

Annual report

2000



European Platform for Conflict
Prevention and Transformation

and

European Centre
for Conflict Prevention

Annual report 2000

European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation

and

European Centre for Conflict Prevention

From a Culture of Reaction to a Culture of Prevention

'For the United Nations, there is no higher goal, no deeper commitment and no greater ambition than preventing armed conflict. (...) Today, no one disputes that prevention is better, and cheaper, than reacting to crises after the fact. Yet our political and organisational cultures and practices remain oriented far more towards reaction than prevention. In the words of the ancient proverb, it is difficult to find money for medicine, but easy to find it for a coffin. The transition from a culture of reaction to a culture of prevention will not be easy for the reasons I have outlined, but the difficulty of our task does not make it any less imperative. War and natural disasters remain the major threats to the security of individuals and human communities' world wide. Our solemn duty to future generations is to reduce these threats. We know what needs to be done. What is now needed is the foresight and political will to do it.'

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in *Facing the Humanitarian Challenge*, 1999, report to the General Assembly of the UN

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The European Centre for Conflict Prevention

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Foreword

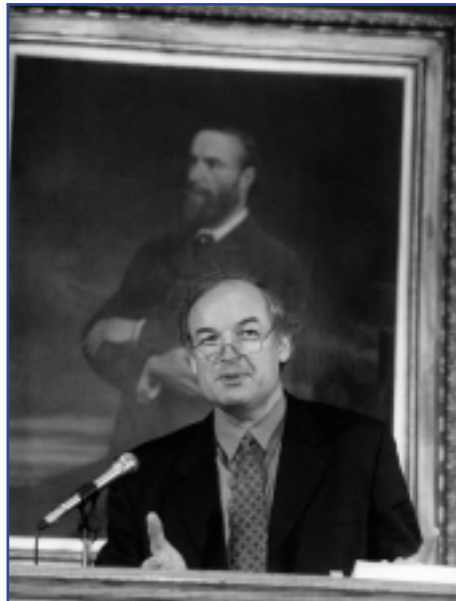
CONFLICT PREVENTION HAS REACHED ADOLESCENCE

Conflict prevention has grown out of its infancy. Just a couple of years ago, this novelty would have been met with much scepticism. However, devastating wars in Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, and former Yugoslavia, have pushed conflict prevention and peace building higher up the political agenda, and a genuine political will to invest in it seems to be growing. As Michael Lund has said: 'conflict prevention is no longer in its infancy but has reached adolescence.'¹

Recently, the EU, the United Nations and the G8 all voiced their belief in the need to do more to reduce the potential for violence and to support mechanisms to ensure lasting peace. In practice this means that at the policy and strategic level a great step forward has been taken. International Governmental Organisations (UN, World Bank), regional intergovernmental bodies (EU, OSCE, OAU) and sub-regional organisations (ECOWAS and SADC) created small units to analyse early-warning signals in order to come to policy options for preventive (re-)action. More and more international NGOs have become active in the field of conflict prevention and peace building, and their role is increasingly acknowledged and appreciated. Several research institutions analyse conflict dynamics and study the lessons to be learned from earlier experiences.

This process is promising. However, in comparison with for instance the human rights, development co-operation or environmental movements, the field of prevention of violent conflicts and peace building is still relatively new and developing.

Between words and deeds stands *implementation*. How could conflict-prevention and peace-building measures be incorporated into the structures, the strategy, and the operating policies of international governmental organisations, governments or NGOs? What are the appropriate tools for



Paul van Tongeren at the launch of a publication of the Irish Platform

governments and NGOs, and at which stage of the conflict should they be used?

One possible course is to improve the quality of our lobbying and advocacy work. And indeed, especially in this field the European Platform has made a lot of progress, as you will see in this report. Another example of successful joint action is the establishment of the European Peace-building Liaison Office (EPLO) in Brussels.

One of the core tasks of the European Platform is not only to lobby for specific themes or regions, but for the broader field

as well. At other occasions I have made suggestions for a framework or *infrastructure*, necessary to fulfil a number of these needs that in my opinion should be fulfilled in every country. Besides creating several new institutions, it is even more important to incorporate the existing governmental apparatus, academic institutions and NGOs into such an infrastructure. An infrastructure that incorporates state and non-state actors would ease a clear *division of labour*, which is an absolute precondition to be effective in the prevention of violent conflicts. And of course, a related infrastructure is also needed in the conflict zones as well.

The first half of 2001, Sweden holds the Presidency of the European Union. Sweden has traditionally played a leading role in conflict prevention and has declared that it will be a priority for its forthcoming presidency. The Swedish Presidency offers a chance to make real progress in refining the ideas of an infrastructure.

Paul van Tongeren
Executive Director, European Centre for Conflict Prevention

¹ *The Impact of Conflict Prevention Policy: Cases, Measures, Assessment, Yearbook 2000*. Conflict Prevention Network

The European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation



Calendar of activities in 2000

- Throughout the year implementation of *Searching for Peace in Europe & Eurasia* and *Searching for Peace in Asia & the Pacific* projects

January

- Steering Group meeting

February

- Conflict Prevention Newsletter (Special on 'Water & Conflict')

March

- Water & Conflict Prevention workshop at the Second World Water Forum in The Hague, the Netherlands

May

- Annual Platform meeting
- Steering Group meeting

June

- Policy forum on the Caucasus organised by the Development and Peace Foundation, Germany, with the European Platform as one of the collaborating partners
- Preparatory meeting on the Caucasus (Searching for Peace in Europe & Eurasia project)
- Preparatory meeting on Asia in Tokyo, Japan (Searching for

Peace in Asia & the Pacific project)

- Lobby document: 'The G8 and Conflict Prevention: Turning declarations into action.' Recommendations for the G8 Summit of July 21-23 in Okinawa, Japan' by International Alert, Saferworld and the European Platform

July

- Start with preparations for 'Lessons Learned in Conflict Interventions' project

August

- Preparatory meetings with NGOs and IGOs in Israel and the Palestinians Territories ('Searching for Peace in the Middle East & North Africa' project)
- Policy forum on the Horn of Africa organised by the Development and Peace Foundation with the European Platform as one of the collaborating partners

October

- Conflict Prevention Newsletter (Special on 'Conflict Resolution in Schools')
- Preparatory meetings with NGOs and IGOs in Macedonia and Kosovo ('Searching for Peace in Europe' project)

November

- Updates of the 'Searching for Peace in Africa' surveys made available on the website

December

- Seminar on Conflict Prevention in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in London, UK ('Searching for Peace in Europe & Eurasia' project) co-organised with Conciliation Resources (UK)
- Preparatory meetings in Indonesia and the Philippines ('Searching for Peace in Asia & the Pacific' project)
- Lobby document: 'Preventing Violent Conflict: Opportunities for the Swedish and Belgian Presidencies of the European Union in 2001' by International Alert, Saferworld and the European Platform

Foreword

TOWARDS NEW PARTNERSHIPS

The European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation is going from strength to strength, expanding its own activities (as this report shows) and, as a result, helping develop the field of conflict prevention and transformation as a whole.

Platform publications, networking and information dissemination have become a key part in providing resolution-oriented analysis of conflicts, and in helping actors in the field to establish partnerships with each other, and maximise the potential of conflict prevention.

A key development in the past year has been the establishment of the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) in Brussels - a wonderful example of the type of concrete co-operation

In the past year, we have seen that the European Union's interest in, and commitment to, conflict transformation has undergone a sea-change

between 17 NGOs. Platform members were active in its foundation, and remain committed to its Steering Group. EPLO fills a vital gap for conflict transformation NGOs - namely acting as a focal point for its members when dealing with the European Union. On the one hand, *EPLO Update* provides its members with up-to-the-minute information on EU policies and instruments for conflict prevention and transformation, as well as funding opportunities for NGOs. On the other, EPLO keeps EU officials updated with NGO work in the field; identifies NGO resources that could be better utilised by the EU; and organises dialogues between EU officials and NGOs. Naturally, EPLO also fosters co-operation and communication amongst its members.



Sandra Melone

EPLO's foundation could not have been more timely: in the past year, we have seen that the European Union's interest in, and commitment to, conflict transformation has undergone a sea-change. Whereas at the time of the Köln summit (June 1999), there was strong resistance from some member states to conflict prevention, by now it is not only a generally accepted term, but is also an agreed-upon priority. The

preparations for both the Swedish and Belgian Presidencies of the EU look highly promising: both governments appear keen to develop not only the capabilities of the EU in conflict transformation, but also to provide the instruments to make such action possible.

Another area that the EU seems likely to develop in the coming months is the partnership between the EU and NGOs in the field of conflict prevention. In this regard, the activities of the Platform and EPLO are particularly important, strengthening as they do not only our own work on the ground, but also our communication with each other, and our interaction with the EU. One particularly important meeting will be the Platform Conference in Gripsholm, Sweden in May.

So we must congratulate the Platform, members and staff, on its vital work. This report shows an outstanding level of quality (and quantity!) of activity. The conflict surveys and analysis are prominent in the field, providing actors with resolution- and action-oriented material; the networking strengthens the work of the NGO community as a whole; and the lobbying and advocacy provide that crucial bridge between NGOs and decision-makers. We should not underestimate the extent to which the Platform's work has contributed not only to the understanding of conflict and to the practice of conflict prevention, but also to the development of our sector of the NGO community. Congratulations!

Sandra Djuvara Melone
Executive Director, European Centre for Common Ground, Brussels,
Member of the European Platform Steering Group

Introduction

AN OPEN NETWORK

The European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation is an open network of some 150 key European organisations working in the field of the prevention and/or resolution of violent conflicts in the international arena. Its mission is to facilitate the exchange of information and experience among participating organisations, as well as to stimulate co-operation and synergy.

The European Platform was established in summer 1997, as a result of the European Conference on Conflict Prevention in February 1997, where the Amsterdam Appeal was adopted. The Amsterdam Appeal presented the terms for an effective EU approach to preventing conflict and outlined key advocacy issues for NGOs. It stressed the need for participation by a range of actors, including NGOs, and urged coalition building between different

NGOs and with national governments and European institutions.

