



Conference of European Churches
Conférence des Églises Européennes
Konferenz Europäischer Kirchen
Конференция Европейских Церквей

and



CENTRE FOR PEACE
NON-VIOLENCE AND
HUMAN RIGHTS
OSIJEK



**...strengthening churches' and religious communities' role
toward making sustainable peace in SE Europe...**

(Within the WCC South-East Europe Ecumenical Partnership – SEEPP)

2003 to 2006

EDUCATION ON NONVIOLENT ACTION IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

GOAL:

Strengthen churches' and religious communities' engagement toward sustainable peace in the region



ALBANIA

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

CROATIA

MACEDONIA

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

Educational process:

1. Basic training of 12 days
2. Training of trainers
3. Practical work of new trainers

BASIC TRAINING OF 12 DAYS IN CROATIA

November 2002 / January 2003



Religious population in Croatia:

Roman catholic 87,98 %
Orthodox 4,42%
Other Christian 1,11%
Muslim 1,28%
Agnostic/ atheists 5,21%

Training Goals:

- Empowerment
- Affirmation of dignity and diversity of each person,
- Sensitisation for non-violence as an alternative to passivity and violence
- Encouraging active believers to explore relationship between non-violence and their faith
- Learning about and practicing of non-violent communication and conflict transformation in a group
- Self-development with the purpose of better performance of service / ministry they already have
- Application of non-violent skills in work on building of sustainable peace and for active engagement in creating positive social changes
- Promotion of new paradigm for learning – creative, interactive and experiential learning



Partner Organisation:
CROATIAN CARITAS

Participants were members of Christian churches (Roman-Catholic, Baptist, Reformed and Greek-Catholic church) from different parts of Croatia

From the trainers' report:

... "the interest of the group for social organising is beyond our expectations, as well as their interest for awareness about one's behaviour, correlation between the personal and the social level in understanding of the structural violence, and linkage between the first and the second part of the training, that is recognition of the whole. In this way we have achieved the following goal: work on questioning of one's personal believer practice and interest for creative social action. After the first part of the training we noticed the need for such work".

Ana & Otto Raffai

BASIC TRAINING OF 12 DAYS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

May 2004 / June 2004



Religious population in Bosnia and Herzegovina:

Islam 40%
Orthodox 31%
Roman Catholic 15%
Other 14%



Specifics of this training:

- Interreligious dialogue - learning about each other
- Connecting of spirituality and conflict transformation
- Learning about non-violent resistance in Israel/Palestine - connecting personal and social level of non-violent actions

From the trainers' report:

..."Interfaith dialogue was carried through prepared workshops and through informal discussions during the breaks. Interest for social activity is achieved through prepared themes and connection of them to personal and social levels as well as through information about examples from different parts of the world."

Ana & Otto Raffai

Partner Organisation:
ABRAHAM

Participants were members of
Islam community and members of
Christian churches (Catholic,
Orthodox and Evangelical
Pentecostal)



From the trainers' report:
..."Unexpected achieved
results: Participants were
suggesting themes for
second part of the training,
and also to work more
hours per day. We did not
expect such "hunger" for
gaining and practicing of
new skills..."

BASIC TRAINING OF 12 DAYS IN ALBANIA

October 2004 / December 2004



Religious population in Albania:

Islam 70%
Albanian Orthodox 20%
Roman Catholic 10%

From the trainers' report:

..."Concerning the thematic I would say that the group was the most interested in structural violence in general but also about the one in Albania as well as analysis of violence in the Albanian society.

