with the conflict parties. Thereby a long-term change both in goals and behaviours should be enabled.

Until today, the public awareness regarding the Konfliktbüro has constantly increased, it is being contacted frequently and was able, thanks to the effort of professional mediators of the pool, to contribute to a constructive conflict resolution in the majority of cases. Even agreements could be worked out with some of the conflict parties. But also the introductory and further training courses offered by the Konfliktbüro like the *Introductory Course to Conflict Transformation* were particularly popular. Finally, the participation in *Ethnopoly'13*, the intercultural scavenger hunt for students, and the *Exchange Apéro* organized by the Konfliktbüro in spring 2013 to facilitate the networking and the exchange of key personalities, associations and organizations for and from individuals with a migration background, were also a great success.



Dialogue Process in the South Caucasus

Since 2011, the ICP is committed as a neutral actor to the promotion of the dialogue in the conflict between Azerbaijan, Armenia and the region of Nagorno-Karabakh. Even if the war between the two States with the region of Nagorno-Karabakh as a central reason has already been officially resolved by a ceasefire in 1994, the parties are to this day enemies and all peace efforts failed.



In this project, the ICP wants to improve the relationship and communication between the countries. It promotes the handling of and confrontation with instruments and methods of the non-violent conflict transformation in a region that has been characterized by conflicts over many years and this way wants to strengthen the population of the region. To achieve this goal, stakeholders of all levels of society are going to be included in the dialogue process. To this day, important groups of society like for example the numerous IDPs have been neglected in the approaches to conflict transformation. In collaboration with other international NGOs, population groups from Azerbaijan, Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh are - independently of one another - going to be animated and accompanied to an open way of dealing with the conflict in workshops. In a second step, representatives of the processes of all parties are brought together to exchange and discuss the results of their workshops.

In this context, the ICP invited to a winter talk on 09.01.2014 on the subject of the South Caucasus. The presentation of Dr. Ansgar Jödicke gave an interesting insight on the role of religion as a political opposition in the countries of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Georgia. A stimulating discussion on different aspects of peace work on site followed. The great success and the positive feedback motivated the ICP to resume the topic in the context of a summer talk in Bern.

The event should promote the exchange between actors, who work in similar working areas and build and extend helpful networks and synergies. After the inputs of two or three experts on a current topic in their fields of expertise there will be a discussion hosted by the ICP. This talk provides the possibility of discussing specific questions concerning the projects in the South Caucasus in an expert round and in a private context. The present experts from administration, science and civil society will give interesting insights of their projects.

Dialogue Process in Morocco



Another ICP Project is the dialogue process in a mine region in Morocco.

Mining, alongside agriculture and tourism, is of great importance especially in the southeastern regions of the country. For that very reason it is important that a dynamic is established between the government, the civil population and the mining industry, that seeks a both sustainable and peaceful social and economic development.

However, during two decades, the activity of the mining industry has been accompanied by social conflicts and caused social unrest in the region. This induced the ICP to intervene in the conflict situation, collaborating with local associative actors to facilitate the dialogue and to develop a peaceful solution that could be adapted to other conflict regions in Morocco. The main objective of the project is to develop a comprehensive strategy for a sustainable development of the southeastern mining and adjacent regions in collaboration with the institutional investors and the local community.

Part of the specific procedure are three meetings in the framework of a mediation process with all of the concerned actors and several bilateral meetings to prepare those three main meetings. Additionally, the project also offers a mediation training to the individuals concerned, to strengthen those capacities on a local level.

7. Financial Statement

in process

(We will gladly provide you with the relevant data as soon as our accounting is finalised.)

Help us to further a *constructive conflict culture* and become a **member** at: www.icp.ch/contact

Our Partners

Universities of Basel, Belgrade, Sarajevo and Zagreb, Swisspeace Academy, KOFF/Swisspeace, Swiss Federation of Mediation Associations (SDM – FSM), Caux – Initiatives of Change (IofC), Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Federal Office for Migration (FOM)

Support our projects abroad:

Dialogue process in the South Caucasus:

www.betterplace.org/p12247

Conflict transformation in the Niger Delta:

www.betterplace.org/p15703

Dialogue process in Morocco:

www.betterplace.org/p15812

Through these links you can get as well further information concerning these projects.

Thank you!

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The following people worked for the ICP in 2013:

**Tanja Mirabile, Pascal Gemperli, Co-Directors;
Nora Julien, Loretta Scherler, Michael Schlickenrieder**

ICP *compassionate - comprehensive - creative*

Institute for Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding

Schwanengasse 9

3011 Berne

Switzerland

Email: info@institute-icp.ch

Skype: icp.ch

Phone: +41 31 311 30 60

(Office hours: Wednesday and Friday)

Mobile T. Mirabile: +41 79 275 32 53

Mobile P. Gemperli: +41 78 892 85 82

EDITING Lea Barone