



## South Eastern European Mediation Forum

[www.seemf.cssproject.org](http://www.seemf.cssproject.org)

### **Follow-up from study trip to Norway and Helsinki conference 19 – 28 May 2006 Preparations for SEEMF Conference 11 – 14 October 2006**

Upon the initiative of the CSSProject for Integrative Mediation (CSSP) a group of mediators and professionals working with mediation in the Western Balkans met for a networking conference in Sarajevo in October 2005. The aim of this conference was to explore the potential for the establishment of a South Eastern European Mediation Forum (SEEMF) with a focus on the Western Balkans. At this conference, the Nordic Forum for Mediation was invited to share the experience of a mediation forum as established by the Scandinavian countries. As a consequence of this conference, the Nordic Forum for Mediation (funded by the Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs) invited a group of 31 mediators from the Western Balkans to attend a one week study trip (19 – 24 May 2006) to Norway including training sessions in Lillehammer and visits to mediation projects in Oslo. The group also attended the Nordic Forum's Tri-Annual Conference in Mediation and Conflict Management in Helsinki, Finland (26 – 28 May 2006). CSSP attended the study trip in Lillehammer, as well as the conference in Helsinki in view of preparation of the next steps for the SEEMF initiative.

Both the initial conference and the trip to Norway and Finland have consolidated the efforts to establish SEEMF with a long-term goal of creating mediation forum that provides a platform for exchange of information, experience, training, services, etc. SEEMF aims to be a self-sustaining, functioning network on mediation in South Eastern Europe with a particular emphasis on the Western Balkans.

In order to continue the initiative that was started in October 2005 and to build on the network that was established through the described events, the next conference of SEEMF is scheduled to take place in Skopje, Macedonia from 11 – 14 October 2006. The 2006 conference has three main aims: networking, training, and formalising the forum.

During the study trip in Lillehammer and the conference in Helsinki several meetings were held with the group of participants and the national coordinators to detail the preparations and planning for the 2006 conference, as well as the overall future and further establishment of SEEMF. The following is a summary of thoughts raised and decisions taken, indicating also names and contact details of those involved in the planning. At the end of the document is a list of all participants of the study trip, including their contact details.

Please feel free to make additions and corrections to the information contained in this document as appropriate by sending an email to [seemf@cssproject.org](mailto:seemf@cssproject.org).  
Thank you in advance.



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## Agreed Next Steps for SEEMF

### **I. Considerations regarding the overall SEEMF structure**

*SEEMF Structure Group Coordinator:*

Ms. Smiljka Gavric ([medijacija@epn.ba](mailto:medijacija@epn.ba); +387-33203271 – office; +387-61925680 – mobile)

The SEEMF Structure Group was created and tasked with the main focus to make strategic and medium / long-term considerations regarding the SEEMF structure. SEEMF aims to be a self-sustaining and functioning forum for mediation in the SEE regional with a particular focus on the Western Balkans. The SEEMF structure group will consider questions such as the drafting of a SEEMF Charter, the establishment / election of a SEEMF leadership, individual membership to the forum (how to join, obligations, rights, benefits, etc.), finances of SEEMF.

### **II. Decisions regarding the content of the SEEMF 2006 Conference**

*SEEMF 2006 Conference Content Group Coordinator:*

Mr. Rasim Gjoka ([gjoka@albaniaonline.net](mailto:gjoka@albaniaonline.net), +355-682023882 – mobile; +355-4248681 – office)

In order to prepare an agenda for the conference in October, the SEEMF 2006 Conference Content Group will put together proposals and ideas regarding content of the conference. This group will draft an agenda, including recommendations for structure the conference agenda, i.e. units and topics of the conference and potential speakers / trainers. Some initial considerations regarding content from the entire group are listed at the end of this document.

### **III. SEEMF 2006 Conference Budget**

In view of the budget and financial planning and preparations of the conference, an overall budget needs to be drafted. All suggestions in this regard, including possible ways to reduce costs (e.g. provision of translators, translation equipment, reduced transportation costs) should be communicated via the national coordinators to the conference organisers. CSSP as sponsor of the event has a limited budget available.

As responsible for the logistical organisation of the SEEMF 2006 Conference, it is the responsibility of the Mediation Association in Macedonia to draft a budget and submit it to CSSP. Mr. Zarko Hadzi-Zafirov ([hadzizafirov@gmail.com](mailto:hadzizafirov@gmail.com); +389-70359299 – mobile) is the contact person from the Mediation Association in Macedonia.