Tamara Mihalić



Training themes:

Non-violent communication
Introduction into conflict
Conflict styles
Conflict transformation
Conflict analysis
Diversity - Prejudice
Identity
Diversity of religious identities
Possibility for interreligious dialogue
Cooperation and understanding of non-violence
Violence - Non-violence
Structural violence
Spirituality of non-violence
Faith and political engagement
Negotiation
My power to change
Social change: Non-violent resistance
Social change: Peace building

Partner Organisation:
DIAKONIA AGAPES

Participants were members of Islam community; members of Bektashi community and members of the Albanian Orthodox Church



From the trainers report:

Some members of the group persisted on the fact that "interrupting" is a part of their culture and a natural way of communication



BASIC TRAINING OF 12 DAYS IN MACEDONIA

October 2004 / December 2004

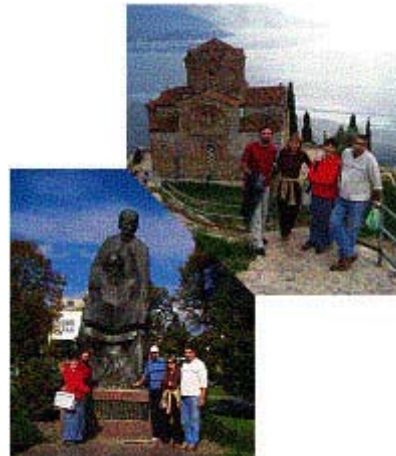


Religious population in Macedonia:
Eastern Orthodox (Macedonian Orthodox) 70%
Muslim 29%
Other 1%

The working team met with the Archbishop Stefan, head of the Macedonian Orthodox Church who approved the project of CEC and the Peace Centre Osijek



Mr. Ivica Todorov, Chair of the Department of Mission of the Macedonian Orthodox Church finished the training himself



From the trainers' report:

... "Work on critical relation toward (non) engagement of Christians out of fear of mistaking or the fact that they are the ones who should change first and not asking the change of others before head..."

... "The gender issues had an intensive discussion throughout the training and very opposite opinions were expressed."

Ana & Otto Raffai

Partner Organisation:
**KIFA – Centre for Inter -
confessional dialogue and
cooperation**

Participants were members of Macedonian Orthodox and Evangelical church



From the trainers' report:

... »the negotiation theme: the group expressed the need to develop this theme in future trainings"



BASIC TRAINING OF 12 DAYS IN SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

March 2005 / May 2005



Religious population in Serbia and Montenegro:

Eastern Orthodox 65%
Muslim 19%
Roman Catholic 4%
Protestant 1%
Other 11%



Partner Organisation:
Christian Cultural Centre

Participants were members of the Serbian Orthodox Church, Roman Catholic, Methodist and Lutheran Church

From the trainers' report:

..."The group discovered different ways of looking at things and the fact that none of them was wrong. They kept repeating in their evaluations how important was to learn ways of respecting others..."

Ana & Otto Raffai



From the trainers' report:

..."Find yourself a group: an exercise about national identities in which the participants managed to see personal mechanisms of grouping tendencies and managed to connect the exercise with their daily life..."

TRAINING OF TRAINERS - 15 DAYS

November 2005 / February 2006

Regional level: after the basic trainings some were ready to become trainers themselves



From the trainers' report:

„Achieved results: (Individual and group improvement)

*** workshops were conducted by becoming trainers**

*** participants proved they were able to choose the topics and analyse theirs and each others' work**

*** awareness what they can improve in future trainer's work group cohesion and expressed need for a network**

Ana & Otto Raffai

TRAINING THEMES:

Non-violent action:

- Advanced skills of non-violent communication
- Cooperation and non-violence
- Non-violence and non-violent response
- Civil courage
- Power and responsibility
- Non-violence and social engagement
- Conflict within groups
- Interreligious dialogue
- Understanding the differences – «In somebody else's shoes»

Trainer's skills:

- The role of a trainer
- Leading the group process – facilitation as a skill
- Leading the group process – facing difficulties
- Team building
- Preparing the training program
- Presenting – skills of presenting the trainer's work

Practical experience:

- Preparing and carrying out of one self authorised workshop
- Group analysis of each workshop



We are sorry JASMIN MERDAN from Sarajevo could not finish the training...



