

*Dear Colleagues + Friends*

The year 2011 is slowly coming to its end. Before getting some rest during the upcoming Christmas holidays I gladly invite you to read about our activities in the last quarter of this year.

The last three months have been again full of new events and developments that influenced our work in the Balkans and in Egypt.

In **Kosovo** the confrontation between Kosovo Serbs and the Kosovo police have escalated and lead to several injuries and even some deadly casualties. Despite a visible de-escalation and the involvement of KFOR the problem has not been solved yet and the participants of our project in the north of Kosovo are hesitant to get engaged in any inter-ethnic activity at this time. On the other hand, stakeholders from the Kosovo Serb community in the north are exchanging with their colleagues in the south on ways how to govern their municipalities under Kosovo regulations without necessarily accepting the status of Kosovo. This may be interpreted as a sign that although violence has been resumed there are also voices that try to find pragmatic solutions to their everyday problems. We continued to support these conflict resolution capacities in Kosovo with several activities.

In **Macedonia** the appointment of the members of the parliament and its sub-committees has been finalized after the early elections in July. It is now for us to also accompany the newly appointed representatives in their dispute resolution tasks and to evaluate whether they need further support.

**Serbia** has been mainly busy with the Kosovo talks and the negotiation of the EU candidate status that was being discussed on December 9th in Brussels. Although Serbia has made some progress in the detention of remaining war criminals and in the EU mediated dialogue with Kosovo, the EU decided this time that Serbia has not yet implemented all necessary reforms to attain the candidate status. However the decision has been moved to February next year when the decision will be on the agenda once again.

Moreover, elections in Serbia will be held next year. It is for us now to wait and see if the multi-ethnic coalition in Bujanovac continues and if it builds on the positive efforts that were being made in regards to inter-community relations, especially the integration of minority communities in state structures in South Serbia.

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina** the process of constitutional reform is still at a stalemate and the power-sharing deal collapsed. Representatives of major political parties were invited to Cadenabbia to move the process forward. However, no major progress has been made.

In **Egypt** parliamentary elections started in November 2011 and a second round followed in December. The entire process will continue next year and we are closely following the election results. Also, CSSP has developed a project in Egypt on the basis of the two assessment visits in July and October and we are waiting for the approval of the funds.

I hope this newsletter gives you an idea of our work in the last quarter of 2011.

Thank you for reading.

Best,



Dr. Juan Diaz

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## CSSP in Kosovo

### Mitrovica

In Mitrovicë/Mitrovica CSSP continued with cooperation and the dialogue on how mediation could support existing civil society activities aiming at the improvement of the daily life on both sides of the river. Community Building Mitrovica (CBM), the Center for Resources, Youth and Media (CRYM) are the main actors in the CSSP supported dialogue. CBM and CSSP continued analyzing the current situation in Mitrovica in the last several months while clashes between KFOR, EULEX and KP have been taking place, and looked into possibilities for improving the daily life of the city's residents. CBM and CSSP analyzed the possibility of deeper cooperation and of carrying on a mediation project at both sides of the river Iber which will continue the cooperation on the extension of the informal network, and the designing of joint activities.

### Municipal Assembly Workshop on Lessons Learned of Ferizaj/Uroševac and Štrpce/Shtërpçë

Through facilitation of CSSP, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the municipal leadership of Ferizaj/Uroševac and Štrpce/Shtërpçë in May 2011. Besides the focus on return and integration of internally displaced persons and refugees, both municipalities expressed their will to intensify the relations with the neighbouring municipalities. For providing an effective service to the inhabitants of the municipality by municipal institutions, a good interplay between the legislative and executive political bodies is crucial. In addition both municipalities have gained experiences on inter-community communication in the municipality. Following the Memorandum of Understanding which included most parts of the executive bodies, the Municipal Assemblies expressed the wish to increase the cooperation and exchange lessons learned.

The objective was to exchange experiences and knowledge on the interplay of legislative and executive institutions (specific focus on communication and budgeting) and to learn more about how municipal institutions can support inter-community cooperation.

### Refreshment Training for Mediators of the Prishtina Region

In continuation and finalization of the mediation training for 15 Mediators from Prishtina region, CSSP carried out the last and final Refreshment Training in November 2011, supported by the Ministry of Justice, the Mediation Commission, the Norwegian Embassy, and ATRC.

