



Verein für
Integrative Mediation

CSSP Newsworld Newsletter May 2009

Dear Colleagues + Friends

In this year CSSP wished to strengthen its outreach and communication with our partners, sponsors and friends. We have introduced a new format, the CSSP_Nachmittagsgespräch in the Bundestag to inform members of parliament, experts and an interested audience on the newest developments in Southeastern Europe. We are working on developing new pathways of cooperation and engagement to ensure that our work is efficient, sustainable and logical. In the first quarter of the year we worked on developing structures with our partners and initiating a dialogue with our counterparts in the field to develop further tools for conflict analysis and evaluation. More news on these issues will come over the year.

In addition, we have been working with other organizations to assist with capacity-building needs. In the coming months, we will increasingly be focused on issues such as anti-discrimination, mediation in property disputes, developing standards of mediation and in intercommunity mediation. CSSP believes that by supporting and advocating for professional standard of mediation the ground will be set for future generations of community mediators.

If you have ideas or comments to the work of CSSP we kindly invite you to send a quick email and share your ideas. All comments will be handled with sensitivity, confidentiality and with appreciation. We hope this newsletter will serve to inform you about our work.

Best,

Juan Diaz



Stabilitätspakt für Südosteuropa
Gefördert durch Deutschland
Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe
Sponsored by Germany

CSSP_projects

Workshops on “Multitrack Diplomacy” in Brussels, Belgium, 26–28 January

Dr. Juan Diaz participated in an interactive workshop initiated in Brussels by the Initiative for Peace (organized by Crisis Management Initiative) on 26-27 January 2009 in which European Experts were invited to discuss multitrack diplomacy within the European framework. Through a series of methods participants engaged in an intensive debate on the role of the EU and non-state actors. Participants were invited to stay on for session on 27-28 January 2009 sponsored by the Mediation Support Unit of the United Nations and financed by the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Implemented by Swisspeace to discuss and draw recommendations for the UN Security Council report on mediation within the UN system. Both workshops demonstrated the complementary roles of diplomacy and civil society and the need for state and non-state actors to develop further cooperation.

ADR in the KPA Seminar in Prishtinë/Priština, Kosovo, 2–6 February

In February 2009 CSSP brought together experts on property disputes and mediation in Kosovo in a one-day seminar entitled ‘Exploring Options on How to Integrate Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Services into the Dispute Resolution Process of the Kosovo Property Agency (KPA)’. A vigorous exchange took place between the different participants who represented state institutions, civil society organisations and international organisations. Recommendations were made on how ADR services could be incorporated into the KPA dispute resolution structure. Furthermore, challenges and opportunities for the development of ADR services, especially mediation, were analysed and recommendations for next steps were drafted.

CSSP will continue to promote actively the development of mediation in Kosovo and work with local and international institutions to strengthen the role of ADR in property dispute resolution.

CSSP Training for ADA in Vienna, Austria, 25–27 February

CSSP conducted a seminar on intercommunity dialogue and conflict sensitive project implementation for Austrian Development Agency (ADA) members of staff and representatives of the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Vienna. Sharing some theoretical background from CSSP’s methodology of Integrative Mediation as well as the practical application from CSSP’s projects, Dr. Juan Diaz, Eva Maria Malisius and Dr. Dieter Wolkewitz engaged the participants in an interactive process and activities applying problem-solving skills. CSSP offered the seminar to ADA as a result out of a two-year project funding for interactive professional trainings in Kosovo and Macedonia (2006–2008).

Assessment Visit to South Serbia, 23 March–2 April

In the last six months, the region of South Serbia has been of special attention to the government of the Republic of Serbia and beyond. Therefore CSSP emphasized its activities in the Republic of Serbia at the beginning of 2009 and got the mandate and support of the municipal government in Bujanovac to begin the activities of an Integrative Mediation process in May 2009. For this, CSSP met with the elected leaders and different parties, members of the civil society and business leaders as well as the religious communities from 23 March to 2 April 2009 in Bujanovac. CSSP got the full support of these groups to enter into a professional dialogue on how to improve intercommunity cooperation through interest-based negotiations and problem-solving.

CSSP met President Ahtisaari in Berlin, 22 April



CSSP met with President Martti Ahtisaari on 22 April on the occasion of his presentation for the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) and discussed the state of inter-ethnic relations in post independence Kosovo. In his UN function Ahtisaari gave specific rights to all ethnic groups in Kosovo and he encouraged CSSP to continue as a non state actor to mediate between the groups at the local level. He also welcomed CSSP’s activities to advocate for community based inter-ethnic conflict resolution within Kosovo institutions as well as the international community.

“Nachmittagsgespräch” on the Situation in Kosovo, Deutscher Bundestag, Berlin, 4 May

CSSP organized an informal briefing on the situation in Kosovo with Bernd Burwitz (OSCE Mitrovica and former staff of CSSP). On Monday 4th of May, Members of the Parliament, experts and an interested public got together in the Bundestag to first hear about and then discuss the current situation in Kosovo under Chatham House Rule. CSSP organizes regular policy briefings on political developments in the Balkans.

