

Southeast European NGOs

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for the Stability Pact

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Die gemeinsame Außen- und Sicherheitspolitik der Europäischen Union – Chance oder Hindernis für die Schaffung einer Europäischen Friedensordnung? (with Albert Statz) in: Wilfried Graf and Lutz Unterseher: *Europäische Friedensordnung: Konturen einer Sicherheitsarchitektur*, vol. iii in the series 'Studien zur Europäischen Sicherheitspolitik' (Münster, 1998), 21-47.

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1 Southeast European NGOs and the Stability Pact

BY MARTINA FISCHER AND GIOVANNI SCOTTO

In May 2000, 25 representatives of Southeast European non-governmental organizations met in Romania to discuss the impact the *Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe* has on the region's civil society and the potential for cross-border activities. This four-day meeting was organized by the *Foundation for Democratic Change* (Bucharest), and the *Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Management* (Berlin) and took place in the picturesque mountains of Sinaia (Carpathian Mountains). During several working sessions held in a creative atmosphere the participants developed a list of recommendations concerning the support of civil society in the region.

1.1 The Conference in Sinaia

Activists from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Macedonia, Romania and Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) met to discuss the impact of the *Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe* on civil society in the region. Most of them are working on human rights issues, education, media, women's rights, humanitarian aid, interreligious dialogue or psycho-social work. All of them were already involved in some form of cooperation with organizations in neighboring countries.

The aim of the *Foundation of Democratic Change* is to promote human rights and minority rights within transitional societies in Central and Eastern Europe, by using the third-party consultation model of conflict resolution. The main activities of the foundation are in the fields of training, consulting and actual mediation.

The conference received financial support by the German Development Agency *Evangelische Zentralstelle für Entwicklungszusammenarbeit* (EZE) and was chaired by Anca Ciuca (*Foundation for Democratic Change*, Bucharest), Martina Fischer and Giovanni Scotto (*Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Management*, Berlin).

The *Berghof Center* is a German research institute financed by a private foundation. The aim of the Berghof Center is to investigate constructive procedures and models for dealing with ethno-political conflicts in Europe and the OSCE region, and to monitor and support these when they are applied in practice. The core focus of the Center's work are the contributions to conflict transformation made by civil society, development co-operation, humanitarian aid, peace work, and human rights actors.

In organizing the conference, the convenors intended to contribute to the cross-border cooperation among civil society actors in the region, thereby furthering existing cooperation experiences. The meeting also provided a venue for assessing the needs of civil society organizations in South Eastern Europe and their potential contribution to the Stability Pact process. Furthermore, opportunities for constructive interaction between state diplomacy and NGOs as well as civic initiatives were discussed.

Organizations participating in the Sinaia conference:
National Cultural Club Iliriada (Albania); *Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Amica* (BiH); *Political Academy for Central and Eastern Europe, Europartners 2000* (Bulgaria); *B.a.B.e.-Women's Rights Group, CMS - Center for Peace Studies* (Croatia); *CCI - Centre for Civic Initiative, Youth Association for Tolerance and Co-operation - HORIZONTI* (Macedonia); *Women's League, Association for Democratic Prosperity – ZID, Women Forum* (Montenegro); *Humanitarian Law Centre* (Belgrade); *CENTRAS - Centre for Assistance of NGOs, AIDRom, Ecumenical Academy, Euroregional Centre for Democracy, Foundation for Democratic Change* (Romania); *Berghof Research Centre for Constructive Conflict Management, Evangelische Zentralstelle für Entwicklungszusammenarbeit* (Germany).

1.2 The Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe: Potential for Regional Conflict Transformation?

Since the end of the Kosovo war in 1999, there has been a widespread feeling in some member-states of the European Union that the present problems of South Eastern Europe can only be addressed if a sustained cooperation within the region is achieved. To this aim the *Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe* was launched in June 1999. It intended to foster cooperation and peaceful resolution of disputes among the States in the region. There had been some earlier initiatives for regional cooperation in the "Balkans", but they did not possess sufficient political weight or provided the same amount of financial aid as the Stability Pact (SP).

In Sinaia, the goals and mechanisms of the SP were presented by Ms. Nives Malenica, representative of the *Working Table I of the Stability Pact Office*. Herself a Croatian diplomat, she underlined the new atmosphere of dialogue and cooperation among Southeast European governments, mainly a consequence of the SP initiative.

A *Regional Table* chaired by the Special Coordinator Mr. Bodo Hombach is now in charge of the overall coordination of the Stability Pact activities. The Regional Table has delegated the practical work to *three Working Tables* (WT), dealing with: democratization, human rights and minority rights (WT 1); economic reconstruction, development and cooperation (WT 2); security issues (WT 3). A basic idea behind the Stability Pact process is to encourage cooperation within the region by providing monetary as well as non-material incentives from outside. In order to do this, a strategy has been developed to avoid the duplication of efforts and build on the strengths of participating states and organizations. Apart from the national governments, nearly all international organizations active in Europe participate in the implementation of the Stability Pact. The OSCE has assumed the overall patronage of Stability Pact activities.

The process initiated with the Stability Pact has raised great expectations for a new policy of the "international community" and especially the EU, in dealing with the political conflicts and the transformation process in SEE countries. Especially the breakup of Yugoslavia and the subsequent wars have shown the need for an approach that recognizes human rights as the basic cornerstone for every lasting

and peaceful solution in South Eastern Europe and aims at overcoming old and new borders.

In August 1999, the donors announced financial aid for the region worth 2 billion Euro and pledged another billion Euro in November 1999. On the third donors conference in March 2000 further initiatives were discussed but funding for these remains unclear. Until now the donor countries have invested approximately 2,4 billion Euro for the region. Some analysts argue that this initiative of "belated prevention" is just a measure to calm the bad conscience of the EU after having failed to reach a political solution of the Kosovo crisis and to secure the influence of foreign private companies in the region. Of course, it is too early for a final judgement of the impact.

Whether the Stability Pact will contribute to crisis prevention and to a peaceful development of the region, depends mainly on whether the donors are prepared for a long-term engagement and whether they will be ready to shift the focus of cooperation from state to non-state actors in order to provide incentives for building civil society. Nevertheless, a clear advantage of the Stability Pact has to be pointed out: by establishing this cooperation, for the first time South Eastern Europe is regarded as an integral part of Europe. All participants in the Sinaia conference agreed that the Stability Pact is a step into the right direction for the resolution of conflicts and development problems in South Eastern Europe.

The process of integration into the European Union should be accompanied by improved neighborly relationships in the region and cross-border cooperation for mutual advantage in the political, economical, social and cultural fields. States and societies of the region should become equal partners in this process.

From this perspective, *Balkans without borders* will become an integral part of a united and peaceful Europe, where stability and security relies not on military power but on healthy relationships among peoples and states.

1.3 Civil Society Dialogue in South Eastern Europe: Experiences, Problems and Prospects

The Stability Pact has already attracted much attention among civil society actors. Yet, one of its major weaknesses is the absence of a strategy to mobilize civil society actors in the region, i.e. local NGOs and civic initiatives. This, however, is crucial for democratization, peacebuilding and better protection of human rights, and contributes to the long-term "sustainability" of good neighborly relations among states.

Local NGOs have developed a high degree of expertise in their work in the fields of human rights, democratization and peacebuilding, as well as education, youth and gender issues. They are capable of autonomous action and prepared to monitor the governments in their implementation of international commitments and legal standards. Civil society actors from South Eastern Europe are thus an essential factor to promote the spirit and the values of the Stability Pact.