The Steering Group of the European Platform is composed of representatives of several national networks or important NGOs from different countries. It functions as an advisory group to the European Centre, the Platform's secretariat. Once a year, the Steering Group and the international Board of the European Centre have a joint meeting.

The members of the Steering Group are:

- **Tobias Debiel**, Stiftung Entwicklung und Frieden (SEF), Bonn, Germany.

The Development and Peace Foundation seeks to strengthen political capacity for action and to improve the substance of the German and European contribution to the shaping of global affairs.

- **Paul Eavis**, Saferworld, London, United Kingdom

An independent research and advocacy group. It is committed to alerting governments and educating the public about the need for more effective approaches to tackling and preventing armed confrontations around the globe.

- **Jean Freymond**, Centre for Applied Studies in International Negotiation (CASIN), Geneva, Switzerland.

CASIN aims to assist negotiators-diplomats, (inter)national civil servants, business executives, representatives of NGOs and others to develop new understanding, attitudes and techniques for managing the increasingly complex and inter-linked issues on the international agenda.

- **Jos de la Haye**, NCOS/Flemish NGO Consultation on Conflict Prevention, Brussels, Belgium

Since early 1996, a number of Flemish peace, human rights, humanitarian and development organisations have been engaged in a regular consultation on conflict prevention. Some of the participants are involved in concrete fieldwork, while others are dedicated to advocacy.

- **Enno Hommes**, European Centre for Conflict Prevention, Utrecht, the Netherlands

A Dutch foundation which hosts the secretariat of the

European Platform. It facilitates, initiates and coordinates activities of the European Platform and regularly consults with the Steering Group. The European Centre also develops activities in the Netherlands.

- **Martin Honeywell**, International Alert, London

International Alert devises non-governmental bridge-building initiatives to unite people divided by internal conflict. It seeks to transform violent conflict into constructive dialogue and negotiation. Working with all parties, including government and opposition groups.

- **Sandra Melone**, European Centre for Common Ground, Brussels, Belgium

Established in Brussels in 1995, works in partnership with Search for Common Ground, based in Washington DC. Both organisations share a vision of transforming adversarial approaches toward co-operative solutions.

- **Anne Palm**, KATU Citizens' Security Council, Helsinki, Finland

KATU, the Finnish conflict prevention platform, is an open network combining people interested in conflict prevention from different kinds of organisations, such as NGOs engaged in development co-operation or humanitarian assistance and those active in international issues.

- **Valery Tishkov**, Centre for the Study and Management of Conflict (Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Russian Academy of Sciences), Moscow, Russia

Focused on the analytical and applied study of ethnicity, nationalism and ethnic conflicts in multi-ethnic states undergoing socio-economic and political transition from totalitarian to democratic societies.

ACTIVITIES

1 Networking

Creating networks and improving co-ordination are among the major challenges in the world of conflict resolution and peace building today. Interdisciplinary networks and forums, connecting academics, civil servants and practitioners provide a useful vehicle for sharing experiences and views from different perspectives. For this reason, the European Platform was established, as an open network of organisations working in the field of the prevention and/or resolution of violent conflicts in the international arena.

The European Platform aims to have participant organisations in all European countries, preferably national platforms or networks, such as have already been established - or are being established - in Belgium, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Switzerland and the UK. Where no such national focal point exists, the European Platform aims to support the creation of one. By organising Platform meetings, preferably in the country holding the EU-Presidency, the Secretariat brings the participating organisations together to discuss relevant issues of the moment, from common thematic issues to institutional questions.

The European Platform consists of approximately 150 key organisations mainly in Europe. Stimulating the creation of and supporting existing national platforms is a difficult and slow process, and alongside countries where local NGOs successfully established national platforms, in Germany and Ireland for example, other established national platforms have become less active.

Alongside the European network, an international network is also taking shape. When the *International Directory* was published by the Platform in 1998, some 475 organisations working in the field of conflict prevention and/or resolution world wide were listed. As a direct result of the Searching for Peace programme, the network has expanded rapidly over the last two years. In the 1999 publication *Searching for Peace in Africa*, approximately 200 African and international organisations are mentioned. The upcoming publications on Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and

the two volumes on Asian conflicts, will add respectively, at least, another 600 and 500 organisations to our network. In total, the international network numbers approximately 1,200 to 1,500 contacts. Besides organisational contacts, the Searching for Peace programme creates a network of specialised resource persons. At this moment, the network numbers some 400 resource persons.

THE CONFLICT PREVENTION NEWSLETTER

One of the main instruments through which the European Platform for Conflict Prevention facilitates the sharing of knowledge and experience is its quarterly publication, the *Conflict Prevention Newsletter*. It is one of the few general newsletters on conflict prevention and resolution. Where other publications are typically targeted at, and limited by, their regional, thematic or group focus, the Conflict Prevention Newsletter aims to cover all, and serve the needs of a global community of organisations active in the field of conflict prevention and peace



The Steering Group of the European Platform from left to right: Sandra Melone, Valery Tishkov, Jean Freymond, Anne Palm, Jos de la Haye, Tobias Debiel, Martin Honeywell, Paul Eavis, Enno Hommes

building. Its readers are to be found within governmental and NGO Conflict Management Units, in academic centres and grassroots organisations. The Newsletter currently has a circulation of 3,000 world wide. The Newsletter is also available on the Platform's web-site and therefore readily available to a broad audience.

In 2000 three new regular items were added in the Newsletter:

- detailed information about conflict prevention

- and the European Union, written by Saferworld and International Alert in *Outlook on Brussels*,
- a focus upon Africa, provided by the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD),
- so-called *thematic special issues*. In 2000 special issues on Water & Conflict, and Conflict Resolution in Schools were included. In 2001 specials are planned focussing on the EU and Conflict Prevention, Best Practices & Lessons Learned and Central Asia.

Information Clearinghouse

Large parts of the world are affected by wars and violent conflicts. Many of these conflicts have been analysed thoroughly and much is known about their causes and the reasons for their escalation and violence. Far less information is available on what has been done and what is currently being undertaken to de-escalate these conflicts. Nor is sufficient information available about the people and institutions that have gained expertise in specific conflicts or sub-regions. Furthermore, there is a rising tide of complaints about the flagrant lack of communication and co-ordination between organisations which in one way or another are involved in conflict prevention and/or conflict management - local and international, governmental and non-governmental. This shows the need for a clearinghouse that facilitates the exchange of information and experience among participating organisations and stimulates co-operation and synergy.

SEARCHING FOR PEACE

The Searching for Peace Programme records, describes and analyses prevention and management efforts in the main violent conflicts in the world. Conflict surveys of these efforts are produced, as well as complementary Regional Directories, which contain profiles of the main local and international NGOs working for peace in specific regions. The purpose of the Searching for Peace Programme is to fill the gaps in information, communication and co-ordination. The ultimate aim of the project is to contribute to a peaceful transformation of violent wars and conflicts around the world.

The Programme consists of several Regional Projects. Each Regional Project starts with the organisation of one or more preparatory seminars and results in a published review of conflicts in the area, and regularly updated web-site information. Furthermore policy seminars are organised where results of the published reviews are discussed, aimed at applying the lessons learned and formulating policy recommendations for governments, inter-governmental organisations and NGOs. Regular contact and continuing co-operation with the build-up network of regional

experts and organisations is envisioned and stimulated. The Regional Projects involve close co-operation between the European Platform and academic institutions, networks and NGOs in the specific regions.

This programme has a unique formula combining several objectives and results.

- It provides basic information on who does what and practical information about important publications, resource contacts, web-sites and databases etc.
- It offers insight into the varying approaches used in conflict prevention and management in different situations.
- It gives a voice to local/regional NGOs, by working in co-operation with and drawing upon the expertise of local people.
- The programme acts as a bridge between NGOs, networks, academic institutions and resource persons and facilitates exchanges between these different actors and brings them closer together.
- Finally, the policy seminars that are organised as a follow-up to the programmes, provide an opportunity to discuss efforts for effective

conflict transformation and to develop concrete policy recommendations.

In 2000 we started to look for possibilities of publishing the series at a commercial publishing house.

Searching for Peace in Africa

In October 1999, the publication of *Searching for Peace in Africa* was finalised, in co-operation with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD, South Africa). It presents an overview of conflict prevention and management activities of local and international organisations in conflict areas in Africa. Comments, suggestions and news from readers are welcome and are incorporated in the updates, where relevant.

Activities in 2000

- The surveys on conflicts in Africa were updated and made available on the web-site, financed by the European Centre for Conflict Prevention.
- The book is now being used on several university courses, for example the MA-programme in Peace Studies of Bradford University, and in training programmes, for example by UNITAR in their training for senior diplomats in Africa.

Searching for Peace in Europe & Eurasia

The book will be published in 2001 and contains surveys of 19 violent conflicts in these regions, regional context chapters, policy recommendations chapters and introductory chapters dealing with topics such as minorities, conflict prevention capacities of the EU and the OSCE and collapse of the former Soviet Union. Furthermore the publication includes a directory of some 500 organisations working in the conflict resolution field.

Violent conflicts in the Balkans and the Caucasus are in general well-documented. This is also true for information on NGO activities and the involvement of regional and international organisations and other actors. Activities range from training workshops, fact finding missions and monitoring, conferences, exchanges, to capacity building projects.

For Central Asia, however, there is comparatively little information available about the challenges to conflict transformation. There is an urgent need for balanced analysis of the current political situation and for information about the general role of civil

society actors in the Central Asian states. Within the OSCE, concern for this region is increasing and the need is growing for more information and better insight into the possibilities of preventing conflicts in this region with the available instruments of the OSCE.