Due to this training, licensed mediators were able to exchange with their colleagues and CSSP-ATRC trainers on mediation activities and experiences since July 2011, and on their needs as a mediator to start with court-annexed and out-of-court mediation. Through the training, mediators were trained in how to define and formulate needs, moderation and facilitation techniques; questioning and listening skills. They also got the forum to work in groups on the interests of mediators and discuss open questions to the mediation process.



### Meeting with Inter-Municipal Working Group on Return and Integration

In continuation of the joint activities of the Ministry for Communities and Return and CSSP aiming at further supporting the institutionalization of cooperation between the two neighbouring municipalities of Ferizaj/Uroševac and Štrpce/Shtërpçë, we invited all members to actively participate in the following IMWG on Return and Integration of IDPs which was held on the 15th of November 2011 in Ferizaj/Uroševac. All members actively participated and recommendations were issued.

### Joint meeting with CC members of both municipalities Ferizaj/Uroševac and Štrpce/Shtërpçë

In continuation of organizational support for CCs and institutionalization of cooperation, as well as CBM measures, CSSP held the following meeting with both CCs in order to clarify the objectives and criteria, as well as to support the members of both municipalities to recognize more closely possible future projects for joint benefit through the CBM measures.

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## CSSP in Macedonia

It has been a busy fall for CSSP in Macedonia. In the period September–December 2011 CSSP implemented four main activities in Macedonia that engaged a variety of stakeholders relevant to improving the interethnic dialogue and social cohesion in the country.

### Consultations in Kumanovo, Kicevo and Struga

In September the CSSP team (Dr. Christina Stenner and Kujtim Deari) visited the Municipalities of Kumanovo, Kicevo and Struga for consultations with the mayors, members of the Municipal Administration, the chairpersons of the Municipal Councils, and members of the Committee for Inter-community Relations, as well as civil society and business representatives.

These meetings served the purpose of monitoring the progress with the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement (OFA) on a local level and understanding the challenges faced by the administration and citizens in everyday life.

Different topics, such as the process of decentralization, the functioning of the local Committees for Inter-community Relations, equitable representation in the municipal administration, the usage of language, problems within the educational system etc. were discussed in the meetings. The outcomes of the meetings were useful guidelines for designing further tailor-made engagements of CSSP in Macedonia in order to better meet local needs and requirements for successful implementation of the OFA.

### Workshop “Mediating inter-community conflicts”

In October CSSP organized in cooperation with Forum ZFD a capacity-building workshop in “Mediating inter-community conflicts” which gathered local mediators, civil servants, civil society representatives and community leaders. The workshop aimed to not only strengthen the participants’ expertise in mediation, but also to develop and advance their training skills as well as offering a platform for local trainers to exchange. In this way the workshop did not only enable participants to practice mediation, but also provided them with tools to further promote it by building mediation capacities in their respective communities. The diverse background and different profiles of the participants provided an excellent platform for exchange of experiences and a solid basis for future cooperation and partnerships.

### Leadership Workshop “Organizing networks and coalitions”

In the last period of 2011 CSSP’s work in Macedonia mainly focused on supporting state-level institutions and political bodies that are mandated to oversee and support the implementation of the OFA. In this context two workshops on political leadership were organized. In November, CSSP conducted a Leadership Workshop on “Organizing Networks and Coalitions” for the leading staff of the Secretariat for the Implementation of OFA in the Government of Macedonia and the Agency for the Realization of the Rights of the Minorities as well as the members of the Parliamentary Committee for Inter-community Relations. Therefore, CSSP invited Ms. Cornelia Brinkmann from Steps for Peace as an external expert in organizational change. The aim of the workshop was to support the institutions to position themselves in the political landscape in Republic of Macedonia and establish the grounds for future cooperation. The workshop proved to be another significant step towards a longer joint collaboration of the institutions.