The Sinaia conference workshops showed that civil society actors in the region have already developed several joint projects. Close cooperation among NGOs can be observed not only in the post-Yugoslav area, but also in the whole Southeast European region (SEE).

NGOs and civic initiatives in SEE that are engaged in human rights, peacebuilding, educational, media, psycho-social and humanitarian work all face similar problems: lack of time and money, lack of democratization and transparency in political structures (notwithstanding huge differences in this respect among different SEE countries) and lack of communication with potential partners, donors and state authorities.

All participants agreed on the benefits arising from better networks within the region, even if there was no consent about the concrete character of networking. Should it be just a loose contact which could be mobilized for joint initiatives concerning sporadic campaigns, an umbrella for specific topics? Or should there be a tighter structure like an association with a common charta? The dilemma was formulated as follows: Speaking with one voice could have advantages in addressing their needs vis-à-vis the states and international organizations, such as the EU; on the other hand, some groups indicated a fear of losing their autonomy

and independence. Everybody agreed, however, that better research, extensive use of the internet and the improvement of databases for information about projects and experiences are useful and, indeed, necessary.

NGOs that try to undertake cross-border activities often have to face the problem of convincing public opinion in their states that it could be worthwhile to connect and cooperate with neighboring regions, as some societies do not want to be considered as part of the "Balkans". An open question was how to reach a common identity of the region.

One of the main insights of the meeting was that no lasting solution to the political problems of South Eastern Europe can be developed without including Serbia. Government and ruling forces in FRY and Serbia are subject to international isolation, due to their responsibility in the past wars. Precisely for this reason, every effort should be made to support Serbian civil society actors, such as NGOs and human rights activists, in their work at home and encourage them to participate in cross-border dialogue with their colleagues from neighboring countries.

Another important conclusion was that foreign donors who want to support civil society in SEE should focus primarily on strengthening local groups and activities. It was also stated that in some SEE-countries a huge NGO sector came into existence, yet many of these organizations are rather artificial creations and respond mainly to state interests. Therefore, donors have to make sure that their funding is not abused by "quasi NGOs" (so-called "Quangos" or "Gongos") created for interests other than the development of civil society.

The conclusions of the Sinaia meeting have been documented in a list of 42 recommendations which are addressed to the European Union as well as to the Southeast European states and NGOs.

1.4 Speaking with one Voice: Some NGO Recommendations for the Stability Pact

The *Sinaia Recommendations* focus, first of all, on improving the flow of information by establishing effective communication and consultation between the Stability Pact structure and regional civil society.

Other recommendations focus on the European Union's policies towards the region. Regional cooperation and neighborly relationships should be a main criterion in the process of integration to the EU. One of the most important preconditions for lasting peace in the region lies in overcoming the economic crisis and the consequences of wars. In order to support the states in the region in these tasks, the European Union should commit themselves to long-term funding.

The task of supporting the development of civil society and regional cooperation is clearly not only a challenge for "outsiders" (state actors or NGOs of EU-member countries). On the contrary, states in the region can and should promote policies to strengthen civil society actors in their own country and as part of regional networks. Therefore pressure should be put on the states to fully respect human rights, disconnect citizenship from ethnicity and actively contribute to an atmosphere of tolerance among different ethnic groups.

To ensure the basic right of all refugees and displaced persons in the region to return home as well as the respect of their rights in the host areas is a matter of particular importance. Moreover, each country should commit itself to guarantee full freedom of movement for citizens within the region.

The states should also implement appropriate policies in order to strengthen the capacity of NGOs both to respond to social needs and to increase participation of citizens in political and social affairs.

Gender issues in Southeast European societies were a main topic of discussion in Sinaia. Since gender relations play a key role in peacebuilding and democratization processes, they should be considered as a cross-cutting challenge for the Stability Pact and be included in the activities of each Working Table. On the other side, the recommendations underline the need for effective protection of the most vulnerable women: in particular, it is stressed that decisive action should be taken to stop

women trafficking in the region. Another important task is thorough monitoring of the legal status and rights of women throughout the region.

1.5 Regional Cooperation of Civil Society

The conference in Sinaia showed that here is a great potential for regional cooperation of civil society actors. The Stability Pact could encourage and support the creation and development of initiatives on a number of crucial themes: peacebuilding, human rights, gender issues, the contribution of religious communities to confidence building, as well as training programs in intercultural communication, conflict management, etc. This would allow the development of a number of activities at local, national and regional level and increase the number of people and groups involved in cross border dialogue.

In particular, the Stability Pact should encourage and support the creation of a *Regional Center for the Culture of Peacebuilding*, with the aim of collecting and disseminating relevant information on the peace and democratization process in the region, promoting local initiatives and cross-border projects, pooling experts from the region and offering training for peace workers. The center should also enable the exchange of experiences in peacebuilding between activists from Eastern and Western Europe as well as the US.

The participants at the Sinaia conference expressed the view that regional expertise should become a key resource in designing policies towards South Eastern Europe by the international community, and that research on relevant problems (like the legal status of women in the region) should be carried out by SEE organizations

Exchange programs among NGOs should be established and followed up to enable cross-border contact and the exchange of experiences. A cross-border project should be initiated on the understanding and teaching of history and the text books used for this purpose. The role of the media has to be strengthened. It was suggested that regular surveys in the region about topics of common interest should be conducted and their results spread in the media (like the "Eurobarometer" in the EU).

1.6 Demilitarisation and Development of Civil Society: Milestones for a Sustainable Peace

The *Sinaia-Recommendations* led to an extensive discussion among NGOs from the region. The *Center for Education and Networking in Nonviolent Action (CNA)*, Sarajevo, which could not participate in the meeting, contributed two important aspects, that had not been discussed in Sinaia and go beyond the Stability Pact guidelines: the necessity of regional demilitarization as a precondition for peacebuilding and the development of civil society.

Disarmament could free large funds to be used for economic recovery and growth and to support civil initiatives; a process of demilitarization should be developed which goes ahead simultaneously in all countries in the region. CNA recommends that within the framework of the Stability Pact this process should be started by giving incentives for restructuring the military industry, and re-education of military staff. The European Union should support this demilitarization process with advice and financial resources. Moreover, it should reverse the current process of adaptation to NATO-standards in most SEE countries, which will force them to increase military expenditure.

1.7 Towards an Active Role of Regional Civil Society in the SP? The Thessaloniki Conference and the Agenda for Stability

The outcome of the discussion in Sinaia was also meant to have an impact on top-level decision-making. On June 6th, three weeks after the Sinaia conference, the Greek Government and the chairman of Working Table 1 invited South Eastern and West European NGO representatives to a "consultative meeting" in Thessaloniki. Both the Sinaia Recommendations and the open letter of CNA on regional demilitarization were made public during the meeting.

Different working groups dealt with ethnic reconciliation, good governance, media, education, and parliamentary cooperation. In the then following discussions, plenty of the points already identified in Sinaia were raised: among others, the need for both a SP contact point in the government as well as SP "non-government" focal

points (by NGO or international organizations representatives) in each country, and the need to start consultation processes with local NGOs. In a number of cases the discussion explicitly referred to the Sinaia document.