### **IV. SEEMF Website**

The SEEMF website will function as the main platform for the forum. An initial set of information was collected and distributed to all participants of the trip.



Responsible for the content on the SEEMF website are the national coordinators. All information provided for the website should be available in English, as well as all local languages as applicable. The national coordinators are responsible for providing the translated versions of the website texts. Please do not forget to provide pictures, electronic documents, case, articles etc from your region to be included in the website. Please send all relevant information to [seemf@cssproject.org](mailto:seemf@cssproject.org)

The national coordinators will collect all relevant documents to be added to the SEEMF website. This includes documents such as laws, guidelines, codes of conduct, as well as articles with relevance to mediation as of interest to the members. All changes to the website and documents should be submitted to CSSP via the national coordinators as soon as possible.

Decisions were taken to create the following additional / general sections in the SEEMF website.

- notice board: Here you can post offers for training or looking for training; general information on conferences, trainings, literature, etc.
- article database: Here you can post your own articles related to mediation
- theme related interest groups: Here you can create discussion forums and interest groups related to specific arenas within the mediation field (e.g. school mediation, peer mediation, promotion of mediation, etc.)
- trainer network: Here you can post details regarding mediation training and introduce available trainers

## **V. Press Conference regarding SEEMF**

A press conference will be organised in Belgrade, Serbia in early July 2006 to inform the public about the SEEMF initiative, the experience of the study trip to Norway and Helsinki, and to support the initiative of creating a mediation association in Serbia. CSSP will support this initiative.

The local contact for this press conference is Ms. Jelena Arsic ([helenasr77@yahoo.com](mailto:helenasr77@yahoo.com); +381-112437080 – office; +381-638181338 – mobile)

## **VI. Regional Meetings**

Meetings are to be held at the regional level to identify interests and needs, potential members for SEEMF, potential participants for the October conference, as well as suggestions for contacts and contributions for SEEMF. A national exchange on mediation is beneficial to all those working in the field of mediation, strengthening the individual initiative and overall promotion of mediation at the national level.

These meetings should be initiated by the individuals in the region itself. The contact details of the national coordinators can be found above.



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### ***Thoughts Regarding SEEMF 2006 Conference Content***

#### *1) Training Options for the October 2006 Conference*

- political mediation
- community mediation
- non-violent communication
- coaching
- teaching methods and training methodologies



- school mediation, family mediation, mediation for lawyers
- gender
- court annexed mediation
- restorative justice
- commercial mediation
- negotiation skills

## 2) *Mediation as a Profession*

- What are the regional challenges? What are some positive developments?
- What is lobbying and awareness? What can be done? How can initiatives in other regions be adapted?
- What are ways for financing the mediation profession?
- How can mediation be promoted?
- How can lawyers / judges be informed and convinced about the benefits of mediation?

## 3) *Sharing Experience*

- presentation of select mediation cases from different regions
- discussion of mediation cases
- cooperation between Albania and Norway on community mediation
- funding mediation
- preparing for EU standards and EU membership

## 4) *Legal and Practical Experiences and Aspects of Mediation in Europe*

- Sharing experience from the Western Balkans
- How are laws and regulations on mediation implemented?
- Other examples – EU?

## 5) *Considerations regarding Conference Agenda*

- panel discussions
- different models of mediation
- advanced training on specific techniques
- half day presentations to allow mixing of themes, participation in different aspects throughout the overall conference
- advanced training in specific mediation related techniques
- teaming a trainer from a region with a trainer from outside the region

## 6) *Possible Speakers and Contributors for October Conference*

*(Please apologise for all misspellings and correct as applicable. Please provide full information and contact details as soon as possible to [seemf@cssproject.org](mailto:seemf@cssproject.org))*

All suggestions for names and themes should be made by 20 June 2006 to the coordinator of the content group Mr. Rasim Gjoka [gjoka@albaniaonline.net](mailto:gjoka@albaniaonline.net)

- Nils Christie
- Adem Tamo (Albania)
- Jernej Sekolec, Secretary of UNCITRAL
- Dusan Ondrusek (Partners Slovakia)
- Miroslav Lajcak (Advisor to Solana, Montenegro)
- Gordana Ristin (training on court related mediation)
- Non-violent Communication trainer from Serbia
- Members of the German Mediation Association





### **III. SEEMF 2006 Conference Logistical Organisation**

*Mediation Association in Macedonia*

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