

## **Partners for Democratic Change International**

### **Capacity Building Training Updates**

#### **Poland Trainings and Roundtable**

**Partners Poland Foundation**, in cooperation with **PDCI**, conducted two 3-day trainings on “**Mainstreaming Peacebuilding into Development Cooperation**” in Warsaw in **February 2010**. The trainings were designed to introduce the concept and practice of peacebuilding and conflict-sensitive development work to development actors and practitioners within the framework of the international development cooperation of Poland and the EU. The trainings also addressed the issues of transitional justice, mediation, gender and human security, as cross-cutting themes that are increasingly important to understand and consider when developing, implementing and evaluating development interventions.

The **first training** consisted of **development students** interested in learning more about how to become development practitioners. The training focused on developing greater cultural and conflict-sensitivity through interactive exercises and modules focused on conflict analysis from peacebuilding, gender, human security, mediation and transitional justice perspectives. The **second training** was aimed at **development practitioners**, and focused on knowledge sharing of development experiences and developing a more conflict-sensitive approach to development work by taking into consideration how development interventions are affected by, and can affect, conflict dynamics.

**Partners Poland** also held a roundtable on February 26 in Warsaw with development and science NGOs and representatives of the Ministry of Development. The roundtable participants discussed Poland’s international development cooperation programme and specifically the relationship between the government and NGOs as implementing partners. Presentations were also held on defining “poverty” and development cooperation, and what this means in a changing world.

#### **Czech Republic Trainings and Roundtable**

**Partners-Czech**, in cooperation with **EPLO**, conducted a 2-day workshop on Peacebuilding and Development in Prague in **January 2010**. The workshop focused on introducing peacebuilding and the conflict-sensitive approach to development work, as well as integrating development objectives into security; peacebuilding and conflict work. Using case studies and practical examples, the trainers introduced transitional justice, human security, mediation and gender approaches as means to enhance development work and make its’ impact more durable for beneficiaries. The workshop also focused on EU peacebuilding and development policies, including the nexus between security, peace and development.

**Partner-Czech** held a second training on **Consensus Facilitation** in **February 2010**. Participants developed skills to work at local level in managing and facilitating consensus among different interest groups as well as leading and timing the process. Agenda topics

included an introduction to facilitation skills, mapping problem-solving processes, how to prepare and lead a meeting, communication and other practical skills, meeting follow up, dealing with obstructive participants and conflict-solving styles. The trainers used case studies, focusing on work with ethnic minorities, in order to apply the skills to a concrete situation. Participants were taught how to work separately with different interest groups and then bring all the groups together to develop joint issue-based Action Plans for agreed follow up action.

**Partners Czech**, in cooperation with **Lenka Dušková** from the University Palackého in Olomouc, also organized two roundtable seminars in Prague on **Peacebuilding and Development** and **Peacebuilding in Development Aid** on **March 11, 2010**. These seminars were held with students in an effort to introduce peacebuilding concepts and activities and link these to development work. Each seminar was divided into 3 sessions focusing on: 1) paradigm shifts in the broader security framework as a means to enhance the relationship between peacebuilding and development; 2) linking security and development by focusing on impact of conflict on development, impact of (under)development on conflict and impact of development interventions and; 3) introducing conflict-sensitive development.

### **Bulgaria Trainings and Roundtable**

**Partners Bulgaria Foundation and PDCI held two trainings on Integrating Peacebuilding perspective into Development policy and practice in Sofia in December 2009.** Daniela Kolarova PhD, Director of PDCI and Iva Boneva, Director of the Centre for Inclusive Education and representative of the Bulgarian NGOs platform for development introduced the concepts of peacebuilding and the rationale how integrating peacebuilding approach into development programs leads to more sustainable interventions. Participants from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NGOs and academics took part in the seminars and in the discussions. International and national donors are increasingly aware of the link between security and development, and treat them as mutually interacting spheres of action, which are important for establishing permanent peace in conflict- affected countries and for the development of these countries. It is increasingly accepted that development programmes should take into account the factors leading to conflicts, which are often at the root of poverty and lack of stability. The training programme included introduction in peace, security and development. It was aimed at focusing participants' attention on the peacebuilding approach and the system of measures in programming as the conflict factors are analyzed and tracked during the whole process – from planning to implementation and development programmes impact evaluation. The seminar aimed at build project management capacity in conflict sensitive project development and implementation.

**In February 2009, Partners Bulgaria also held a roundtable** aiming at rising awareness about peacebuilding and development issues and creating a learning environment at both institutional and public levels to ensure public understanding about development issues and the role of the country in development assistance. Participants from government, academia and NGOs took part in discussions. The event brought policy

makers and practitioners together and provided a space for building a common ground around the issues related to peacebuilding and development.

### **Slovakia Training**

**Partners for Democratic Change Slovakia** and **PDCI** held training on **Peacebuilding in Development** in Bratislava, March 16-18. The training focused on introducing a peacebuilding perspective into development work and outlining the basic components of conflict-sensitivity. Participants included **students, ministry officials, development practitioners** and **volunteers**. The trainers used modules on gender, human security, transitional justice and mediation to explore difference aspects of the linkages between peacebuilding and development. In each module, potential roots of conflict/tension were identified and explored. The training combined theoretical presentations with practical exercises, case studies, short films and roles plays with frequent references to relevant literature, documentaries and research for more information.