In Thessaloniki a number of concrete initiatives were announced: the *Council of Europe* has started an awareness-raising campaign to promote multi-ethnic society and democratic citizenship for all. Furthermore, following an initiative by the British and German governments and the *Soros Foundation*, the *Open Society network* has been given the task to spread relevant information about the Stability Pact in the region.

NGOs did not only express enthusiasm concerning the approach and outcome of the meeting. A strong criticism of the general "philosophy" of the SP regarding civil society in the region was made: NGOs are believed to be "useful" for the SP, rather than partners in a common endeavor. On the contrary, regional civil society should be able to influence the overall strategy and process of the SP, and not only serve goals set in advance by top level politicians.

At the conference there was a tendency to focus on less "problematic" issues and leave aside those which were disturbing or did not seem immediately practicable. Nevertheless, in the final plenary discussion the issue of demilitarization of the region was raised, based on the arguments of CNA (Sarajevo) that security in Southeast Europe should be built on healthy relationships and not on weapons.

Unfortunately, no written document came out of the consultation: the chairman made only some oral conclusions. The subsequent meeting of the Stability Pact Regional Table, held also in Thessaloniki two days after the consultation with NGOs, was supposed to take up some suggestions and recommendations formulated there.

As a result of the Regional Table meeting, a comprehensive *Agenda for Stability* has been approved (available at: <http://www.stabilitypact.org/>). This document summarizes the achievement of the SP so far, and mentions a number of goals for the future. The issue of involving NGOs in the Stability Pact's activity was mentioned, but the text remains rather vague: "the Special Coordinator will endeavour to develop co-operation with the NGO community to get NGO input into

the activities of the Working Tables, to inform the NGO community of Stability Pact action (...) and to co-ordinate activities" (Agenda for Stability, § 25).

It can be argued that the effect of the Sinaia recommendations in terms of impact on the diplomatic process has been very limited so far. Yet, the overall evaluation of the Sinaia conference should be a positive one. It represented a further step for building an open and growing network of cooperating organizations in the region. The discussions and the brainstorming accomplished there provide a sound basis for further dialogue and a starting point for future joint action. The necessity of developing strategies and alliances for regional change arises. Sinaia has been a step in the right direction, but only a first step.

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2 Sinaia Recommendations

Based on the proceedings of the Conference "Southeast European NGOs for the Stability Pact", Sinaia (Romania), 19th-22nd May 2000

2.1 Introduction

25 representatives from Southeast European civil society organizations have met in Sinaia (Romania) from 19th to 22nd May 2000, to exchange ideas and develop recommendations about the role of civil society in the Stability Pact process.

The conference was organized by the Foundation for Democratic Change, Bucharest with the support of the *Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Management*, Berlin. The event was made possible by a grant accorded by the German donor organization of the Evangelical Church EZE.

The main purpose of the conference was to foster a network and strengthen cross border relationships among non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civic initiatives from the region active in the fields of youth work, culture, gender issues, human rights, peacebuilding and conflict resolution. It also had the function of a self-assessment of needs and potentials of the civil society contribution to the Stability Pact goals.

The participants deeply regretted that a member of the Serbian civic movement *OTPOR!* was not able to attend the meeting due to the tense climate in Serbia following the government's seizure of independent media on May 17th.

Civil society actors in the region have already started or developed several joint projects. Close cooperation among NGOs can be observed both in the post-Yugoslav space and in the whole Southeast European region. We believe that these initiatives are essential to realize the objectives and values of the Stability pact.

The participants of the Sinaia conference understand themselves as an open and growing network of cooperating organizations, without a central coordinating body, and with the commitment to share information and to grant mutual support.

This document is open for support and will circulate among the civil society actors in the region.

2.2 Goals of the Stability Pact and Southeast European Civil Society

The process initiated with the *Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe* in Cologne in June 1999 has raised great expectations for a new approach in dealing with the political conflicts and the transformation process in SEE countries. Especially the breakup of Yugoslavia, with the wars in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo, requires an approach which by recognizing human rights as the basic cornerstone for every lasting and peaceful solution in the region, needs to overcome old and new borders. European integration should be accompanied by improved good neighborly relationships and cross-border cooperation for mutual advantage in the political, economical, social and cultural fields. States and societies of the region should become equal partners of the process.

From this perspective, *Balkans without borders* will become an integral part of a united and peaceful Europe, where stability and security relies not on military power but on healthy relationships among peoples and states. Those values at the core of the Stability Pact are shared by the organizations present in Sinaia.

We believe that regional NGOs and civic initiatives play a key role in the process of democratization, peacebuilding and the establishment of cross-border cooperation in South Eastern Europe.

In recent years, regional NGOs have developed a high degree of expertise in their work in the fields of human rights, democratization and peacebuilding, as well as education, youth and gender issues. They are capable of autonomous action and prepared to put pressure on the governments to respect international commitments and legal standards. Civil society actors from South East Europe are thus an essential factor to carry forward the spirit and the values of the Stability Pact.

However, in its first year of existence, the Stability Pact has so far only marginally engaged regional civil society in its work. We therefore appreciate the new interest demonstrated by the Regional Table and the Special Coordinator in

calling the meeting of June 6th, 2000 in Thessaloniki of South East and West European NGO representatives.

No lasting solution to the political problems of South East Europe can be developed without including Serbia. Government and ruling forces in FRY and Serbia are subject to international isolation, due to their responsibility in the past wars. Precisely for this reason, every effort should be made to support Serbian civil society, NGOs, human rights activists in their work at home and encourage them to participate in cross-border dialogue with their colleagues from neighboring countries.

In order to improve the role of civil society of the Stability Pact (SP) the participants developed the following *recommendations to the Office of the Special Coordinator and to the Regional Table*. They also represent a contribution to the NGO meeting of June 6th, 2000 in Thessaloniki.

2.3 Recommendations for the Office of the Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact

General Guidelines

1. The Special Coordinator, the Regional Table as well as the Working Tables should direct their efforts in strengthening the capacities of NGOs and civic initiatives in the region.
2. Equal chances should be given to all NGOs and civic initiatives, taking into account the different needs and the level of development of civil society in the different countries.
3. Effective channels of communication between the Stability Pact structure and regional civil society as well as appropriate mechanisms of consultation should be created.
4. Gender relations play a key role in the processes of peacebuilding and democratization. Therefore gender issues have to be considered a cross-

cutting challenge for the SP process and need to play a central role in the work of the Regional Table and all Working Tables.

5. National institutions and offices with the task of linking the government and NGO activities should be strengthened in each country.

Communication and Information Flow

6. "SP Focal Points" should be created in each country of South East Europe (including Serbia), in order to spread relevant information and basic values of the Stability Pact and promote activities in its spirit. They would also secure reverse flow of information, gathering ideas, constructive criticism, suggestions from the local actors.
7. Existing institutions with relevant expertise in the fields of cooperating with civil society should become part of the SP structure (e.g. the *Civil Society Development Foundation*, created by the EU).
8. Networks of "Assistance and Information Centers" for NGOs at the local and provincial level could be integrated in the SP process where they exist (like in Romania) or be established in order to improve the impact of the countries' focal points in areas outside the capital cities.
9. The Office of the Special Coordinator should:
 - appoint a contact person for SEE NGOs;
 - create a web page for NGOs and simplify the structure of the SP webpage;
 - spread more widely the e-bulletin among relevant actors in the region.
10. A free phone line should be created to facilitate reports of human rights abuse in the region.
11. In each country, national conferences on civil society and the SP should be called for, in order to spread information about the SP, as well as to discuss and define strategies and priorities.

