

ICP

Institute for
Conflict Transformation
and Peacebuilding

Annual Report 2015

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Editorial

The year 2015 was eventful in many perspectives. In May, ICP organized a panel discussion on “Swiss Civil Society and its Role in International Conflict Transformation” in Berne, where we welcomed 40 people. Representatives from politics and society discussed the importance of international peace engagement in Switzerland.

In July, our annual Summer Academy allowed participants to discuss real cases that arise in North Africa and Sahel.

On the project side, ICP has further extended its efforts to support societal mediation in Morocco. We co-organized a national event with a local partner on “Mediating Mining Conflicts in Morocco: Status Quo and Perspectives”, mobilizing more than 50 representatives from Morocco’s civil society.

Last but not least, a new group of students of our study course „The Art of Conflict Transformation“, that starts every two years, obtained their Certificate of Advanced Studies at the end of May 2016. Congratulations to the successful graduates!



Tanja Mirabile, Co-Director ICP



Members of the Managing Board in 2015

Tanja Mirabile	Co-Director ICP
Pascal Gemperli	Co-Director ICP
Beatrice Schulter	Swiss Expert Pool for Civilian Peacebuilding
Peter Allemann	Financial Management Credit Suisse
Frank Ubachs	Center for Religion, Conflict and the Public Domain, Groningen University, Netherlands
Alain Jacques Sigg	Institut universitaire des hautes études internationales et du développement (IHEID)

1. 8th International Summer Academy 2015

The 8th International Summer Academy took place between 20th and 25th of July in Caux, Switzerland. It provided participants with the possibility to discuss real cases that arise in North Africa and Sahel, and the opportunity to observe how local initiatives and the indigenous culture of peace mediation



interact with initiatives from outsiders.

Highlights of the Academy included the presentation of Abbas Aroua on dealing with conflicts in North Africa and the Sahel, Jean-Simon Rioux's report on the situation in Mali, Luca Willig's insights on the United Nations approach to mediation and Sandra Coulibaly's presentation on political approaches to mediation. Participants also had the opportunity to present and discuss own projects and ideas with the present experts and other attendees.

2. Panel Discussion “Swiss Civil Society and its Role in International Conflict Transformation”

In May 2015, ICP organized a panel discussion on “Swiss Civil Society and its Role in International Conflict Transformation” at the Käfigturm in Berne. Representatives from politics and society such as the social democrat National Councilor Margret Kiener-Nellen, green liberal National Councilor Roland Fischer, Roland Salvisberg of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and Tanja Mirabile (ICP) discussed the importance of international peace engagement in Switzerland. We could welcome around 40 people to the event.

In his input talk, Roland Salvisberg, Head of Peace Policy Section of the FDFA, turned the attention on the peace work of the official Switzerland. He highlighted, that the FDFA needs the collaboration with strategic partners from civil society. Even with few resources one can achieve a lot.

Tanja Mirabile mentioned the importance of the Swiss civil society and NGOs



in the global peace building field. However, despite the importance of civilian actors, an active involvement of Swiss NGOs did not find place. Norway for instance takes a leading role regarding peace building: The Scandinavian country is one of the first nations that promote the cooperation with NGOs. Especially in times of unstable political conditions it is important to include NGO's in official peace building and prioritize peace.

During the panel discussion, National Councilor Margret Kiener-Nellen emphasized the importance of peace work and regretted that the funds that are available for the promotion of peace in Switzerland come too shortly. While Parliament discussed to increase the export subsidies, there is no analogous increase for peace building.

3. South-East European Peace Project Partnership

The study course South-East European Master in Peace Studies is the first regional Master's programme in Peace Studies offered in partnership between ICP, the University of Basel and the regional cooperation of the Universities of Belgrade, Sarajevo and Zagreb.

This multinational partnership is the result of a three-year project of institutional cooperation supported by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) aiming at offering a platform for collaboration by promoting the values of peace through academic education and scientific research. The project was launched in 2009 and funded by the SNSF between 2011 and 2013 within the framework of the "Scientific co-operation between Eastern Europe and Switzerland" (SCOPES) programme; in ICP's case it was a cooperation in the fields of conflict resolution and peace building in a region that has suffered intense conflict in the past.