Activities in 2000

- The preparatory research, regional visits to the Balkans, and preparatory seminars increased the number of contacts with organisations and resource persons.
- The International Centre on Conflict & Negotiation in Georgia and the Centre for Conflict Management in Kazakhstan have agreed to co-operate with regard to the Directory part of the publication.
- In July, the European Platform organised a preparatory meeting with 15 experts from Georgia, Abkhazia, Armenia, and international experts to discuss the draft texts for the surveys for the Caucasus, following on a Policy Forum on Regional Conflict Management, organised by the German Development and Peace Foundation.
- In December, the European Centre organised a roundtable seminar on Conflict Prevention in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan together with Conciliation Resources (UK). More than 40 experts from different Central Asian NGOs, governments, representatives from the OSCE and the Office of the High Commissioner on National Minorities and embassies in the UK as well as academics and the BBC world service, participated in this roundtable seminar.

'A group of professionals from Central Asia and Europe have discussed conflict dynamics and possible strategies for effective conflict prevention in Central Asia. For me it was a fortunate and rare opportunity to establish contacts and develop co-operation with organisations active in the field of conflict prevention and resolution in Europe and other parts of the world.'

KAMOLUDIN ABDULLAEV, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
TAJIKISTAN CENTRE FOR CITIZENSHIP
EDUCATION

Following the roundtable a preparatory seminar was organised by the Platform bringing together a smaller group of regional and international experts to discuss the draft surveys on Tajikistan and the Ferghana Valley.

In the final phase of the project, the European Platform will organise a policy seminar on the role of NGOs and Lessons Learned in the Balkans, in Sarajevo. The publication will be launched at a conference on Central Asia, co-organised by the Dutch Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The project Searching for Peace in Europe & Eurasia is fully funded by the Dutch and Danish Ministries of Foreign Affairs, DFID, and the Karl Popper Foundation (Switzerland).

Searching for Peace in Asia & the Pacific

Starting with preliminary research and the organisation of a preparatory seminar in June 2000 in Japan, the project will eventually lead to two published reviews of conflicts and organisations in the area: one edition focusing on Central and South Asia (December 2001), and another on Southeast and East Asia & the Pacific (2002). The two and a half-year project will be finalised with the organisation of policy seminars in the regions as well as in Europe, which are aimed at applying the lessons learned and formulating policy recommendations for governments, inter-governmental organisations and NGOs. The project involves close co-operation between the European Platform and academic institutions, networks and NGOs in Asia as well as in other regions.

Activities in 2000

- On-going: research into the different conflicts, the conflict issues, key resources, like

INFORMATION CENTRE

The European Platform's information centre maintains a large collection of material produced by organisations around the world involved in conflict prevention. Its focus is on the unpublished and unpublicised 'grey literature' produced by NGOs, including reports on research and field activities, conference papers, policy briefings, frameworks for action and annual reports. This enables the circulation of valuable information which is unavailable from standard sources such as

publications, reports, web-sites. Inventory of organisations and resource persons working in and on the conflict areas.

- June 2000: A preparatory seminar with our strategic partners from Japan and India, some experts from other regions in Asia and some international advisors, followed the International Symposium on the Role of NGOs in Conflict Prevention, organised by the Japan Institute for International Affairs (JIIA) and the Japan Centre for Preventive Diplomacy (JCPD) in Tokyo, Japan.
- Regional visits to Jakarta, Indonesia, and an International Conference on Conflict Resolution, Peace Building, Sustainable Development and Indigenous Peoples in Manila, the Philippines helped identify key partners and establish first working contacts.
- December 2000: most of the authors for the South Asia part of the publication were contracted to write the conflict surveys and articles. A start was made with sending the questionnaires to the organisations upon which the profiles for the directory will be based.

The Searching for Peace in Asia & the Pacific project is funded by the Dutch and Canadian Ministries of Foreign Affairs and DFID.

Fundraising for the last phase of the project is still ongoing.

Searching for Peace in the Middle East

An exploratory visit was made to Israel and the Palestinian Territories in order to identify potential strategic partners and other organisations interested in working with the European Platform in developing a project in this region. We are pleased to say that several organisations have indicated their interest in the project.

publishers, bookshops, and libraries. A database catalogue, 'Cardbox for windows' ensures easy access to the documents, strengthening support of

NGO activity from other organisations and stimulating general interest in conflict prevention. Current work to make the database accessible through the Internet will improve this service even further. By linking relevant information with bibliographic listings of 'grey literature,' alongside

details of where the material can be obtained, the information centre aims to make the Internet a more effective tool for organisations working in the field of conflict prevention. January 2001 saw the

WEB-SITE

As one of the few major sources of information on conflict prevention and peace building, the European Platform's web-site is becoming an important tool for peace-building and conflict prevention organisations, as reflected in the increase from an average of 20,000 hits per month in 1998 to an average of 100,000 hits per month during 2000.

On 77Mb the European Platform's web-site provides visitors with:

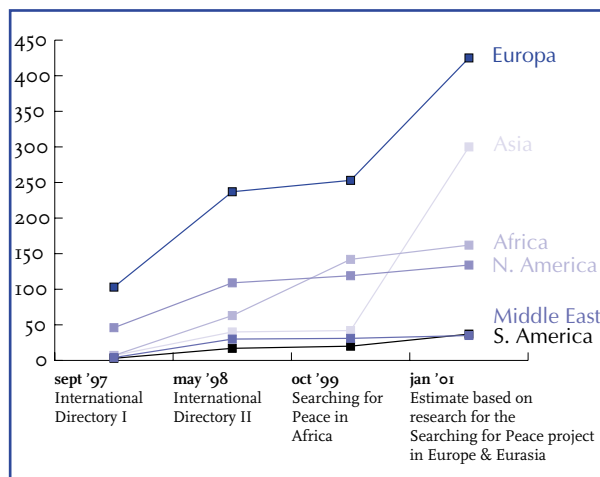
- regularly updated background information on conflicts and peace-building activities;
- details of organisations around the world engaged in the area of conflict prevention;
- other web-sites and databases containing useful information;
- other networks in the field;
- new literature (bibliographic information or a link to the full-text on Internet);
- conferences and other events in the world.

start of an extended research to combine this bibliographic database with the other databases that will be developed: the organisation and conflict databases, on the web-site.

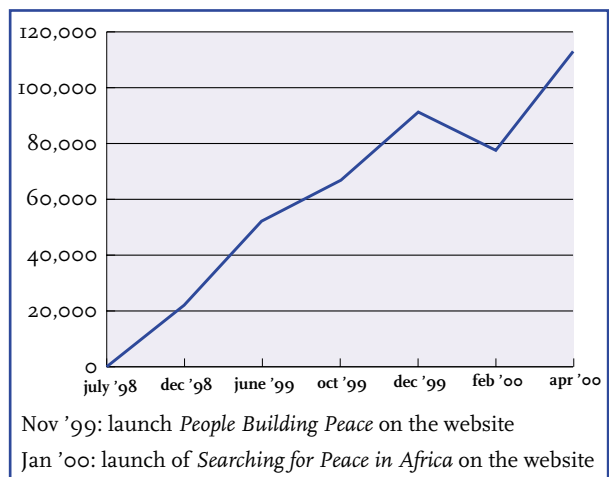
All publications, including the 1998 *International Directory, People Building Peace, Searching for Peace in Africa*, conference reports and the *Conflict Prevention Newsletter* are made available on the web-site.

We have now reached a point where it is necessary to restructure the web-site in order to maintain and improve this information. For this reason, the European Centre has launched its 'A new web-site for the European Platform' project. In the first phase of the project the European Centre made an inventory of users' problems and wishes, and formulated ideas for an 'ideal web-site': a web-site with a clear layout and content, easily accessible information, and which is easily updated. This last point being one of the main issues is the creation of databases. For this project, the European Centre contracted a professional advisory organisation called InfoManagement. In January 2001 research started into what kind of data has to be accessible by databases and how these databases can be created.

A growing network



Visitors to the website



LESSONS LEARNED

It is widely acknowledged that the field of conflict prevention and peace building needs greater coherence, and that it lacks an integrated body of knowledge. To fill this gap, several publications on Lessons Learned in the field of conflict prevention and peace building have recently been issued.

In general these publications indicate that the field is in transition from a pioneer stage to a more reflective stage characterised by increasing professionalism. It has even been said that the field is moving from infancy to adolescence. For the field in general, it is extremely important to collect these various 'lessons learned', and then restructure and re-formulate them in order to ensure that particular lessons reveal their wider relevance.

These various publications concentrate on different actors or sectors, and have varying degrees of theoretical or practical focus. They describe lessons learned through years of experience in peace building. The European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation has taken the initiative to bring several authors and other experts together with the aim of formulating common lessons learned. These lessons should be disseminated as widely as possible. It is important not only to inform those active in the conflict prevention field about these lessons, but also other relevant actors in world politics.

The objectives of the project are:

- To contribute to the expertise and policy making on conflict prevention and peace building;
- To formulate and integrate those "Lessons Learned" and "Best Practices", which have been found to be crucial by experts;
- To stimulate greater coherence and an integrated body of knowledge in this field and set up a mechanism/structure for a more permanent "lessons learned"-process;
- To involve a large international public (NGOs, politicians, media) in the discussion;
- To raise awareness of this field and its lessons learned and to widely distribute the findings;
- To have the "Lessons Learned" incorporated in

upcoming policy documents, which are (co-) produced and published by the European Platform for Conflict Prevention.

Key collaborating organisations in this project are:
Responding to Conflict (UK)
Berghof Research Centre for Constructive Conflict Management (Germany)
Collaborative for Development Action (USA)
Life & Peace Institute (Sweden)
Conciliation Resources (UK)
Field Diplomacy Initiative (Belgium)
International IDEA (Sweden)
Search for Common Ground (USA)
Kontakt der Kontinenten (the Netherlands)
International Alert (UK)
INCORE (Northern Ireland)
Cordaid (the Netherlands)
Co-existence Initiative (USA)

Activities in 2000:

- Publication of two volumes of background papers to the project.
- In the year 2000, the foundation of the project was laid. After researching the field, two volumes with background papers on the topic were published and distributed in preparation for the seminar on Lessons Learned in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, in February 2001. It is also the intention to publish a compendium on the web-site. From April to October, a working document describing building blocks of lessons learned will be discussed at several seminars and conferences prior to a large international conference on lessons learned in October. After the conference a publication is planned, incorporating the working document and the input of the seminars and conference.