Funding Procedures

12. A special fund for NGO activities should be established within the SP budget
13. Precise guidelines for the selection of projects should be developed and made public in the most effective way. The outcome of the selection should be subject to public scrutiny.
14. Special attention should be given to long term projects (up to 5 years), in order to give NGOs and civic initiatives the possibility of planning and work in a broad time frame.
15. NGOs and civil society development should become a separate and relevant topic in the agenda of donor's conferences.
16. The SP procedures should build on the experience and expertise of existing networks of donors in the region, and learn from their experience. Particular attention should be devoted to avoid past mistakes: unwillingness to support structural strength and capacities of local NGOs, forcing them to work according guidelines determined by the donors, instead of letting them define autonomously long term strategies.

2.4 Recommendations for the European Union

17. Regional cooperation and good neighborly relationships among SEE states should be a main criterion in the process of integration in the EU. This process should not simply be an enlargement of the Union, merely shifting its borders eastwards, but solve creatively the problems posed by pan-European integration in an inclusive way.
18. The European Union should help the states in the region to overcome the economic crisis and the consequences of the wars. A comprehensive economic strategy towards South East Europe should be based on the needs and productive potential of SEE societies, rather than on the short-term interests of Western economic actors. Solid economies in the region are a prerequisite for lasting peace.

19. The European Union should take the lead in creating a network of cultural institutions in the region capable of encouraging transnational cultural exchange, modeled on West European national cultural centers (e.g. Goethe Institute).
20. An "Erasmus program" for South East European universities should be started, in order to give SEE students (including Serbian students) the opportunity to attend courses in other universities of the region and of Western Europe.

2.5 Recommendations concerning the Contribution of Southeast European States

A number of tasks to ensure better cooperation at civil society level in South Eastern Europe are the responsibility of the states in the region. We therefore recommend that, within the framework of the SP, pressure should be put on the SEE states in order to achieve the following objectives:

21. Ensure full freedom of movement in the region. A first step in this direction would be to simplify cross border activities, by abolishing visa regulations, simplifying procedures and avoiding taxes for border crossing; improving infrastructure; modernizing border crossings for faster procedures.
22. Contribute to the decrease of ethnic tensions and create an atmosphere of tolerance among different ethnic groups by:
 - reform of education and schoolbooks, particularly history; dealing constructively with the tabu issues of national myths;
 - forming joint commissions of independent historians and incorporate new perspectives of history in the school and education systems;

- promoting youth exchange and student exchange programs, following the models of French-German youth exchange after World War II and the Erasmus student exchange program in the European Union;
 - organizing appropriate training for teachers;
 - organizing training in minority rights for state-officials, police and executives of the legal system.
23. Disconnect citizenship from ethnicity; governments and parliaments should amend or create appropriate laws and should implement international standards to guarantee minority rights.
24. Ensure full respect of human rights, taking into account the needs of the most vulnerable groups. In particular, decisive action should be taken to stop women trafficking in the region.
25. Ensure the basic right of all refugees and DPs in the region to return and the respect of their rights in the host country. Particular attention should be devoted to refugees within Serbia.
26. Strengthen the capacity of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to respond to social needs and needs of cooperation in the SEE-region by: simplifying national legislation for NGOs; in the case of Bosnia-Herzegovina, introducing a unified system of NGO registration for the whole country (presently NGOs have to be registered in each entity)
- exempting NGOs from taxes;
 - letting the taxpayer support NGOs of their choice with 1% of the due taxes (as in the Hungarian NGO law);
 - establishing a special budget for NGO-support;
 - guaranteeing transparency and equal chances for access to the budget for those NGOs who respond to social needs (and not to state interests);
 - encouraging volunteer work in the society.

27. Improve communication between public administration and NGOs in each country by:

- establishing NGO-liaison-officers at the national and regional level of administration;
- making public all relevant information about NGO support.

28. Increase participation of citizens in political and social affairs by:

- incorporating education for democracy and social responsibility in the school and education system
- funding trainings and seminars for youth and adults on social issues;
- ensuring transparency of the administration to increase confidence in state activities;

29. Overcome the lack of transparency and information concerning the role of the states within the Stability Pact process by:

- informing the public about the values and purposes of the Stability Pact;
- reporting to the public what activities have been taken in response to the commitments and values set forth by the Stability Pact;
- initiating open public debates about the activities to be taken in the future, suggestions for further improvement, etc..

2.6 Recommendations concerning Regional Cooperation of Civil Society Actors

General Guidelines

30. NGOs and civic initiatives can make an essential contribution to promote the values and achieve the goals of the SP. They should therefore be empowered to act accordingly. In particular, civil society actors can and should contribute to the SP in the following ways:

- bringing together people from different communities and traditions, and widening the network of people involved in regional co-operation;
- building on co-operation already ongoing on local, regional and national level;
- improving or creating new mechanisms of communications (regional co-operation of TV, Radio-Programs, electronic media);
- sharing information and identifying best practices implemented throughout the region;
- enabling perspectives from the region to be shared with the Stability Pact structures (e.g. by regularly consulting groups of experts from the region);
- developing preventive diplomacy and early warning capacities (as a regional "Network for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts") at society level.

Concrete Actions

31. The Stability Pact should encourage and support the creation or development of initiatives on a number of crucial themes: peacebuilding, human rights, gender issues, the contribution of religious communities to confidence building, specific forms of training. Those initiatives would allow the development of a number of activities at local, national and regional levels

and increase the number of people and groups involved in cross border dialogue.

32. The Stability Pact should encourage and support the creation of a "Regional Center for the Culture of Peacebuilding", with the aim of collecting and disseminating relevant information on the peace and democratization process in the region, promoting local initiatives and cross border projects, pooling experts from the region and offering training for peace workers. The center should also enable the exchange of experience between East and West. It should become part of a wider "Network for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts" in the region.
33. In order to empower civil society actors and enable them to fulfil their role, trainings at the regional level should be organized on the following topics:
 - Advocacy and lobbying for NGOs;
 - Strategy development and organizational identity;
 - Nonviolent conflict transformation;
 - Capacity building for fund raising;
 - Community leaders;
 - Human Rights;
 - Increasing sensitivity of journalists for civil society issues;
 - Interreligious and interethnic dialogue.
34. The Stability Pact should encourage the development of panels of experts from NGOs in South East Europe who can advise the Stability Pact Office, the EU. etc. and be a resource for civil societies in the region.
35. NGOs and civic initiatives should promote advocacy, monitoring, and training in the following fields:
 - Gender issues;
 - Laws on domestic violence;
 - Prosecution of the trafficking of women;
 - Laws on NGO regulation;
 - Monitoring of legal practices in the field of human rights protection.

36. Research should be encouraged at the regional level on legal developments and human rights standards in each country.
37. An inventory of regional cross-border projects already existing or being developed should be made.
38. Exchange programs among NGOs should be established and followed up to enable cross border contact and sharing experiences.
39. A cross-border project should be initiated on the understanding and teaching of history and the text books used for this purpose.
40. The role of the media has to be strengthened by:
 - developing regional TV/radio stations, newsletters and websites;
 - providing appropriate training for journalists;
 - working closely with the national journalists' associations;
 - closely monitoring the activity of the media in the region and publicizing the results.
41. Regular surveys in the region about topics of common interest should be conducted and their results spread in the media (like the "Eurobarometer" in the EU).
42. Cultural events at the regional level should be organized, such as conferences, seminars, festivals, etc.