NEW TRAINERS:

Sadija Bećirević, Muslim Community
(Kozarska Dubica, Bosnia&Herzeg.)

Zorica Maros, Roman Catholic Church
(Novi Travnik, Bosnia&Herzegovina)

Jasmin Spahić, Muslim community
(Kozarska Dubica, Bosnia&Herzeg.)

Mihael Sečen, Baptist Church
(Rijeka, Croatia)

Nena Arvaj, Evangelical Pentecostal Church
(Osijek, Croatia)

Igor Milanov, Macedonian Orthodox Church
(Skopje, Macedonia)

Marija Zdravkovska, Macedonian Orthodox Church
(Skopje, Macedonia)

Ivica Todorov, Macedonian Orthodox Church
(Skopje, Macedonia)

Sanja Marković, Serbian Orthodox Church
(Beograd, Serbia)

Marija Parnicky, Methodist Church
(Novi Sad, Serbia)

Nina Pepdonović, Roman Catholic
(from Montenegro)

In what way the training changed your personal few?



IVICA: "I sensed myself /became aware of myself. I look at people the way they are, people have the same way of spiritual development. When we are honest with each other I see the same questions that bother us. I've gained a great power: skills, the language of communication...new contacts, which are very important to me."



SANJA: "Priceless experience of work with believers. In Serbia believers and nongovernmental organisations do not meet... support to my personal vision that used to be unrealised to me in Serbia."



IGOR: "Non-violence is a form to me that could be used to restore to life the dimension of Christianity that is deadened."



MARIJA: "I have experienced personal transformation. From an individual I became a team player...better understanding, more tolerant, more flexible...I have more to offer to others...I have learned to know my own capacities."



NINA: "I had never been introduced to peace work before...the fact I met people who are peace workers I've gained a great support for my future work. I also expect additional knowledge and encouragement.."



SADIJA: "I've gained confidence for leading a training process, mostly through the practice. The training changed my way of work."

PRACTICE OF NEW TRAINERS – INTRODUCTORY TRAINING OF TWO DAYS

May 2006 / June 2006

New trainers created, planed and conducted two-day training workshops on non-violence with the help of their local mentors

11 new trainers were divided in 5 training teams (TT):

TT1 (Zorica & Nena) conducted 4 workshops in Tuzla, Bosnia, and gathered 11 people for the training with the theme: **“Even I can make a change”**.



TT2 (Sadija & Jasmin) conducted 4 workshops in Bosnian town Bihać and gathered 12 people for the training called: **“Mutual trust strengthens us.**

From the mentor's report; about Sadija & Jasmin:

«I am impressed with the trainers team's improvement due to the gained skills. Namely, the motivation they had in looking for and finding new exercises and quick way of creating new workshops was very obvious. I notice impressive development comparing to the preparations done in December 2005.”

Ana Raffai

TT3 (Nina & Marija) conducted the training in Serbia in Novi Sad with 14 participants. The topic of the training was **“Faith and non-violence”**.

From the mentor's report

“Mihael is a trainer with huge earlier experience of working in his organisation. He is above-average talented in scenic expression and has a very high sense of responsibility for the teamwork. Work on trainings implementation in the next phase of his trainers experience is more then desirable.



TT4

TT4 (Mihael): Training on non-violence called **«Interreligious dialogue»** with 12 members of churches and religious communities took place in Croatia (Sesvete). Mihael conducted 4 workshops. Ana and Otto Raffai co-led the training with Mihael.

TT5 Introductory training took place from 2nd to 4th June in Macedonia (Kočani). Twelve people gathered for the training and participated at 4 workshops conducted by three new trainers: Marija Zdravkovska, Ivica Todorov and Igor Milanov. The topic of the introductory training was “**Non-violence as a vision and a power**”.



From the mentor's report:

«It is certain that contact and work with KIFA, in the institutional sense, and with Ivica as a striking leader (ready for new challenges and learning) should be continued.»

Goran Božičević