While fundraising for the 'Lessons Learned on Peace-building' project continues, the following donors have already committed themselves: SVD Foundation (Netherlands), Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Switzerland), Van den Berch van Heemstede Foundation (Netherlands), Slifka Foundation (USA), and Cordaid (Netherlands).

3 Lobby & advocacy

There is an urgent need to build understanding amongst practitioners, the public as well as the EU and its institutions, of the role that governments, development organisations, indigenous associations, peace movements and religious bodies can play in reducing the potential for violent conflict, rebuilding war-torn societies and in preventing future violence.

EUROPEAN PEACE-BUILDING LIAISON OFFICE

In order to enhance the information exchange between NGOs in the field of conflict prevention and peace building and the European institutions, a group of NGOs has established a European Peace-building Liaison Office (EPLO) in Brussels. The group members seek to promote peace-building policies among the decision makers in Europe by informing them of the capabilities and resources offered by NGOs, by informing NGOs of political and institutional developments within the EU, and by improving the effectiveness and co-ordination of the NGOs themselves. The European Centre for Conflict Prevention functions as a liaison between EPLO and the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation. Ms. Heike Schneider has been appointed as Head of Office. EPLO will provide its members with:

- relevant information on EU structures, policies and personnel;
- regular updates on institutional and policy developments;
- details of the EU's instruments for conflict prevention and transformation;
- assessments of EU funded peace-building programmes;
- advice on EU funding opportunities for NGOs;
- timely notification of relevant events;
- systems for monitoring and sharing information on current NGO activities and lessons learned from them.

In addition, EPLO aims to improve EU awareness of this developing NGO sector and foster EU-NGO co-operation by:

- tailoring information about NGO activities and the lessons derived from them for EU policy makers;
- identifying NGO resources that could be better utilised by the EU;
- identifying EU/NGO capability gaps and providing options for how they might be filled by the EU and NGOs independently or in partnership;
- highlighting good practice in planning, programming and implementing conflict prevention and transformation policies.

LOBBY DOCUMENTS

The G8 and Conflict Prevention - Turning Declarations into Action

Although the advocacy activities of the European Platform are primarily aimed at influencing the European Union's agenda on conflict prevention, other international fora were used as well. In the lobby document 'The G8 and conflict prevention - Turning declarations into action', the G8 countries, gathered in Okinawa, Japan, in July, were called give teeth to the pledges, made at their last meeting in Berlin December 1999, to promote conflict prevention measures, aimed at defusing brutal and pointless wars such as those raging in various parts of Africa. In this document - which was the only paper on this subject brought in by NGOs - prepared by International Alert and Saferworld, in co-operation with the European Platform, and endorsed by over 50 organisations world-wide, the G8 countries were called upon to put their ideas into practise by ensuring that:

- Lending tackles the root causes of conflict and not just its symptoms.
- Business resources are harnessed to pursue their interest in avoiding disorder and destruction.
- Development aid never inadvertently gives rise to conflicts, but helps defuse them.
- The legal and illicit trade in arms is brought under much stricter regulation, together with its funding sources from 'blood diamonds'.
- Countries afflicted by conflict get support to demobilise and reintegrate ex-fighters and reform their police, judiciary and military sectors.

In their final communiqué, the leaders of the G8 countries stated that 'the international community should act urgently and effectively to prevent and resolve armed conflict. Many people have been sacrificed and injured, many economies have been impoverished, and much devastation has been visited upon the environment. In an ever more interdependent world such negative effects spread rapidly. Therefore, a "Culture of Prevention" should be promoted throughout the global community.'

PREVENTING VIOLENT CONFLICT

Aiming at the Swedish and Belgian EU presidencies in 2001, the European Platform has launched the awareness-raising project *Promoting a Culture of Prevention*. This project consists of several activities, such as: the making of the lobby document *Preventing Violent Conflict - Opportunities for the Swedish and Belgian Presidency of the EU in 2001*, in December 2000; an expert meeting on common lessons learned in February 2001; a special Platform meeting in Sweden in May 2001, and a concluding conference in Brussels, fall 2001.

At the heart of this project lies a policy document in which concrete recommendations are given for the coming EU Presidencies. This policy document results from co-operation between the UK based organisations Saferworld and International Alert, and the European Platform, which ensured a broad support from its partners and a wide dissemination. In this report, recommendations are made for the EU to balance its focus on crisis management and the creation of a military Rapid Reaction Force with concrete measures to prevent war



Kosovo, bridge across the river Ibar, dividing Mitrovica in a majority Serb and Albanian part

The report proposes EU action in a number of key areas, including:

- Better use of development aid by targeting root causes of conflict.
- Promoting a fairer trade policy.
- Regulating the diamond trade.
- Controlling the trade in small arms and light weapons.
- Supporting the reform of security forces in developing countries.
- Restructuring the European Commission.
- Strengthening the Council's Policy Planning Unit.
- Working with civil society.

Planned activities of the European Platform in 2001

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Promoting a Culture of Prevention' project • On-going lobby activities • Special Platform conference in Sweden, 'Gripsholm II' (May) • Conference in Belgium (September) • 'Searching for Peace' projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparatory seminar in the Balkans (April) Preparatory seminars in India and Sri Lanka (May) Preparatory seminar on Southeast Asia Publication on Europe & Eurasia (September) Policy seminar on Central Asia in collaboration with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (October) Start with implementation of the 'Searching for Peace' project on the Middle East & North Africa (November) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publication on Asia & the Pacific (December) • 'Lessons Learned on Peace-building' project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expert meeting in Northern Ireland (February) Working document on 'Lessons Learned on Peace-building' (September) International conference (October) • Further development of the Information & Documentation Centre • Development of a new web-site • Publication of 4 issues of the Conflict Prevention Newsletter |
|---|---|

KEY CONTACTS

Europe

Austria

- ASPR/Austrian Study Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution

Belgium

- Centre for Peace Research, University of Leuven
- Centre for the Study of the Great Lakes Region
- ECCG/European Centre for Common Ground
- FDI/Field Diplomacy Initiative
- GRIP/Groupe de Recherche et d'Information sur la Paix et la Sécurité
- NGO Consultation on Conflict Prevention
- Pax Christi Flanders

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Protector

Croatia

- Anti-War Campaign Croatia
- Centre for Peace, Non-violence and Human Rights Osijek

Czech Republic

- Czech Helsinki Committee

Denmark

- COPRI/Copenhagen Peace Research Institute
- Danish Centre for Conflict Resolution
- Danish Centre for Human Rights
- Danish UN Association
- ENCORE/European Negotiation and Conflict Resolution

Finland

- KATU-Citizen's Security Council
- Tampere Peace Research Institute

France

- Commission Coopération et Développement, Groupe Urgence, Réhabilitation et Développement (URD)
- Coordination Sud
- Survie

Georgia

- International Center on Conflict & Negotiation

Germany

- Balkan Peace Teams

- Berghof Research Center for Constructive Conflict Management
- BICC/Bonn International Center for Conversion
- SEF/Development and Peace Foundation
- Evangelische Akademie Loccum
- German Platform for Peaceful Conflict Management

Greece

- Andreas G. Papandreou Foundation
- ELIAMEP/Hellenic Foundation for European & Foreign Policy
- KEGME/Mediterranean Women's Study Center

Ireland

- GOAL
- Glenree Centre for Reconciliation
- Trocaire
- Irish Peace and Reconciliation Platform

Italy

- Community of St. Egidio
- International Training Programme for Conflict Management
- Italian Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation
- Movimondo

Kosovo

- The Forum

Latvia

- Latvian Centre for Human Rights and Ethnic Studies

Luxembourg

- Cercle de Coopération des ONGD

Macedonia

- Search for Common Ground in Macedonia
- International Centre for Preventive Action and Conflict Resolution

Netherlands

- BBO
- Clingendael, Netherlands Institute of International Relations
- Cordaid
- European Centre for Conflict

- Prevention
- IKV/Interchurch Peace Council
- Kontakt der Kontinenten
- Pax Christi Netherlands
- PIOOM

Norway

- Centre for Conflict Management
- CMI/Christian Michelsen Institute
- PRIO/International Peace Research Institute. Oslo
- Norwegian Church Aid
- NPA/Norwegian People's Aid

Poland

- Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights

Portugal

- OIKOS

Russian Federation

- EAWARN/Centre for the Study and Management of Conflict, Russian Academy of Sciences

Spain

- CIP/Peace Research Center
- ICESB, University of Barcelona
- Gernika Gogoratuz Peace Research Centre

Sweden

- Christian Council of Churches
- Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University
- LPI/Life & Peace Institute
- Peace Team Forum
- SIPRI/Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
- TFF/Transnational Foundation for Peace and Future Research

Switzerland

- CASIN/Centre for Applied Studies in International Negotiations
- Demain l'Afrique
- MRA/Moral Re-Armament
- Swiss Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation
- SPF/Swiss Peace Foundation
- WSP/War Torn Societies Project

Turkey

- TOSAM/Foundation for the Research of Societal Problems

United Kingdom

- African Rights
- ACORD/Agency for Co-operation and Research in Development
- Agenda for Reconciliation
- Alliances for Africa
- Centre for Conflict Resolution, Bradford University
- CODEP/Conflict, Development and Peace Network
- Conciliation Resources
- INCORE/Initiative in Conflict Resolution & Ethnicity
- International Alert
- Mediation Network of Northern Ireland
- MRG/Minority Rights Group
- Oxfam
- RTC/Responding to Conflict
- Saferworld