3 The Participants

3.1 List of Participants

	Name of the organization	Contact	Participant
	Albania		
1.	National Cultural Club "Iliriada"	Kutia Postare 221 Tirana, Albania tel/ fax: +355 42 - 575 73 mobile: +355 3820 - 39 683 email: iliriada@hotmail.com Ukcamaj@hotmail.com contact: Bardhyl Ukcamaj	Bardhyl Ukcamaj
	Belgium		
2.	Stability Pact for Southeastern Europe Working Table I	Rue Wiertz 50 B-1050 Brussels tel.: : +32 2 - 401 8700 fax: +32 2 - 401 8712	Nives Malenica
3.	Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS)	Place du Congres 1, B - 1000 Brussels tel: +32 2 - 229 39 31/ 229 39 11 fax: +32 2 - 219 41 51 email: info@ceps.be michael.emerson@ceps.be web page: http://www.ceps.be	Michael Emerson
	Bosnia & Herzegovina		
4.	Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina	Ante Fijamenga 14b, Sarajevo tel/ fax: +387 71 - 230 809/ 811 email: office@bh-hchr.org web page: www.bh-hchr.org/ contact: Mustafa Cero	Mustafa Cero (didn't attend the conference)
5.	Amica (Prijateljice)	Klosterska 13 75000 Tuzla tel/ fax: +387 75 - 250 495 email: amicaev@bih.net.ba contact: Monika Kleck	Monika Kleck

	Name of the organization	Contact	Participant
6.	CNA - Centre for Non-violent Action	Bentbasa 31, 71 000 Sarajevo Bosnia and Herzegovina tel/ fax: +387 71 - 442 011 e-mail: cna.sarajevo@gmx.net contact: Ivana Franovic	Ivana Franovic (didn't attend the conference)
	Bulgaria		
7.	Political Academy for Central and Southeastern Europe (PACE)	82 Rakovski str., 2 nd floor 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria tel: +359 2 - 986 38 61/ 980 69 97 fax: +359 2 - 989 81 64 email: pace@ttm.bg contact: Svetlana Lomeva	Ivaneta Valerievna Dobitchina
8.	Europartners 2000 Foundation	"Drouzhba - 1" complex, bl.159,entr.B, ap.119, Sofia 1592, Bulgaria tel/ fax: +359 2 - 978 70 05 email: europartners_2000@yahoo.com Dronzina@sclg.uni-sofia.bg web page: www.medicalnet-bg.org/europartners contact: Tatiana Dronzina	Tatiana Dronzina
9.	Centre for Social Practices	4 Dunav Str., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria tel/ fax: +359 2 - 981 72 22/ 980 81 70 email: CSPract@usa.net contact: Evgenii Dainov	Denitsa Ventsislavova Lozanova
	Croatia		
10.	B.a.B.e. (Be active, Be emancipated) Women's Rights Group	Prilaz Gjure Dezelica 26, 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia tel/ fax: +385 1 - 48 46 176 tel: +385 1 - 48 46 180 email: babe@zamir.net Buba@zamir.net web page: www.interlog.com/~moyra contact: Gordana Lukac - Koritnik	Gordana Lukac – Koritnik

	Name of the organization	Contact	Participant
11.	Center For Peace Studies	Rockfellerova 26 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia tel/ fax: +385 14683020 email: cms@zamir.net jpapa@zamir.net contact: Jasmina Papa	Jasmina Papa
	Germany		
12.	Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Resolution	Altensteinstr. 48a D-14195 Berlin tel: +49 30 - 844 154 0 fax: +49 30 - 844 154 99 E-mail: giovanni.scotto@berghof.b.shuttle.de	Giovanni Scotto
13.	Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Resolution	Altensteinstr. 48a D-14195 Berlin tel: +49 30 - 844 154 32 fax: +49 30 - 844 154 99 email: martina.fischer@berghof.b.shuttle.de	Martina Fischer
14.	Evangelische Zentralstelle für Entwicklungshilfe – EZE (Office for development cooperation of the German Protestant Church)	Mittelstr.37 D-53175 Bonn tel: +49 228 - 810 11 78 fax: +49 228 - 810 11 60 email: eze-soek@eze.org contact: Caroline Kruckow And EKD - office, Herrenhauser Str.12 D - 30419 Hanover tel: +49 511 - 279 6430 email: wilfried.steen@ekd.de contact: Wilfried Steen	Wilfried Steen
	Hungary		
15.	Freedom House	Freedom House Regional Office 18 Menezi ut 1118 Budapest tel/fax: +36 1 - 466 9879/ - 385-0985/ - 385-3108; mobile: +36 20 9 335 746 email: wiebler@freedomhouse.hu http://www.freedomhouse.org/ http://www.ngonet.org	Peter Wiebler (didn't attend the conference)

	Name of the organization	Contact	Participant
	Macedonia		
16.	Center for Civic Initiative	"Borka Taleski" 228, 97 500 Prilep, Macedonia tel/ fax: +389 98 - 25 125 private tel: +389 98 - 25 111 email: ccimk@mt.net.mk mdimitar@yahoo.com web site: www.geocities.com/ci contact: Mr. Goce Todoroski; Hristina Koneska; Dimitar Milanoski	Dimitar Milanoski
17.	"Euro-Balkan" Institute	Skopje, Macedonia email: ebalkan@soros.org.mk	Jovan Donev (didn't attend the conference)
18.	"Horizonti" - Youth Association for tolerance and cooperation	Ul. "Abas Emin" b.b. 6000 Ohrid, Macedonia tel: +389 96 - 262 530/ 267 352 E-mail: kurtelov@yahoo.com Kutelov@mt.net.mk Zorguan@hotmail.com contact: Ljupco Kurtelov; Zoran Arnaudov	Ljupco Kurtelov Zoran Arnaudov
	Romania		
19.	CENTRAS - Centre for Assistance of NGOs	25 Nicolae Balcescu blvd., 7 th floor, ap.14 Sector 1, Bucharest - Ro 70149 tel: +40 1 - 310 03 80/ 310 03 81 fax: +40 1 - 310 03 82 email: centras@fx.ro contact: Mr. Viorel Micescu	Laurentiu Vasilescu
20.	Center for Research of Inter-ethnic relations in Transilvania(CCRIT)	23 Ghe. Bilascu str., 3400 Cluj Napoca – Romania tel/ fax: +40 64 - 197 860 email: office@ccrit.ro http://www.ccrit.ro contact: Istvan Horvath; Marius Lazar	Istvan Horvath (didn't attend the conference)