CSSP_internal

Set-Up of Kosovo Coordination Office in Prishtinë/Priština

CSSP opened a coordination office in Prishtinë/Priština, Kosovo, on 1 April 2009. Our Mediation Project Coordinator for Kosovo, Mr. Bekim Ismaili, is working from this office to support our projects in the municipalities. The opening of the coordination office has allowed us to increase our availability to our project partners and to the local leaders. We are now able to accompany our projects more intensely and react quickly to the changing dynamics in the municipalities. Thus, our tailor-made Integrative Mediation processes are targeted more effectively and strengthen intercommunity cooperation in the target municipalities.



» Jusuf Hadziselimovic, Julius Goldmann, Christoph Lüttmann, Eva Malisius, Juan Diaz, Brigitta von Messling, Dieter Wolkewitz

New CSSP team members:

in 2009 the CSSP family has been growing!

On 1 April CSSP has opened a coordination office in Kosovo, from where Bekim Ismaili is working for us fulltime to coordinate our projects in Kosovo and to provide us with daily, firsthand input from the field. Bekim visits our target municipalities on a regular basis and has thereby become a direct contact person for our local stakeholders. Similarly Kujtim Deari started to work for us based in Skopje. Kujtim coordinates our projects in Macedonia and Serbia. In Berlin Christoph Lüttmann strengthens our team as Mediation Project Manager specialising on advocacy in intercommunity mediation. Furthermore, Christoph has taken over coordination of the SEEMF network. Last but not least, Julius Goldmann joined us as full time Mediation Project Manager. Already well familiar with our team through his parttime work for us before, Julius has taken over projects in Serbia and Macedonia.

CSSP_outlook

Intracommunity Training in Bujanovac, Serbia, 18–20 May

The CSSP Multi-Community Leadership Series in Bujanovac, Serbia, will start with a First Joint Meeting in the week of 18 to 20 May 2009, where stakeholders of each community will meet for a one-day leadership working session. At this session, CSSP will introduce its methodology of Integrative Mediation and work jointly with the community stakeholders on defining intercommunity leadership in Bujanovac.

“Nachmittagsgespräche” on the Current Situation in South Serbia and Macedonia, Berlin, in May and in June

After CSSP team members accomplished field trips and the intra community trainings in Bujanovac, South Serbia, CSSP will organize a “Nachmittagsgespräch” (afternoon talk) on 26 May about the current situation in South Serbia, especially after the break out of violence in the neighbouring north of Kosovo.

Another “Nachmittagsgespräch” is planned for 16 June on the situation after the March local elections in Macedonia. The discussion will focus on the impact of the local elections on the inter-ethnic relations in the municipalities in Macedonia and present the findings of the CSSP team after the June trip.

CSSP invites Members of Parliament, experts and an interested public to the Bundestag for the afternoon talks. *In case you are interested to attend, please contact info@cssproject.org for further details.*

Assessment Visit to Macedonia, 8–12 June

After reducing its activities in the past six months due to the elections in Macedonia in March and April 2009, CSSP will now continue its dialogue with the newly elected leaders of the municipality of Struga. In the beginning of June 2009 a visit to the municipality will take place, to assess the progress and challenges of the Commission on Inter-Community Relations (CICR). The CSSP team will also monitor the situation of the CICR in Kumanovo and meet with political stakeholders in Skopje. CSSP builds the capacity of the CICRs in Macedonia as a political structure facilitating intercommunity dialogue at the local level.

Assessment Visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina, 22–26 June

In June and July, CSSP is going to start a first round of activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). We will assess possibilities and needs to institutionalize interethnic cooperation with the goal to solve conflicts locally within the municipalities countrywide. In Serbia, Macedonia and Kosovo ethnic communities are represented by law in committees, usually as a part of the municipal assembly. CSSP will first identify a set of municipalities, a network of stakeholders and look into existing mechanisms to solve intercommunity disputes.

SEEMF–Strategic Planning Conference in Budva, Montenegro, 26–27 June

The South Eastern European Mediation Forum (SEEMF) will have its strategic planning conference in Budva, Montenegro, from 26–27 June 2009. The conference is designed to work on the registration and legal structures of SEEMF, on future conferences and a strategic program for the next years. SEEMF is a regional network of mediators that supports and advocates the development of mediation as a conflict resolution tool in South Eastern Europe – the former Yugoslavia and Albania.

For further information on SEEMF please visit the website: www.seemf.eu.

Expert Roundtable on Resolving Property and Land Disputes in Berlin, 1 July

In order to learn from other contexts where property and land disputes were resolved through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and mediation, CSSP will bring together a group of experts on 1 July 2009 in Berlin to share their experiences. Approaches in settling property conflicts in other regions will be discussed with a focus on how to integrate lessons learned into the future process in Kosovo. Thus, CSSP will create a platform for dialogue, exchange and expertise regarding these issues of concern, which will be addressed at a Conference in Prishtinë/Priština in fall 2009.