European Networks

- CPN-SWP/Conflict Prevention Network
- EPLO/European Peacebuilding Liaison Office
- European Conference on Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution
- Foundation on Inter-Ethnic Relations
- Helsinki Citizen's Assembly
- ISIS/International Security Information Service, Europe
- NGDO Liaison Committee
- North-South Centre
- Quaker Council for European Affairs
- Quaker Peace and Service
- VOICE/Voluntary Organisations in Co-operation in Emergencies

International Networks and NGOs

- Amnesty International, EU-Association
- The Coexistence Initiative
- FEWER, Forum on Early Warning and Early Response
- Hague Appeal for Peace
- Human Rights Watch
- IANSA/International Action Network on Small Arms
- IDEA/Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
- ICG/International Crisis Group
- IFOR/International Fellowship of Reconciliation
- IPRA/International Peace Research Association, Study

- Group on Internal Conflicts
- MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières
- Pax Christi International
- PBI/Peace Brigades International
- Red Cross (Federation/ICRC)
- UNESCO Culture of Peace Program
- UNPO/Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation

Key contacts outside Europe

Australia

- CRN/Conflict Resolution Network

Canada

- Canadem/Canadian Resource Bank for Democracy and Human Rights
- CIAN/Canadian International Institute of Applied Negotiation
- CPCC/Canadian Peacebuilding Co-ordination Committee
- IMPACS/Institute for Media, Policy and Civil Society

Costa Rica

- The Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress

India

- Centre for Peace Studies/South Asian Centre for Strategic Studies
- IPCS/Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies
- International Centre for Peace Initiatives
- Oxfam India

Indonesia

- Centre for Research and Intergroup Relations

Israel

- Harry S. Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace
- Ittijah Union of Arab Community Based Organisations
- SIKKUY

Japan

- JCPD/Japan Centre for Preventive Diplomacy
- JIIA/Japan Institute for International Affairs
- NIRA/National Institute for Research Advancement

Kazakhstan

- Center for Conflict Management

Kenya

- IRG/International Resource Group
- NCCK/ National Council of Churches Kenya
- Nairobi Peace Initiative

Kyrgyzstan

- Institute for Regional Studies

Nigeria

- AAPW/Academic Associates Peace Works

Palestinian Territories

- LAW/The Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment
- MIFTAH/The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy
- Panorama/The Palestinian Center for the Dissemination of Democracy and Community Development

Philippines

- Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute

South Africa

- ACCORD/African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes
- Centre for Conflict Resolution

United States

- Acron/Applied Conflict Resolution Organizations Network
- Association for Conflict Resolution
- The Carter Center
- CPA/Center for Preventive Action
- CDA/The Collaborative for Development Action
- CMG/Conflict Management Group
- CSIS/Center for Strategic and International Studies
- ICAR/Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University
- IMTD/Institute for Multi-track Diplomacy
- SFCG/Search for Common Ground
- Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice
- USIP/United States Institute for Peace

The European Centre for Conflict Prevention



Calendar of activities in 2000

March

- International seminar on 'Conflict Resolution in Schools'

September

- Start of the Conflict Studies courses at the University of

Utrecht, the Netherlands

- Roundtable conference 'Conflict Prevention and Peace building in the Netherlands' in co-operation with the Netherlands Institute for International Relations 'Clingendael'

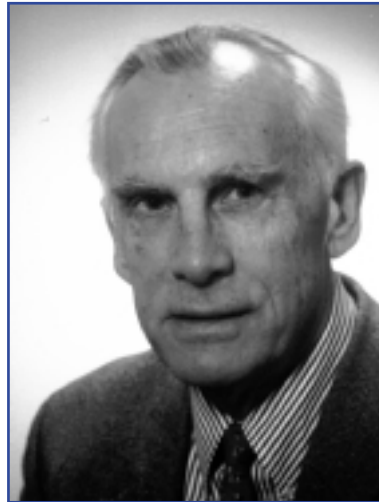
December

- Public debate 'Intifadah in Israel: the Future of Jewish - Arab relations in Israel' in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, organised with the Interchurch Peace Council.

Foreword

RAISING OUR EFFECTIVENESS

The European Centre is a Dutch foundation, which main task it is to host the Secretariat of the European Platform. It facilitates, initiates and co-ordinates activities of the Platform and regularly consults with its Steering Group. The Centre however is also involved in fostering and initiating activities on conflict prevention in The Netherlands. In the next pages more information is given on these activities, which turned out to be quite productive in the past year.



Enno Hommes

A roundtable conference organised by the European Centre in co-operation with the Netherlands Institute for International Relations 'Clingendael' resulted in an invitation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to develop a framework for a regular consultation on conflict prevention and peace building between non-governmental organisations, academic institutions and the ministry itself. This is a great step forward and very helpful in establishing a stronger network in The Netherlands.

In March the European Centre organised an international seminar on conflict resolution in schools, followed by a national conference. Both conferences attracted a lot of participants as well as considerable media attention. Several meetings with the Ministry for Education resulted in the

European Centre participating in an new governmental campaign, 'Dealing with Conflicts in Schools'.

The new Utrecht University Centre for Conflict Studies course 'Theories of Conflict' was taught in English for the first time in autumn 2000, with a high level of student take-up. The course - the first of its kind in The Netherlands - resulted from the implementation of a Special Chair in Conflict Prevention and Management at Utrecht University by the European Centre.

I feel these three examples of recent activities of the European Centre all show the Centre's successful integration in Dutch society, improving its co-operation with governmental as well as non-governmental partners. In 2001 we will continue these activities in the fields of awareness-raising, advocacy & lobby and networking, thereby further increasing our effectiveness in raising the profile of conflict prevention and resolution in the Netherlands.

By Enno Hommes
Chairman of the board of the European Centre for Conflict Prevention

Introduction

STAFF AND BOARD

The Staff in 2000



From left to right: Cora Bastiaansen, Monique Mekenkamp, Paul van Tongeren, Juliette Verhoeven, Carlijne Pauwels, Guido de Graaf Bierbrauwer, Esther Kloos, and Mats Lundström

Executive Director:
Paul van Tongeren

Searching for Peace Programme:
Monique Mekenkamp, Project Co-ordinator Africa and Asia, Lessons Learned
Juliette Verhoeven, Project Co-ordinator Europe and Middle East, People Building Peace, Conflict Resolution in Schools
Mats Lundström, Project Officer (from December)
Joost Janmaat, Interim Project Officer (part time)

Lobby & Advocacy, Public Relations:
Guido de Graaf Bierbrauwer

Finance and Fundraising:
Carlijne Pauwels

Information Specialist:
Esther Kloos

Office Management:
Cora Bastiaansen

Education and Training projects:
Ada van der Linde (part time; in co-operation with Kontakt der Kontinenten)

Interns:

Olena Tochylovska (Ukraine), Madeleine Clarin (Sweden), Shiva Hari Dahal (Nepal), Peter Oehmen (Germany)

The Board in 2000



From left to right: Enno Hommes, Norbert Ropers, Rienzie Perera, Kevin Clements, Bea Stolte, Peter Meyer Swantée, and Paul van Tongeren

In 2000 Mr Hans Loots left the board. Mr Rienzie Perera, Research Director of the Life & Peace Institute in Sweden joined the board.

Professor Kevin Clements
Secretary General of International Alert, London, UK, former Director of the Institute for Conflict Analyses (ICAR), USA

Brigadier-General Henny J. van der Graaf (ret.)
Executive Director of the Centre for Arms Control and Verification Technology; former Member of the United Nations Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

Professor Enno W. Hommes (Chairman)
Former Professor of Sociology at the University of Twente, the Netherlands; former Chairman of the National Advisory Council for Development Co-operation

Mr. Peter K.H. Meyer Swantée (Vice-Chairman and Treasurer)
Executive Director of Optimix - Asset Management; Chairman of Health Net; Member Advisory Council Médecins Sans Frontières

Mr. Rienzie Perera
Director Research Unit of the Life & Peace Institute, Uppsala, Sweden

Mr. Norbert Ropers
Director of Berghof Research Centre for Constructive Conflict Management, Berlin, Germany

Mrs. Bea Stolte-Van Empelen
Programme co-ordinator ACT Netherlands

ACTIVITIES

1 Networking

Creating networks and improving co-ordination are among the major challenges in the world of conflict resolution and peace building today. Interdisciplinary networks and forums, connecting academics, civil servants and practitioners provide a useful means for sharing experiences and views from different perspectives and encourage the discussion of strategies for particular countries, regions or issues of concern.

In September the European Centre in co-operation with the Netherlands Institute for International Relations 'Clingendael' organised a roundtable conference for representatives of the leading academic and non-governmental institutions in the Netherlands. The aim of this conference was twofold: firstly to discuss the policy of the Dutch government towards conflict prevention and peace building, and secondly to identify the different roles the academic and non-governmental institutions could (and should) play in this field. The report of this conference, including concrete recommendations was sent to all members of the *Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs*, one of the 13 standing committees of the Dutch parliament. This resulted in an invitation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to develop a framework for a regular consultation between non-governmental organisations, academic institutions and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on conflict prevention and peace building.

At the conference it was concluded that there is need to

- re-profile the Dutch policy towards conflict prevention and peace building;
- improve the integrative approach and coherence in the Dutch policy towards conflict prevention and peace building;

- strengthen the relation between the Dutch government, NGOs and academic institutions, which is currently too weak and incidental;
- gain more knowledge on conflict dynamics, tools & instruments for conflict prevention and the impact of conflict interventions;
- join the forces of the academic and NGO worlds. Such a forum or network would ease information exchange and lobbying activities, not only towards the government, but also towards their own constituencies;
- identify concrete themes that need more focussed attention, such as small arms, diamond trade and the position of women and children.

Therefore, according to the European Centre and Clingendael, it is necessary to:

- develop a structure for conflict monitoring, both inside as well as outside the governmental structures, which should enable early warning signals to be translated into concrete options for action;
- develop expert pools for conflict prevention and peace-building activities;
- broaden the scope of the *Peace fund* budget lines to make a quick response possible.