### Workshop “Political leadership in the context of inter-community cooperation and dialogue”

The second state-level workshop on “Political leadership in the context of inter-community cooperation and dialogue” was organized by CSSP in December for the Parliamentary Committee on Inter-community Relations. The CSSP team was joined by Mr. Bernd Papenkort from the Oxford Leadership Academy for the needs of this workshop. During the workshop the recently elected members together with the administrative staff of the Committee assessed the work of the previous composition of the CICR and analyzed the opportunities for the newly established CICR to function better within the current political context in the country.

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The members of the Committee were supported in the process of defining aims and agenda setting for the work of the CICR in the upcoming year. In order to provide a platform for dialogue and support horizontal cooperation between bodies relevant for the successful implementation of the OFA members of the Municipal Commissions for Inter-Community Relations from Kicevo, Struga and Kumanovo attended the workshop as well. The CSSP team used this opportunity to bilaterally meet with the representatives in the Committee from all major political parties, as well as with CSSP's international partners and supporters, and agree on common goals for 2012. Furthermore, we would hereby express our thanks to all stakeholders for their willingness to cooperation and CSSP's participation in the 2nd official Session of the Parliamentary Committee of Inter-community Relations.

## CSSP in Serbia

### Conference “Integration and Democracy in South Serbia”

On 16-17 November 2011 CSSP and Partners Serbia organized a conference on “Integration and Democracy in South Serbia” under the auspices of the Municipality of Bujanovac and the funding of the Austrian Development Agency and the German Foreign Ministry.

The goal of the conference was to visualize and build on the positive developments of the past legislative period and to approach the remaining challenges within the fields of political integration and democratic reform in South Serbia in order to turn them into recommendations.

The conference was opened with a panel discussion on the best practices and successes in social and political integration in South Serbia between Mr. Julius Goldmann (CSSP), Mr. Blažo Nedić (Partners Serbia), Mr. Shaip Kamberi (Mayor of Bujanovac), Mr. Branko Delibašić (Coordinator of the operation of Bujanovac and Preševo within the Coordination Body) and Mr. Nenad Vasić (President of the Executive Board of the Roma National Minority Council). The opening session was followed by an inaugural dinner at Hotel Rozafa.

The next day the conference continued with a short panel discussion by Mr. Dragi Krstić (the President of the Niš Bar Association) and Mr. Nenad Tairović (the Deputy President of the Roma National Minority Council and Advisor of the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, Local Self-Government and State Administration).

After this, the participants came together in working groups on (1) Access to justice, (2) Political integration, (3) Social integration and (4) Community mediation.

It was the first time that a conference with the focus on South Serbia was held in South Serbia itself instead of Belgrade or elsewhere. This was very positively perceived by local stakeholders. Thus, around 60 participants from municipal and state institutions, civil society, community mediators as well as legal professionals attended the conference and took active part in the working groups. The working groups conceptualized how to develop a long-term institutionalization of problem solving within the local self-government and in cooperation with the state level government.



The working groups provided the participants with an opportunity to directly discuss the most important issues in South Serbia having almost all relevant stakeholders from political as well as civil society side represented. Also, it was the first time that the Roma community was represented not only by local representatives, but also by state actors. They could thus participate with a stronger voice.

The great interest in the conference and the high media coverage shows that the conference was important to the citizens of South Serbia taking the upcoming elections into account. With the joint conclusions which summarize the recommendations developed in the different working groups the participants created a concrete document that they can further discuss and continue to work on next year, with the newly elected representatives.

## CSSP in Bosnia and Herzegovina

### Mostar

CSSP met the stakeholders of the civil society dialogue in Mostar on 9 November to officially discuss and approve a consultative mechanism between the City and the civil society groups. The workshop was prepared during a series of bilateral meetings held throughout the year. The process officially started with a mediation conducted by CSSP's Honorary President, Christian Schwarz-Schilling, between the City authorities, the City Council and NGO representatives in November 2010.

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This year's workshop was successful for all sides, as a consultative mechanism was agreed and will be included in a memorandum of understanding between the City and the civil society.

The memorandum will regulate the relationships between the stakeholders and will achieve more transparency concerning tenders for services which can be provided by the civil society.

The consultative mechanism shall be used in cases of consultation but also in cases of disputes over existing issues between the stakeholders. The mechanism was agreed between the NGO community, the political parties, the mayor and the city council president. The workshop participants from the civil society were particularly satisfied that the mayor, the council president, all parties and the relevant staff of the administration attended the workshop. CSSP was asked by the stakeholders to monitor and consult the stakeholders during the implementation of the memorandum and the consultative mechanism in 2012.