	Name of the organization	Contact	Participant
21.	AIDROM	fax: +40 1 - 210 72 55/ 320 98 73 tel: +40 1 - 320 98 70 mobile: +40 92 343 038 e-mail: office@aidrom.eunet.ro contact: Cristian Teodorescu	Herbert Hans Hoffman
22.	Ecumenical Academies and Charity Centers in Europe	"Casa Sperantei" (Home of Hope) 2 Moldovei str. 2200 Brasov, Romania tel: +40 95 - 036 531	Thilo Krause East European Consultant
23.	Freedom House - Bucharest office	Bucharest email: freedomhouse@dnt.ro	Mihaela Paraschiv (didn't attend the conference)
24.	Euroregional Centre for Democracy	str. Semenici nr.10 1900 Timisoara - Romania tel. (056) 221 470 fax (056) 221 469 email: dkozak@regionalnet.org web site: www.regionalnet.org	Daniela Kozak (didn't attend the conference)
25.	Foundation for Democratic Change (FDC)	1 - 3 Walter Maracineanu sq. 5 th Entrance, 6 th Floor, Room 424 tel/ fax: +40 1 - 314 39 60 email: fdc@dnt.ro mobile: +40 93 - 314 379	Anca Ciuca
26.	Foundation for Democratic Change (FDC)	1 - 3 Walter Maracineanu sq. 5 th Entrance, 6 th Floor, room 424 tel/ fax: 0040 1 314 39 60 email: fdc@dnt.ro Virgil-run@yahoo.com mobile: +40 93 - 311 675	Virgil Soncutean - facilitator
27.	Foundation for Democratic Change (FDC)	1 - 3 Walter Maracineanu sq. 5 th Entrance, 6 th Floor, room 424 tel/ fax: 0040 1 314 39 60 email: fdc@dnt.ro c_berar@sunu.rnc.ro mobile: +40 94 - 501 406	Cristina Berar - facilitator
28.	Foundation for Democratic Change (FDC)	1 - 3 Walter Maracineanu sq. 5 th Entrance, 6 th Floor, room 424 tel/ fax: 0040 1 314 39 60 email: fdc@dnt.ro treff@planet.ro	Csilla Pasztor - facilitator

	Name of the organization	Contact	Participant
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29.	Conference of European Churches	150, Route de Ferney PO Box 2100 CH - 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland tel: +41 22 - 791 6469 fax: +41 22 - 791 6227 email: kec@wec-coe.org Rud@wcc-coe.org contact: Mr. Ruediger Noll And 174, rue Joseph II B - 1000, Bruxelles, Belgium tel: +32 2 - 234 6838 fax: +32 2 - 231 1413 email: kpj@cec-kek.be Eeccs@shypro.be contact: Keith Jenkins	Keith Jenkins
	Yugoslavia		
	<i>Montenegro</i>		
30.	League of Women Voters in Montenegro	18 Peka Plovdiva street, 81 400 Niksic, Montenegro tel: +381 83 - 231 675/ 212 968 email: pindo@cg.yu contact: Ljubomirka Mira Asovic	Ljubomirka Mira Asovic
31.	Association for Democratic Prosperity - ZID	p.f. 370, 81 000 Podgorica, Montenegro tel/ fax: +381 81 63 96 20/ 69 07 33 81/ 69 07 59 29 email: zid@cg.yu Citizenspact@cg.yu contact: Slobodan Zivkovic	Slobodan Zivkovic
32.	Women Forum in Montenegro	Gavrila Dozica 1, 81000 Podgorica tel: +381 81 - 245 736 mobile: +381 69 - 014 474 email: womenforum@cg.yu cscf@cg.yu kacar@cg.yu contact: Kaca Rajovic	Branka Durickovic

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33.	Humanitarian Law Centre (HLC)	Avalska 9, 11000 Belgrade tel/ fax: +381 11 444 39 44 +381 11 444 14 87 email: OFFICE@hlc.org.yu natasakandic@hlc.org.yu rasicn@hlc.org.yu contact: Natasa Kandic	Natasa Rasic
34.	OTPOR (RESISTANCE)	email: srkip@usa.net contact: Srdja Popovic	Milan Samardzic (didn't attend the conference)

3.2 Description of Participating NGOs and Initiatives

BY ASTRID SCHWIETERING

AMICA Prijateljice (Bosnia-Hercegovina)

The organisation started in 1994 with support from German activists and its aim is to strengthen the position of women in society through counselling, education, employment and empowerment. Their work focuses on subjects like violence against women's and human rights. AMICA also provides care for the reintegration of children especially from families returning to Tuzla and the surrounding area. In the project house and social club activities, AMICA reaches approximately 500 women. These initiatives provide a meeting point, the possibility to work in a nursery or laundry, and support concerning babysitting and coaching of the children. AMICA is a member of a local coalition of 25 NGOs – the Tuzla Reference Group. There are several donors supporting AMICA (presently established as local NGO and renamed Prijateljice), for example the Foundation Matera, the Network for Humanity, and Deza.

AIDRom - Ecumenical Association of Churches of Romania

AIDRom was established in 1991 and started through cooperation between the Orthodox, the Reformed and the Lutheran churches of Romania. Initially, the main task of AIDRom was not only to distribute humanitarian aid through specific projects in social and ecological fields but also to be an ecumenical platform for the Romanian churches. AIDRom encourages the building of civil society and the support of NGOs. This is held within the perspective of growing together in Christian action for justice and peace.

The main donors are the Church of Sweden Aid, Diakonisches Werk (Germany), HEKS (Switzerland) and the National Council of Churches of Christ (USA).

ADP-ZID - Association for Democratic Prosperity-ZID (Montenegro)

ADP-ZIP was established in 1996 and its main activities combine the development of civil society in Montenegro with the aim of democratisation and pluralism. The association wants to protect and support democratic students and youth organisations in Montenegro. ADP-ZID is a member of the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly and the network coordinator for Montenegro. The regional cooperation has already begun with different projects exemplified by the involvement and implementation of civic organisations in the Stability Pact.

So far the Open Society Fund, IKV, USAID and others have supported ADP-ZID.

B.a.B.e. Women's Rights Group – Be Active, Be Emancipated (Croatia)

B.a.B.e. is a strategic, lobbying and advocacy organisation working for the affirmation and implementation of women's human rights at the international, national, and regional level. Gender democracy is considered as an essential part of democracy. Consequently, the main focus of B.a.B.e.'s work is to lobby for equal rights and the full participation of women in society. In cooperation with different regional women's groups within the Women's Network of Croatia, B.a.B.e aims to strengthen the networking and lobby process, for example, to make the legislature more gender sensitive.

B.a.B.e is mainly funded by the European Commission, the Global Fund for Women (USA) and the Open Society Fund (Croatia).

Berghof Research Centre for Constructive Conflict Management – (Germany)

The Berghof Research Centre investigates constructive procedures for dealing with ethno-political conflicts in Europe. Most of the work concerns the development of "peace constituencies" which are seen as an efficient contribution to the constructive transformation of conflicts. It works within a network of individuals and institutions on both the regional and national levels. The focus of the work aims to reduce violence and social injustice through, for example, peace work and human rights activities. The main activity in the last few years has been the support of local peace-activists in Central and Eastern Europe and the former USSR. The Centre holds

the view that civil society is a necessary actor in the peace and conflict-management process. Much of the work is conducted in cooperation with both international and local NGOs. The Berghof Foundation for Conflict Research is the main funder of the Centre's work.

CCI - Centre For Civic Initiative (Macedonia)

The primary goals of CCI are to facilitate the development of democracy and civic society in Macedonia. The Centre invites citizens and young people in education to promote positive changes in their community. Through this process, it is hoped to build a more open and democratic society. The programmes focus on education, democracy, human rights, democratic freedom, and the improvement of inter-ethnic relations.

The organisation is involved in local and international activities, thereby cooperating with both regional and international NGOs.