2 Awareness-raising

The initiatives of citizens all over the world aimed at preventing violence, resolving conflict, and reconciling parties that have been at war will inspire many people to invest in peace-building. Awareness-raising of the potential of conflict prevention and transformation strategies includes aiming to give insight into the varying approaches used in many parts of the world. This will enable organisations - local and international, governmental or non-governmental - to learn from each other's approaches and harmonise their activities with other efforts in order to be more effective.

START TALKING, STOP FIGHTING! **Education conflict resolution in schools**

The incidence of violence in schools is a cause of growing concern in many countries. Although the extent of the problem varies from one country to another, it is generally recognised that incidents of violence are a serious problem that is inadequately tackled by the traditional approach to reducing violence through school regulations and disciplinary measures. However, schools can also be agents for change and can provide an arena for developing skills associated with tolerance, conflict management, dialogue and peace building. The sooner that children are taught these skills the more likely they are to become 'second nature' to them as they negotiate all the diverse disputes and conflicts they will confront in life.

In March the European Centre organised an international seminar on conflict resolution in schools. The idea behind the conference was to further promote this issue in the Netherlands by bringing together international and local expertise and experiences. Compared with the United States and the United Kingdom, the field of conflict resolution and peer mediation in schools is in an initial phase in continental Europe. Some 20 foreign experts from different countries such as Canada, the US, Norway, Northern Ireland, South Africa and Israel, actively participated in the meeting. Following this seminar we organised a *national conference* where some 100 Dutch people participated to learn from those international experiences and were stimulated to initiate similar activities in Holland.



Roma refugee camp near Zvecan, Kosovo

Some concrete results of both meetings:

- A set of lessons and recommendations were formulated during the international seminar.
- There was considerable media attention to the conference; several interviews for radio, TV and newspapers were given.
- Also articles about the conference appeared in 'Uitleg', the magazine of the Ministry of Education.
- A participant from South Africa took the initiative to start an email list-server for the participants, which however will be open for others as well. It has developed as a useful tool for continued international networking.
- As a follow-up of the campaign of the Dutch Ministry for Education on 'Safe Schools', a book has been presented on future activities in the field of 'Youth, school and safety'. This book has been launched on April 2000 at the Ministry. The conclusions of our seminar are an important part of this publication. We conclude that with small effort the issue of conflict resolution in schools successfully reached the Dutch educational agenda.
- An *international* report of the seminar is being distributed world wide via our Platform and via the networks of the participants. We expect that this field of conflict resolution in schools, which

is in its initial phase in continental Europe, will grow in the future.

- In October 2000 the Conflict Prevention Newsletter published a special on the topic conflict resolution in schools.

Mid 1999 the European Centre took the initiative to bring together some 25 groups and persons from the educational field, peer mediation and NGOs in the Netherlands, to discuss how we can promote conflict resolution in schools. The international seminar was meant as a preparation and warming-up of that campaign. Regrettably we received no funding for the campaign, therefore we decided to stop after the international seminar. However the international seminar inspired new initiatives in the Netherlands on this issue. The Ministry for Education convened several meetings with us, and some others planned campaigns/activities. We became part of a broader campaign, together with the Ministry of Justice, Home Affairs and Welfare. At the end of 2000 the Dutch Ministry launched a 4 year project Dealing with Conflicts in Schools, a structured programme for schools.

The 'Conflict Resolution in Schools' project was funded by the Compton Foundation (USA), Van Dijk Studieboeken (the Netherlands) and the National Unesco Committee (the Netherlands).

PEOPLE BUILDING PEACE

'People Building Peace is indeed inspiring and inspired [I'm]currently using it as one of the required readings in my new course on peace building, designed for MSc. and Ph.d students at George Mason University's Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution. For a single text effort to capture the complexity of peace building and in the process, introduce official and unofficial analysts, policymakers and practitioners to what needs to happen once shooting stops - People Building Peace stands virtually alone!'

Dennis J.D. Sandole, Professor of Conflict Resolution and International Relations, Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (ICAR), George Mason University, USA)

People Building Peace is a programme of the European Centre which aims to document the positive stories of people working for peace the world over. In May 1999 *People Building Peace: 35 inspiring stories from around the world* was published in an effort to provide positive stories as a counterbalance to the countless stories of violence.

The publication is available on the web-site and the number of hits that it has received suggests the value of this initiative.

As a follow up, the *Conflict Prevention Newsletter* publishes new positive stories about grass root peace-building initiatives. These include accounts of women working for peace, churches and conflict management in Colombia and dialogue between people of different conflict areas.

The book has been distributed at major international conferences such as Agenda for Reconciliation International Conference in Switzerland in August 2000. It is also used in peace-building courses at training Institutes such as Responding to Conflict and UNITAR as well universities such as Eastern Mennonite University, Bradford University and the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution (ICAR), George Mason University.

WATER & CONFLICT

The Second World Water Forum The Hague, the Netherlands, 17-22 March: workshop on Water & Conflict Prevention

The notion that the world is heading for a water shortage and that people may fight over what is left is neither new nor particularly original. The past years have brought forth a veritable flood of books in which it is argued that policy makers have vastly underestimated the influence of water scarcity on regional peace and stability. The obvious conclusion is that it is time for political leaders to sit up and take note of this threat, and act. However, what exactly can and should be done to decrease tensions and - in the end - solve the problem is less clear. Indeed, most studies of the water and conflict issue are themselves much longer on diagnosis than on prescription. From March 17-22, some 6000 water specialists, concerned citizens, politicians, journalists and

organisation representatives from all across the globe convened in the Hague, the Netherlands, to participate in the Second World Water Forum. For this occasion, the ECCP organised a workshop on Water & Conflict Prevention, and produced a special issue on water & conflict in the Conflict Prevention Newsletter. Several leading scholars in this field, such as Peter H. Gleick, Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment and Security, Oakland, California, Ashok Swain, Uppsala University Programme of International Studies, Dept. of Peace and Conflict Research, Sweden, and Aaron Wolf, Oregon State University USA, Dept. of Geosciences, and approximately 200 representatives of (non)-governmental organisations, as well as environmental/

humanitarian/development NGOs and the business community, debated lessons learned, policy options and potential conflict resolution mechanisms.



Water & Conflict

The Second World Water Forum
The Hague, The Netherlands, 17-22 March

Workshop: Water and Conflict Prevention
organised by the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation

Place and date:
Friday March 17th, 14.00 -18.00 hrs., Escher Hall 1

Introductions: Prof. Peter H. Gleick (USA), Prof. Ashok Swain (Sweden), Prof. Aaron Wolf (USA) and Mr. David A. Grey (World Bank)

The notion that the world is heading for a water shortage and that people may fight over what is left is neither new nor particularly original. The past years have brought forth a veritable flood of books in which it is argued that policymakers have vastly underestimated the influence of water scarcity on regional peace and stability. The obvious conclusion is that it is time for political leaders to sit up and take note of this threat, and act. However, what exactly can and should be done to decrease tensions and - in the end - solve the problem is less clear. Indeed, most studies of the water and conflict issue are themselves much longer on diagnosis than on prescription.

Inside this issue:
Question of Equity at the Heart of Water Conflict Management & How to Deal with Rambo Situations & Nile Basin Nations Move Towards Cooperation & Development Programmes
Increase Water Conflicts in Ethiopia's Awash Valley & Service Information

UNIVERSITY CHAIR OF CONFLICT PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT

The European Centre for Conflict Prevention has implemented a Special Chair of Conflict Prevention and Management at Utrecht University in the Netherlands. The aim of the Special Chair is to contribute to the study of the causes of conflicts, both inter-state and within states, and to help develop a set of instruments for the prevention and management of conflicts. The main foci are the religious, ethnic and class-conflicts that have the potential to escalate into civil war - as is currently seen in many countries around the world.

To date, issues of peace and problems of security have received some attention in Dutch universities. Courses are given which deal with contemporary problems in international politics and which cover

The new Utrecht University Centre for Conflict Studies course 'Theories of Conflict' was taught in English for the first time in autumn 2000, with a high level of student take-up, numbering approximately 60 individuals. The inter-disciplinary character of the group brought an additional strength to the group. Among the faculties represented were social psychology, anthropology, development studies, history, international relations, law, economics, and human geography. From the point of view of the conflict theorist or analyst this is excellent. In terms of effective teaching and group work it was also an advantage, for everyone could contribute in their own unique way. The social psychology students could explain "attitudinal attribution" or "mirror imaging" when we examined collective behaviour patterns, the international relations and law students could shed light on the dilemmas surrounding intervention and state sovereignty. The high numbers meant teaching two separate classes to enable maximum participation.



Judith Lange

The course sought to offer an overview of classical and contemporary theory, moving from frameworks for understanding international relations to current thinking on war economy and political mobilisation. Prof. Hugh Miall of Lancaster University gave the introductory lecture, tracing the evolution of conflict resolution theory and introducing the concept and approach of conflict transformation. In the following five sessions the group then covered understanding the collective behaviour and dynamics of violence, levels of analysis and the nature of power, rationality, complexity and the critique of

the international economic situation. These are hardly ever linked to the fields of conflict prevention and conciliation.

For this reason, the idea of the Special Chair was developed. The Special Chair of Conflict Prevention and Management at Utrecht University is funded by the Meyer Swantee Foundation (the Netherlands) for a period of 5 years. The Chair is incorporated by Utrecht University in the Centre for Conflict Studies, a joint institution of the Faculty of Law, the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Faculty of Arts. While the chair is currently vacant, Ms. Judith Lange (Fellow, University of Kent and practitioner) was closely connected to the first year's course of conflict studies as lecturer and advisor. Here's her view on this first year.

developmentalist approaches, and strategies of response and intervention. Dr. Nick Lewer of Bradford University was our guest speaker at the concluding session, lecturing on the war in Sri Lanka and NGO/community responses.

