

Developing a South Eastern European Mediation Forum

Networking Workshop Conclusions Sarajevo, 30 October 2005

Mediation as a general area of specialization is growing throughout South Eastern Europe and there is great interest in further promoting alternative dispute resolution (ADR) in all areas.

ADR is also increasing throughout Europe in support of democracy-building, rule of law, economic development and globalization. The European Union (EU) has adopted a voluntary Code of Conduct for Mediators and is discussing a directive on promotion of mediation. The Council of Europe has made recommendations to its members on promoting and accessing mediation. The European Agency for Reconstruction is willing to consider proposals in the future concerning mediation in the area of respect for minority and human rights.

At this critical juncture there is a need to strengthen cooperation, exchange and capacity of the already existing projects and organizations.

To this end, mediators and representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Council of Europe, Germany (German Bar Association), Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Norway (Nordic Forum for Mediation and Conflict Resolution), Serbia, and Slovenia met to discuss networking, establishing sustainable mediation frameworks and identifying the needs in the region.

The following goals were agreed at this meeting:

- to organize a yearly conference in the region;
- to exchange knowledge;
- to create a regional network;
- to understand what projects and organizations exist in the region;
- to expand mediation and establish mediation frameworks throughout the region;
- to increase visits among organizations in the region; and
- to lobby governments for the promotion of mediation.

I. The Next Meeting

1. All participants agree to meet again at the latest by October 2006 to continue this exchange.
2. To this end it is important that the next meet is jointly organized. All agree that Skopje should be the next meeting place. All participants appreciate the proposal

from representatives from Albania and Croatia to serve as back-ups in the case Macedonia is not able to organize the conference. Albanian, Croatian, and Macedonian representatives will discuss how this cooperation should proceed.

3. The three countries will establish a dialogue on the substance and support of the conference by the respective institutions and ministries.
4. A final decision on the location of the next meeting will be made at the latest by May 2006

II. Website

1. In order to strengthen cooperation, exchange, and promotion of mediation in South Eastern Europe all have agreed to work on the development of a website.
2. CSSP has offered to set up and design a website. Each participant agrees to serve as the information gathering and content supervisor for their region until the next meet when medium-term decisions can be made. Each participant will submit ideas for the website to CSSP.
3. Each country will have web pages in their languages and English will serve as an umbrella language.

III. Networking

1. All agree that very good networking and exchange has already been done in the region with the desire to increase the exchange of experiences and contacts. Participants agree to strengthen the existing networking in the region and will increase dialogue on possibilities for further regional study visits.
2. All welcome efforts from the Nordic Forum for Mediation and Conflict Resolution to promote closer contact with South Eastern Europe. Efforts will be made to meet again and to have some participants from the Western Balkan at the next Nordic/European mediation conference in May 2006.
3. In addition, the group meeting here today will work on a closed internet group to begin discussing important issues. All welcome the proposal from the representatives from Serbia to coordinate content of this group.

IV. Developing an Inventory

All participants agree that it is important to develop an inventory of the existing mediation in their home area. All agree to serve as an inventory coordinators and will strive to develop written and comprehensive information on mediation in preparation for the next meeting.

V. Name

This group will be called South Eastern European Mediation Forum (SEEMF) until the next meeting.

VI. Translation

Each participant agrees to translate this document into their home language(s).

Participants of the Networking Workshop in Sarajevo (27 – 30 October 2005)

Begovic, Vesna	Montenegro
Blazevic, Borislav	Croatia
Busevac, Lada	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Curkovic, Amela	CSSP
Diaz, Juan	CSSP
Duve, Christian	European Bar Association
Filipovic, Vesna	Serbia and Montenegro
Gavric, Smiljka	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Gjoka, Rasim	Albania
Hadzi-Zafirov, Zarko	Macedonia
Hareide, Dag	Nordic Forum for Mediation and Conflict Management
Krasniqi, Elife	Kosovo
Kukec, Bojan	Slovenia
Kupev, Milco	Macedonia
Malisius, Eva Maria	CSSP
Marjanovic, Snjezana	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Musliu, Rahim	Macedonia
Mutapcic, Dzermaludin	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Öztaş, Can	Council of Europe
Rabrenovic, Slavica	Montenegro
Ribica, Jagoda	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Salihovic, Goran	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Schwarz-Schilling, Christian	CSSP
Simac, Srdjan	Croatia
Strajina, Dobrila	Serbia and Montenegro
Walsh, Mary	EU Agency for Reconstruction
Wolkewitz, Dieter	CSSP