CENTRAS - Centre for Assistance to NGOs (Romania)

CENTRAS was registered in 1995 with the aim of assisting the development of NGOs in Romania. The CENTRAS Resource Centre is currently being expanded to form a network of resource centres with partner organisations throughout Romania. These resources will include information and support in fundraising and office-management training. In response to an increasing demand for information on the activities of NGOs, CENTRAS supports the production of a monthly magazine. The magazine is the only regional source of information for the non-profit sector.

CEPS - Centre for European Policy Studies (Belgium)

Since 1983, the Centre for European Policy Studies has aimed to achieve an international network of leaders and individuals who are committed to enhancing the development of European integration and cooperation. CEPS objective is to provide analytical information to decision-makers (both inside and outside the government). This information remains both authoritative and independent on matters of European affairs. Furthermore, the Centre wishes to influence the public debate about European institutions and policies through solid research. The CEPS programme is divided into five core components: (1) Economic Policy, (2) EU Policies and Business Strategy, (3) the Wider European Order, (4) European Politics and Institutions and (5) Preparing for Membership in Central and Eastern Europe.

It is financially supported by Delta Dairies (Athens), Erste Bank (Vienna), the German Marshall Fund (USA) and the Soros Foundation.

CMS - Centre for Peace Studies - Centar za mirovne studije (Croatia)

The Centre for Peace Studies is a non-profit NGO that promotes non-violence and social change. It combines peace education and research that addresses peace building work in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the entire region of post-Yugoslav countries. In addition to this, the training focuses on themes such as non-violent communication, human rights protection, and national identities. Over 400 participants, mainly from Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, have taken part in the programmes.

CMS is a member of the Anti War Campaign, Croatia (ARK) – a network that promotes non-violence, and women's and human rights. It works in co-operation with local associations as well as UN agencies and is supported by the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, OSCE and others.

CSP - Centre for Social Practices and affiliated bodies (Bulgaria)

The CSP was established in 1994. During the last years, the CSP was closely involved with civil society issues, such as citizen-state relations, international challenges from the transition to democracy and the development of local NGOs. In addition to civil society-building initiatives, the Centre engages in activities concerning conflict monitoring between civil society and the government, self-representation of ethnic minorities and also the training of politicians. This offers them expertise and support in their effort to reform the Bulgarian society and to promote the democratic process in politics.

For greater effectiveness, the CSP is continually forming networks with both NGOs and representatives of governmental institutions.

CNA - Centre for Non-Violent Action - Centar za nenasilnu akciju (Bosnia-Hercegovina)

CNA started their activities with the support of a German organisation. Its main aims are the dissemination and multiplication of knowledge in the field of non-violent action through basic trainings, and trainings for trainers. CNA supports the professionalisation of the conflict management field and tries to multiply the number of people working in the area of adult and youth education, media, and social work. CNA wants to strengthen local NGOs working on peace and human rights issues by creating Balkan-wide networks. Different training programmes are conducted to not only reduce the existing prejudices of the participants, but also to create a basis for mutual understanding.

CEC - Conference of European Churches

The Conference of European Churches (CEC) is the regional ecumenical organisation of the Orthodox, Anglican, Old Catholic and Protestant churches of Europe. The CEC is an autonomous body primarily concerned in the promotion of Christian unity and service to the wider community. European church leaders have begun to consider the possibility of bringing churches together that are divided by different political, economic and social systems. Their aim was to enable the churches of Europe to become instruments of peace and understanding. This type of bridge-building has

focused not only on minority and majority churches, but also between Christians of different confessional traditions. Cooperation exists within the World Council of Churches, especially with respect to faith and order, world mission and evangelism, inter-church aid, refugees, and women's and human rights. The CEC works in conjunction with similar projects conducted by youth groups.

Europartners 2000 Foundation (Bulgaria)

The Europartners 2000 Foundation promotes the economic, political, cultural and intellectual dialogue between Bulgaria and the European Union, and the integration of the country into the European and North-Atlantic structures. The main aspects of the work are to stabilise democracy, consolidate civil society, support medium-size business, work in conflict resolution, and the promotion of intercultural communication. The activities reach from the organisation of training sessions to seminars on methodological work for conflict resolution.

The Europartners 2000 Foundation works together with several different organisations from Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo.

The activities are funded mainly by the UNHCR, UNDP, British Know How Fund (Bulgaria), USAID (Sofia), National Health Insurance Fund and the National Social Security Institute.

EZE - Evangelische Zentralstelle für Entwicklungshilfe e.V. (Germany)

EZE was registered as a charity in 1962 when the German Federal Government offered to make public funds available to the two major Christian churches in Germany in order to implement development work. Currently, the EZE supports development projects carried out by churches, church-affiliations and non-governmental organisations primarily in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Their work assists groups in developing countries to unite in self-conscious communities in order that they may insist on their rights. The EZE uses contacts to German federal government ministries and is engaged in permanent dialogue with members of parliament on development issues.

The EZE is a member of the Association of WCC (World Council of Churches)-related Development Organisations in Europe (APRODEV) and is financially supported by the German government and the Protestant church in Germany (EKD).

FDC - Foundation for Democratic Change (Romania)

The Foundation is a non-profit Romanian organisation established in 1995. It promotes human and minority rights through dialogue and strategy improvement on consensus building. This focuses on the neutrality and impartiality of third party assistance. The Foundation deals with ways for solving local and social problems through cooperation between the local government and NGOs. The on-going work is to support the drafting of a law that would introduce mediation into the judicial system.

Since 1998, FDC is a member of the first Romanian Mediators Network.

Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina was founded in 1995. The Committee was established following the principles laid down in the Statute of the International Helsinki Federation. The organisation deals with the promotion and protection of human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Therefore, the Committee is particularly engaged in several activities, for example, the systematic monitoring of human rights, reacting against violation of human rights, and giving suggestions and proposals to legislative bodies in order to make the new and existing laws comply with international standards. Through publications, seminars and round-table events, the Committee voices the viewpoints and roles of international authorities ranging from the UN to NGOs.

In 1999 it initiated a regional cooperation of NGOs and developed the Council of Democratic Alternative for Stability in Southeast Europe.

Humanitarian Law Center (FRY)

One of the main NGOs for human rights work in the country, the Humanitarian Law Center monitors and reports on human rights, offers legal assistance to victims of human rights violations, and is engaged in systematic monitoring of the respect for

the Convention Against Torture. It has performed research on human rights and international humanitarian law violations during armed conflicts in former Yugoslavia. The Center has also reported on the activities of the ICTY in The Hague, and organises workshops and conferences on human rights.

National Cultural Club "Iliriada" – Radio 101 (Albania)

"Iliriada" promotes the exchange of cultural programmes between radio stations from Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, Macedonia, Greece, Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey. This is seen as a possible way to create a climate of self-confidence and a culture of peace against nationalist tendencies. Through the exchange of music and reports, the participating radio stations will promote their regional *folk culture*. Combined with a joint website of the member stations, it will be the starting point of an information and news network presented in several languages that covers the whole Balkan region.

League of Women Voters in Montenegro

The League of Women Voters was founded in 1999 and, in addition to strengthening the civil society and protecting human rights, focuses on the participation in democracy building in the Republic of Montenegro. A further aspect addresses the equality and empowerment of women by providing information about their political rights.