An International Scientific Conference devoted to peace was held in June 2014 on the Brioni Islands in Croatia, an emblematic location owing to the historical importance and the several peace missions held on the site. The theme "Regional perspectives on Peace, Development and Security" reunited the four partner universities as well as several invited guest speakers and academic researchers. The aim of this conference was to promote the programme in peace studies and more importantly allow a platform for establishing a research network in order to broaden and strengthen dialogue in the region of South-East Europe.

4. Mediating Mining Conflicts in Morocco

In 2015, ICP has further extended its efforts to support societal¹ mediation in Morocco. While continuing our assistance to transform a mining conflict in the South-Eastern province of Tinghir, we broadened our engagement thanks to the support of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). In 2015, we co-organized with our local partner RAZDED a national event on the theme “Mediating Mining Conflicts in Morocco: Status Quo and Perspectives”, mobilizing more than 50 representatives from NGOs, parliament, the National Human Rights Council, labour unions, media and the private sector. Among the 14 final recommendations of the forum was a) the need to extend the approach to other societal conflicts beyond the mining industry, b) the evaluation and development of the legal framework regarding societal mediation, c) the development of a guide to capitalize on past experiences and to provide guidance for future cases and d) to strengthen capacities for local actors in terms of mediation. These recommendations provide a roadmap for future activities.



This forum was also the launch of an extensive mediation training provided to 20 representatives of NGOs, private companies and government employees throughout 2016.

¹ The term social mediation being already in use in Morocco for labour-related cases, we use societal mediation for cases where society groups as well as private or public actors are involved.

Thanks to our involvement in supporting mediation in Morocco since 2012, ICP has gained great experiences in this field. The development of mediation in Morocco has an important potential in this country that experiences around 50 manifestations, sit-ins and similar expressions of conflicts daily.

5. Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) – The Art of Conflict Transformation

ICP organizes every two years the study course „The Art of Conflict Transformation“, accredited by the University of Basel, Switzerland. Successful participants are allowed to bear the title “Mediator SDM-FSM” (Swiss Federation of Mediation Associations). This long-term study course is an in-depth and practice-oriented training in mediation. Participants are required to work on concrete conflict cases. Target group of the study course are practitioners in the field of international conflict resolution, humanitarian and development aid and democratization. In winter 2014, a new group of students began the programme. They obtained their Certificate of Advanced Studies at the end of May 2016.

6. Workshop in Nigeria

Tanja Mirabile, Co-Director of ICP participated as one of the key speakers and workshop leaders at the International Conference on “Religion and Politics. The Role of Religion in Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation” from the 25th to 27th November 2015. Over 60 religious leaders from the Muslim and Christian’s side have come together to discuss possible strategies on how they can overcome religious divisions within their society. How can religion be used to transform conflicts? During a two-day workshop participants gained insights into the root causes of conflicts over religious issues. After the conference it became clear for ICP that it likes to continue its engagement in Nigeria.

7. Financial Situation

	31.12.2014	31.12.2013
Assets		
Liquid assets	56'834.29	60'745.55
Rent deposit	2418.20	2417.25
Prepayment and accrued income	<u>11'319.10</u>	<u>4'577.35</u>
Total current assets	70'571.59	67'740.15
Total assets	<u>70'571.59</u>	<u>67'740.15</u>
Liabilities		
Creditors	8'142.30	9'848.30
Account current	6'647.25	6'647.25
Accrued compensation project leaders	25'000.00	0.00
Deferred income	<u>60'408.60</u>	<u>71'313.60</u>
Total current liabilities	100'198.15	87'809.15
Balance sheet profit / loss	-20'069.00	-38'553.93
Corporate profit / loss	-9'557.56	18'484.93
Total capital association	-29'626.56	-20'069.00
Total liabilities	<u>70'571.59</u>	<u>67'740.15</u>

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