## CSSP in Egypt

### Workshops in Cairo and Ismailiya

Juan Diaz and Dieter Wolkewitz went on CSSP's second mission to Egypt from 17th to 21st of October. This time the trip was financed by the German Foreign Ministry and led the team to Ismailiya and Cairo for two workshops. The participants covered focus groups from the regions of Sinai, Suez, Port Said and the Nile Delta. In vibrant political times, the visits were organized to engage activists and party members on "Basics of negotiation in political life". Due to security constraints in Cairo, the second workshop had to be changed from a two to a one day format and focused on "Basics of negotiations in times of political crisis".

Both workshops were conceptualized to support activists in their skills on platform building, coalition making and public outreach. In both groups participants learned to build common views and negotiate with political rivals as well as to communicate with government representatives and the general public. The workshops were received as very helpful in preparation of the first free elections in Egypt in over 50 years.

The Ismailiya workshop was held in cooperation with the Sahn El-Theqa Foundation and the Cairo workshop was conducted in cooperation with the Tahrir-Lounge Cairo.

## Cadenabbia

The Konrad-Adenauer Foundation (KAS) in Sarajevo organized a colloquium on the compatibility of the Bosnian constitution with the EU legislative framework. The three day event was attended by all BiH party leaders, local and international experts, Members of the European Parliament, the German Bundestag and members of the international community from Sarajevo and Brussels. CSSP was represented by Christian Schwarz-Schilling as a member of the expert team and by Dieter Wolkewitz, who facilitated the last day of the colloquium. The event was overshadowed by rumors that the invited Bosnian party leaders would use the event to agree on a coalition that would build the long time overdue state government. After long debates and discussions the participants were not able to use the momentum to agree on positions for constitutional reform. As a result it became clear that more mediation and facilitation is needed to bring positions closer to agreement. Further, no political results were achieved and participants were not able to agree on political compromises in order to gain majorities for progress in constitutional reform and government building. Both would have been essential for BiH to become invited for candidate status by the EU in December 2011.

## CSSP in Google Study

In May 2011 Mediation Project Manager Julius Goldmann had an interview with the Institute of German Economy (Institut der Deutschen Wirtschaft) in Cologne on the usage of Google Apps for office management purposes. The interview was part of a research process commissioned by Google Germany. The interview was published in their final report "Faktor Google – Wie deutsche Unternehmen Google Einsetzen".

The report can be downloaded at:  
[http://www.faktorgoogle.de/images/pdf/Studie\\_lan\\_g\\_Web\\_RZ.pdf](http://www.faktorgoogle.de/images/pdf/Studie_lan_g_Web_RZ.pdf).

# CSSP\_work in the field, September – December 2011

Area	Purpose	Dates
<b>Macedonia</b>	Stakeholder Consultations	21 September 2011
	Train the Trainers Workshop “Mediating inter-community conflicts”	17-21 October 2011
	“Leadership Workshop on organizing Networks and Coalitions”	9-16 November 2011
	Interactive Training “Political leadership in the context of inter-community collaboration and dialogue”	1-7 December 2011
<b>Bosnia</b>	Interactive Training “Systems design workshop: creating a consultative mechanism”	6-11 November 2011
<b>Kosovo</b>	Stakeholder consultations “Intermunicipal working group on return and integration”	19-23 September 2011
	Interactive Training “Municipal assembly workshop: lessons learned”	3-9 October 2011
	Interactive Training “Refreshment training for mediators”, Stakeholder Consultations “intermunicipal working group on return and integration”	7-16 November 2011
	Interactive Training “Municipal Preparation Team Workshop”	12-16 December 2011
<b>Serbia</b>	Systemic Advocacy “Conference on Integration and Democracy in South Serbia”	16-17 November 2011
<b>Egypt</b>	Interactive Training Program “Basics of negotiation in political life”	17-21 October 2011
<b>Italy</b>	KAS colloquium on the compatibility of the Bosnian constitution with the EU legislative framework	25-29 November 2011
<b>Nepal</b>	Stakeholder Consultations	6-10 December 2011

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