The course was highly participative, using interactive methods, role-play, debate, and small group work which resulted in panel presentations by the students themselves. Course reading was rigorous, and evaluation was conducted through a take-home exam and essay writing. Discussion was lively and the quality of participation and motivation was very high.

The power of theory is its ability to explain, and thus to enhance practice. This course kept the theory/practice nexus as central to enquiry. A Chair of Conflict Prevention and Management at the University of Utrecht could consolidate such a foundation relevant to many disciplines, with maximum outreach and impact. It is hoped that the first steps and precedents for such development are now in place.

3 Lobby and advocacy

Public and institutional awareness of the role that NGOs can play in conflict prevention is still relatively low. This limits the effectiveness of policies and programmes which could build peace and prevent conflict. There is, therefore a need to build understanding amongst practitioners, the public as well as the EU and its institutions, of the role that governments, development organisations, indigenous associations, peace movements and religious bodies can play in reducing the potential for violent conflict, rebuilding war-torn societies and in preventing future violence.

The main goal for the European Centre in 2000 was to initiate a proactive lobbying campaign within Dutch political circles. The aim was to introduce the European Centre and the European Platform and to raise awareness for the positive roles NGOs, local groups, media, and so on can play in conflict prevention and peace building. This effort resulted in several meetings with the spokesmen on international relations of all major political parties. Conflict prevention and peace building proved to be high on their agenda.

Regular consultations on conflict prevention at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The report of the Roundtable conference on Conflict Prevention and Peace Building, organised in co-operation with the Netherlands Institute for International Relations 'Clingendael' was sent to all members of the *Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs*, one of the 13 standing committees of Dutch parliament. During the budgetary debates for foreign affairs in 2001, the christian-democratic party referred to the recommendations in the party's

questions to the Minister of Development Co-operation, Ms. E. Herfkens. In answer, the Minister acknowledged 'the urgent need for more communication between government, academic institutions and NGOs on conflict prevention'. This resulted in an invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the European Centre to develop a framework for a regular consultation between non-governmental organisations, academic institutions and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on conflict prevention and peace building.

Some other milestones in 2000

- D66, which is one of the three parties which form the present coalition-government, organised a conference on conflict prevention and peace building. The ECCP provided the background paper for this conference.
- The oppositional Green Left party prepared a policy paper on conflict prevention. The European Centre has been consulted in the preparatory phase and participated in four expert meetings.

Planned activities of the European Centre in 2001

- Roundtable seminar on 'Development Co-operation and Conflict Prevention'
- Meetings on conflict prevention resource bank and expert pools (February)
- Recruitment of Professor for Special Chair for Conflict Prevention and Management
- 'Media & Peacebuilding' project
- National seminar on 'Lessons Learned in Conflict Interventions' (October)
- Regular consultations on conflict prevention with Dutch NGOs and Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- On-going lobby activities aimed at Dutch government

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 2000

Stichting Europees Centrum voor Conflictpreventie January 1 - December 31, 2000

Income

in Dutch guilders (1 NLG = 0.45 Euro)

NCDO	300,000	
Optimix Foundation	220,500	
Hewlett Foundation	296,453	
Dutch Ministry Foreign Affairs	180,141	
Canadian Ministry Foreign Affairs	78,845	
DFID	74,738	
Meyer Swantee Foundation	32,179	
Other grants	90,479	
Publications	40,112	
Other revenues	<u>5,305</u>	
Total income		1,318,752

Expenditure

Conflict Prevention Newsletter	37,540	
European Platform website	7,382	
Searching for Peace in Africa	26,710	
Searching for Peace in Europe	56,023	
Searching for Peace in Asia	59,151	
Searching for Peace in the Middle East	1,138	
Water & Conflict	10,900	
Special Chair	27,889	
Conflict Resolution in Schools	44,500	
European Platform (including Steering Group)	13,688	
Lobby activities	4,235	
Other project expenses	<u>1,412</u>	
Total expenditure projects	290,658	
Personnel	704,245	
Depreciation	32,871	
Housing	47,547	
Office costs	92,104	
Administrative expenses	31,034	
Other general expenses	<u>57,043</u>	
Total expenditure personnel & office	964,844	
Total expenditure		<u>1,255,502</u>
Income - expenditure		63,250
Interest income		<u>6,902</u>
Result for the financial year		70,152

BALANCE SHEET OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRE

Stichting Europees Centrum voor Conflictpreventie		Balance sheet as at December 31, 2000	
		Net results in Dutch Guilders (NLG)	
Assets		Liabilities	
Fixed assets		Reserves	(181,011)
Tangibles:		Subordinated loan	250,000
Automation	13,508	Guarantee equity	<u>68,989</u>
Furniture	<u>35,239</u>		
	48,747	Current Liabilities	
Current assets		Taxes	9,136
Debtors:		Pension contributions	320
Stichting Optimix	200,000	Other liabilities	117,686
Other debtors	<u>60,096</u>	Subsidies received in advance	778,172
	260,096	Bank overdraft	<u>905,314</u>
Liquid resources:			
ABN Amro bank	665,452		
Cash at hand	<u>8</u>		
	665,460		
	<u>974,303</u>		
			<u>974,303</u>

The complete financial report of the European Centre for Conflict Prevention can be consulted at the European Centre. The European Platform is not a legal body and therefore has no financial responsibilities.

Auditors' report ex section 2:395, subsection 2 of the Netherlands Civil Code

We have audited the abbreviated financial statements of Stichting Europees Centrum voor Conflictpreventie, Amsterdam, for the year 2000. The abbreviated financial statements have been derived from the financial statements of Stichting Europees Centrum voor Conflictpreventie for the year 2000. In our auditors' report dated 19 February 2001 we expressed an unqualified opinion on these financial statements. These abbreviated financial statements are the responsibility of the company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these abbreviated financial statements.

In our opinion, these abbreviated financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the financial statements from which they have been derived.

For a better understanding of the company's financial position and results and of the scope of our audit, the abbreviated financial statements should be read in conjunction with the financial statements from which the abbreviated financial statements have been derived and our auditors' report thereon.

Amsterdam, 1 April 2001

PricewaterhouseCoopers N.V.

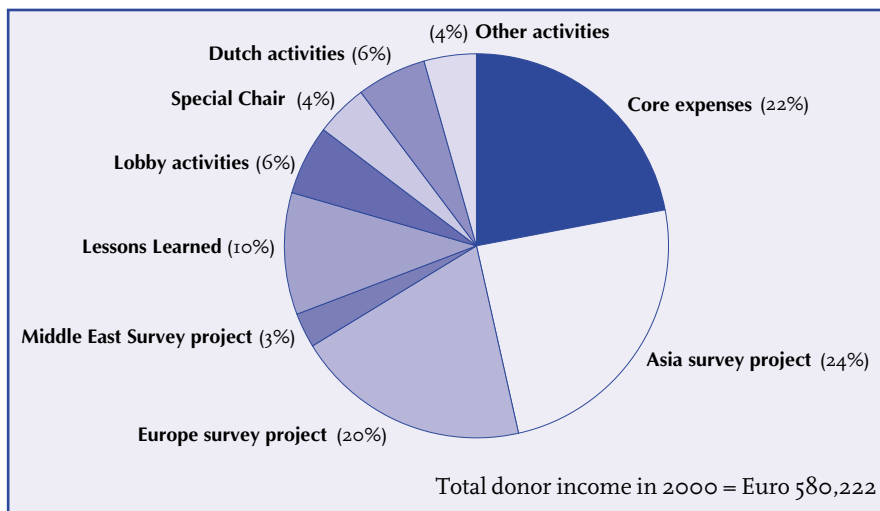
Donors of the European Centre for Conflict Prevention 1998 - 2001

(overview for 2001 is preliminary)

	1998	1999	2000	2001
1	NCDO	NCDO	NCDO	NCDO
2	Optimix Foundation	Optimix Foundation	Optimix Foundation	Optimix Foundation
3	Hewlett Foundation	Hewlett Foundation	Hewlett Foundation	Hewlett Foundation
4	Dutch MFA	Dutch MFA	Dutch MFA	Dutch MFA
5	Meyer Swantée Foundation	Meyer Swantée Foundation	Meyer Swantée Foundation	Meyer Swantée Foundation
6	SVD Foundation	SVD Foundation	SVD Foundation	SVD Foundation
7	SIDA	DFID	DFID	DFID
8	Canadian MFA	Canadian MFA	Canadian MFA	Swedish MFA
9	Abraham Fund	Danish MFA	Danish MFA	Danish MFA
10		Compton Foundation	Compton Foundation	Swiss MFA
11		National Unesco Committee	National Unesco Committee	Austrian MFA
12		Karl Popper Foundation	Karl Popper Foundation	Karl Popper Foundation
13		Van Dijk Studieboeken	Van Dijk Studieboeken	Slifka Foundation
14		Vd Berch v Heemstede Foundation	Vd Berch v Heemstede Foundation	Vd Berch v Heemstede Foundation
15		Cordaid	Cordaid	Cordaid
16		US Institute for Peace	US Institute for Peace	US Institute for Peace