PACE - Political Academy for Central and South Eastern Europe (Bulgaria)

PACE was established in 1996 to find an institutional framework for permanent collaboration between the democratic parties and the experts monitoring the democratic change in Bulgaria. Their programmes cover activities concerning the following issues: political education, analysis and research of international initiatives related to integration within the European Union and NATO, producing a case studies (for example, the local elections in Bulgaria 1999), and publishing activities to promote democratic values.

The main target groups are representatives of the democratic political parties, government institutions and NGOs.

The major funders of PACE are the International Republican Institute and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy.

Women Forum of Montenegro

The Forum was founded in 1998 and stands for the development of equal gender relations in all aspects of life. This includes the rejection of all forms of discrimination. Through their conferences, seminars and courses the Forum strives to raise public awareness of the problem incurred by unequal gender relations.

The Women Forum has approximately 120 members and cooperates with several regional organisations.

Youth Association for tolerance and cooperation "HORIZONTI" (Macedonia)

"HORIZONTI" is an association of young people for mutual communication, exchange and tolerance. Their aim is to connect the youth of Macedonia with other young people from all over the world, to give them the possibility for social integration, exchanging ideas, creating a spirit of tolerance and cooperation and improving the inter-cultural communication.

"HORIZONTI" is cooperating with several associations in Macedonia and Bulgaria , ILIRIADA, and Radio 101 which are situated in Albania.

They work together primarily with the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (Germany), with "SOCRATES" (Bulgaria) and the Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation.

4 Stability Pact for South - Eastern Europe: A Bibliography

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5 Related Sites on the Internet

STABILITY PACT FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE:

<http://www.stabilitypact.org>

The European Commission: external relations: EU and South Eastern Europe:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/external_relations/see/intro/index.htm

ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE BY
EUROPEAN COMMISSION / WORLD BANK:

<http://www.seerecon.org>

THE EU AND KOSOVO:

http://www.europa.eu.int/geninfo/keyissues/kosovo/index_en.htm

THE UN AND KOSOVO:

<http://www.un.org/peace/kosovo>

SOUTHEAST EUROPEAN COOPERATIVE INITIATIVE:

<http://www.unece.org/seci>

CENTER FOR DEMOCRACY IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE:

<http://www.cdsee.org>

CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES:

<http://www.ceps.be>

<http://www.ceps.be/Pubs/SEEMonitor/Declare.htm>

<http://www.ceps.be/Research/SEE/SEEHUB>

SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN INFORMATION NETWORK:

<http://www.seein.org>

EUROPEAN STABILITY INITIATIVE:

<http://www.esiweb.org>

SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION NETWORK:

<http://www.see-educoop.net>

DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR AUSWÄRTIGE POLITIK:

<http://www.dgap.org>

STIFTUNG WISSENSCHAFT UND POLITIK:

<http://www.swp.de>

6 Berghof Reports: An Overview

Berghof Report	Title	Author	Published
1	Friedliche Einmischung. Strukturen, Prozesse und Strategien zur konstruktiven Bearbeitung ethnopolitischer Konflikte	NORBERT ROPERS	<i>Oktober 1995</i>
1	<i>Peaceful Intervention. Structures, Processes, and Strategies for the Constructive Regulation of Ethnopolitical Conflicts</i>	NORBERT ROPERS	<i>October 1995</i>
2	Interkulturelle Mediation – eine schwierige Vermittlung. Eine empirisch-analytische Annäherung zur Bedeutung von kulturellen Unterschieden	FRANK LIEBE (UNTER MITARBEIT VON NADJA GILBERT)	<i>Mai 1996</i>
2	<i>Intercultural Mediation: A Difficult Brokerage. An Empirical-Analytical Attempt to Assess the Impact of Cultural Differences</i>	FRANK LIEBE (WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF NADJA GILBERT)	<i>May 1996</i>
3	Konstruktive Haltungen und Verhaltensweisen in institutionellen Konflikten. Erfahrungen, Begriffe, Fähigkeiten	EVA MARINGER / REINER STEINWEG	<i>Juni 1997</i>
4	Krisenprävention und zivile Konfliktbearbeitung durch die EU. Konzepte, Kapazitäten und Kohärenzprobleme	TOBIAS DEBIEL / MARTINA FISCHER	<i>August 2000</i>
4	Crisis Prevention and Conflict Management by the European Union. Concepts, Capacities and Problems of Coherence	TOBIAS DEBIEL / MARTINA FISCHER	<i>September 2000</i>
5	Friedensförderung in Bosnien-Herzegovina. Ansätze der Jugend-, bildungs- und Kulturarbeit	MARTINA FISCHER/ JULIE TUMLER	<i>Oktober 2000</i>

7 Occasional Papers: An Overview

Occasional Paper	Title	Author	Published
1	Ergebnisbericht: Interkulturelle Konfliktbearbeitung. Einführungsseminar in neue Konzepte der innergesellschaftlichen und internationalen Mediation und präventiven Diplomatie. 30. November – 2. Dezember 1994	NORBERT ROPERS	Juli 1996 vergriffen
2	Golitsino Workshop for Peace Builders. 25. – 29. September 1995	ANJA WEISS UND ALEKSEJ NAZARENKO	August 1996
3	Warsaw Workshop for Peace Builders. 28. Januar – 2. Februar 1996	ANJA WEISS UND ALEKSEJ NAZARENKO	September 1996
4	The Hungarian Concept of Autonomy for Romania. The 1993 DAHR Draft-law on National Minorities and Autonomous Communities and Reactions from Other Political Parties in Romania.	KINGA PÁLL	September 1996
5	The International Relations of the DAHR 1989 – 96. The Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania. An Introduction.	ANNA-MÁRIA BÍRÓ	August 1996 Internet
6	The Protection of National Minorities and Regional Stability.	KINGA GÁL	September 1996
7	Strategies and Needs of NGOs Dealing with Ethnopolitical Conflicts in the New Eastern Democracies.	ANJA WEISS UND ALEKSEJ NAZARENKO	März 1997 Internet
8	Eigeninitiativen einheimischer FriedensstifterInnen. Wirkungsmöglichkeiten in den neuen östlichen Demokratien.	SONJA BORSKI UND HOLGER HESS	September 1998

Occasional Paper	Title	Author	Published
9	Ethnopolitical Legitimacy and Ethnic Conflict Management. The Case of the Russian Federation in the Early 1990s.	AIRAT AKLAEV	Juni 1996 Internet
10	Peace Work by Civil Actors in Post-Communist Societies.	DIANA FRANCIS AND NORBERT ROPERS	September 1997 Internet
11	Advanced Networking: A Conceptual Approach to NGO-based Early Response Strategies in Conflict Prevention.	ANTON IVANOW	Oktober 1997 Internet
12	Peacebuilding Aktivitäten der bikommunalen <i>Conflict Resolution Trainer Group</i> in Zypern.	OLIVER WOLLEH	November 1997
13	Natural Law, Agents and Patients, and Minority Rights.	GABRIEL ANDREESCU	<i>November 1999</i>
14	Roles and Functions of Third Parties in the Constructive Management of Ethnopolitical Conflicts.	NORBERT ROPERS	November 1997 Internet
15	The Intercultural Mediation Project: The Bléré Experience: A Study of Conflict Management in an Intercultural Context.	JON SEBASTIAN	November 1997 Internet
16	Zivile Konfliktbearbeitung deutscher NROs und Einrichtungen – Ein Wegweiser, 1998/99.	CORDULA REIMANN	September 1998 Internet