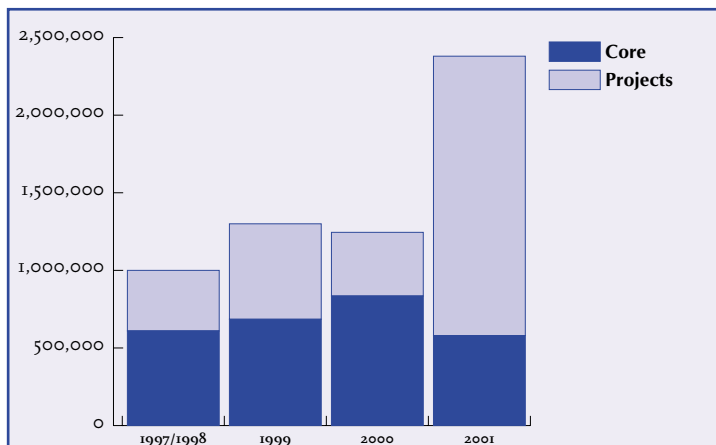
Estimated Project Volume (2001)

based on estimated financial input

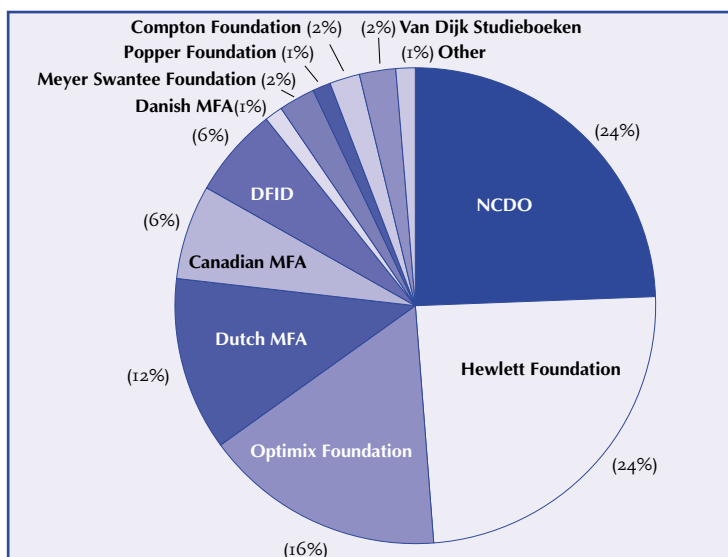


Donor income (1997-2001)

(estimates based on funding for 2001 realised per 01/01/2001)



Donors (2000)



The European Platform and Centre would like to thank the following donors who supported our work through their funding in the year 2000:

NCDO (Netherlands)

The National Committee for International Co-operation and Sustainable Development stimulates and co-finances activities that contribute to raising awareness and support in the Netherlands for a just and sustainable world that makes due allowance for the interests of present and future generations.

OPTIMIX Foundation (Netherlands)

The OPTIMIX Foundation is a foundation of OPTIMIX asset management, which invests 5% of their gross profit in the OPTIMIX Foundation. The purpose of the Foundation is to support welfare activities in the field of social help, healthcare, sustainable development, education and culture.

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation (USA)

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation is a private foundation with broad charitable interests and a strong commitment to the voluntary, non-profit sector. Conflict resolution is one of the primary issues for the foundation.

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The Human Rights and Peacebuilding department of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs supported the update of the International Directory "Prevention and Management of Conflicts" and supports several of the regional 'Searching for Peace' projects.

Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Canada)

The Peacebuilding and Human Security Division of the Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs supports the on-going survey programme, and specifically the first phase of the 'Searching for Peace in Asia' project.

DFID (United Kingdom)

The Department for International Development supports both the 'Searching for Peace' projects on Europe and Asia.

Danish MFA (Denmark)

The Secretariat of the Peace & Stability Fund of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs supports the 'Searching for Peace' project on Europe.

Meyer Swantée Foundation (Netherlands)

The Meyer Swantée Foundation is a private foundation established to finance the Special Chair of Conflict Studies at the University of Utrecht, which started in September 2000.

SVD (Netherlands)

The SVD is a Catholic Mission Congregation. The SVD co-funds the Education & Training, and the Lessons Learned projects which are both implemented in close co-operation with Kontakt der Kontinenten (KdK).

Karl Popper Foundation (Switzerland)

The Karl Popper Foundation is a private foundation in Switzerland which co-funds the 'Searching for Peace in Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia' project.

Compton Foundation (USA)

The Compton Foundation is a foundation focussing on global human survival, which co-funded the Stop Fighting, Start Talking project on conflict resolution in schools.

Van Dijk Studieboeken (Netherlands)

Van Dijk Studieboeken is a publishing house for school books, which co-funded the Stop Fighting, Start Talking project on conflict resolution in schools.

National Unesco Committee (Netherlands)

The National Unesco Committee co-funded the Stop Fighting, Start Talking project on conflict resolution in schools.

WHAT OTHERS SAY ABOUT US

(On the occasion of the publication of the International Directory Prevention and Management of Violent Conflicts - 1998 edition)
'I congratulate you on the publication of the update and express my support for the work of the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and Transformation in facilitating cooperation among the vast number of non-governmental organisations working in the field of conflict prevention and management. It cannot be repeated too often that, for the United Nations, preventing conflict is as important as keeping the peace. To achieve a truly effective preventive strategy, governments and civil society must be made aware of the many creative ways that exist to resolve conflicts without recourse to violence. The wide array of organisations doing this form of global peace education is impressive. The European Platform is performing an invaluable service for peace by providing the Directory as an accurate reference tool for practitioners of conflict prevention and management throughout the world.'
Kofi A. Annan, secretary-general of the United Nations

'This is an excellent publication, providing the best guide to conflict prevention organisations that I have seen.'

Former US president Jimmy Carter

'This Directory (...) provides a wealth of information for building bridges between local and external actors.'
Jan Pronk, former Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation

'... essential resource tool (...) most comprehensive guide to organisations in the field, academics, policy makers, NGOs and IGOs.' Professor Kevin Clements, Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University, USA

(On the occasion of the publication of People Building Peace - 35 Inspiring Stories from Around the World - May, 1999)
'This book is a milestone in the movement towards a culture of peace. It documents how, throughout the world, people are making progress on the various issues that -taken together- contribute to the coming culture of peace and non-violence. I invite the reader to take up this book and learn from the rich experiences and

visions documented in its pages. I also invite readers to take up the challenge and emulate these actions in their own communities. It is by joining together that we can make the global transformation from a culture of war and violence to a culture of peace and non-violence.'
Federico Mayor, Director-General UNESCO

'It is great to read about the successes people are having in building peace around the world! Hope and optimism are out there, but these characteristics are rarely reflected in the popular media. I consider this book a 'must' read, if you want to understand how it is possible to build sustainable peace in the next century.'
Ambassador John McDonald, Co-founder and Chairman Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy

(On the occasion of the publication of 'Searching for Peace in Africa', September 1999)

'In this publication the conflicts in Africa are well-documented in a detailed manner making it very useful for diplomats, media, activists and practitioners alike whether based in the region or elsewhere. The conflicts are described in a neutral and balanced manner. Thus, Searching for Peace in Africa is a unique contribution of great value to all who are interested in African affairs specifically and in conflict resolution in general.'
Peter Wallensteen, Dag Hammarskjöld Professor of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, Sweden

'Searching for Peace in Africa will no doubt help policymakers and concerned organisations understand the extreme complexities of conflicts, especially when domestic. It should also encourage efforts for effective action.'
Ahmedou Ould-Abdallah, Executive Secretary of the Global Coalition for Africa

(On the occasion of 'Searching for Peace in Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia', to be published in October 2001)

'The foreseen publication enables the international community to have a better insight into possibilities for effective action to prevent inter-ethnic differences from escalating to violent conflicts. I highly commend the work of the European Platform.'
Max van der Stoep, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

Publications



Searching for Peace in Africa:
An Overview of Conflict Prevention and Management Activities;
1999; 528 pages; ISBN 90-5727-033-1
PRICE: US\$ 30,00



People Building Peace:
35 Inspiring Stories from Around the World;
1999; 411 pages; ISBN 90-5727-029-3
PRICE: US\$ 15,00



Prevention and Management of Violent Conflicts:
An International Directory;
1998; 466 pages; no ISBN
Price: US\$ 25,00

Reports published in 2000

Conflict Prevention Newsletter – Quarterly newsletter, in 2000 in co-operation with International Alert, Saferworld, and ACCORD.

Preventing Violent Conflict: opportunities for the Swedish and Belgian presidencies of the European Union in 2001 – A conflict prevention and peace-building policy document, proposing to EU institutions and national governments an infrastructure for conflict prevention; December 2000.

Conflictpreventie en Vredesopbouw in Nederland (Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding in the Netherlands) – Report on the Roundtable Conference in co-operation with the Netherlands Institute of International Relations ‘Clingendael’; The Hague, September 25, 2000 (in Dutch).

G8 and Conflict Prevention: Turning Declarations into action – in co-operation with International Alert and Saferworld; June 2000.

Conflict Resolution in Schools – Report of the International Seminar held on March 2 and 3, 2000 in Soesterberg, the Netherlands.

Conflictpreventie & Peacebuilding – Background document; featuring conflicts in Europe; January 2000 (in Dutch).

*To order the above and many other publications, please contact the
European Centre for Conflict Prevention,
Achter de Dom 20, P.O. Box 14069, 3508 SC Utrecht, the Netherlands
Tel. +31 (0)30 253-7528, Fax +31 (0)30 253 75 29,
E-mail: euconflict@euconflict.org, website: www.euconflict.org*

Mission statement and objectives

European Platform for Conflict Prevention & Transformation

The European Platform for Conflict Prevention & Transformation is an open network some 150 key European organisations working in the field of the prevention and/or resolution of violent conflicts in the international arena. Its mission is to facilitate the exchange of information and experience among participating organisations, as well as to stimulate co-operation and synergy.

The main objectives of the Platform are:

- To raise awareness of the importance and possibilities of conflict prevention and resolution, through publications and media productions for a broad audience, and lobby activities aimed at governments and the European Union.
- To increase knowledge of and insight into conflicts by producing surveys which describe the background and dynamics of conflicts, and provide an overview per conflict of organisations active in the field of conflict prevention and resolution, and their activities.
- To facilitate contact, networking and information exchange between organisations active in the field of conflict prevention and resolution in Europe and other parts of the world (information clearinghouse).

European Centre for Conflict Prevention

The European Centre for Conflict Prevention is an independent non-governmental organisation based in the Netherlands. Its mission is to contribute to prevention and resolution of violent conflicts in the world, like in Kosovo and Rwanda. The Centre acts as the secretariat of the European Platform for Conflict Prevention and initiates, co-ordinates and implements the activities of the Platform. Apart from that, the Centre has specific networking and awareness-raising objectives focused on the Netherlands.