



NATO SCIENCE PROGRAMME
Cooperative Science and Technology Sub-Programme
ADVANCED STUDY INSTITUTE
ADVANCED RESEARCH WORKSHOP
NATO Public Diplomacy Division, Science Programme, Bd. Leopold III, B-1110 Brussels, Belgium
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Invitation

The three directing organisations

Slovene Philanthropie, Ljubljana
OMEGA- Health Care Centre, Graz
Society for Psychological Assistance (SPA), Zagreb

and our local partner
QPEA- Center for the Promotion of Education, Ferizaj, Kosovo

are happy to invite to a

NATO Advanced Research Workshop (ARW)

ACTIVATING LOCAL RESOURCES
FOR THE PROTECTION OF PSYCHOSOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES
IN TERRITORIES AFFECTED BY WAR AND TERRORISM

18-20 April 2008, Prishtina, Kosovo

Beginning: April 18, 9.00
Registration: April 18, 08.00-09.00
End: April 20, 13.00

Venue:

Grand Hotel Prishtina
Address: Nëna Terezë,
38000 Prishtina, Kosovo
<http://www.grandhotel-pr.com/>
info@grandhotel-pr.com
Tel.: +38138220210



Concept: The Slovene Philanthropic, OMEGA- Health Care centre and the Society for Psychological Assistance are directing a workshop financed in the frame of the **NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme**. Directors of the workshop are Dr. med. Anica Mikuš Kos, Prof. Dean Ajduković and Dr. med. Emir Kuljuh. Our local partner organisation is QPEA- Center for the Promotion of Education from Ferizaj, Kosovo headed by Prof. Ramush Lekaj.

Psychosocial functioning of populations affected by armed conflicts, massive losses and destruction is of crucial importance for building stability and for social reconstruction. It is also an important factor in enhancing the trust among groups that have been in conflict. Programs aiming to strengthen the mental health and psychosocial functioning of the population are typically directed towards the groups that are either more easy to access through the school system, such as children and youth, or to severely affected and vulnerable groups, such as veterans, survivors of torture and family losses. Additional reasons for targeting the children and youth are that their developmental stage make them particularly receptive for positive (and negative) influences, they are the future of every society.

The international community has invested considerable resources into delivery of such psychosocial programs. However, most of these programs have been “imported” and delivered under the leadership of foreign experts. At the same time, local resources are neither sufficiently activated nor developed, although developed local resources are the only reliable basis for long term and sustainable psychosocial programming in the affected communities. This is also the only way of integrating preventive psychosocial services in the existing social systems and communities.

The event brings together distinguished experts in the field to discuss alternative ways of developing local resources for the psychosocial protection and empowerment of local populations. Further aims are to present models of good practices and to outline the criteria for high quality programs based on local resources.

Participants will be scholars and researchers providing theoretical background, practitioners and field workers from regions affected by armed conflicts, representatives of international NGOs, representatives of social systems relevant for the mental health (education, health care, social welfare, etc.) and representatives of donor organizations.

The program will attempt to address the following topics:

- Importance of individual and community mental health for community rebuilding
- Mobilizing local resources for psychosocial protection
- Enhancing the capacity of children and youth for a participative role in community recovery
- The role of school and educational system
- The role of the health system
- Partnership between the governmental agencies and NGO sector, including the role of volunteering in as a community resource
- Cooperation among local leaders and religious organizations
- Increasing the sustainability of psychosocial programs through their mainstreaming into the regular institutions
- Presentations of programs based on local resources
- Rebuilding trust and cooperation across ethnic lines of division
- Challenges of developing networks within regions affected by conflict

TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

Participation:

The invited participants are requested to send the attached **Registration Form** to OMEGA- Health care Center by the 10th of April at the latest and will be placed on the list of participants.

Financial Matters:

The organisers through the grant will cover all costs for the conference, in order for participants to be able to attend without a registration fee.

NATO and the organizer will not take out any health or accident insurance for participants; such insurance is an individual responsibility. There is however a cancellation (storno) insurance for those participants for whom OMEGA bought the tickets, if any of those can not make their flight due to illness. Should this be the case, please contact OMEGA Health Care Center immediately!

Key Speakers:

Speakers in the conference are asked to send one page abstracts of their talks by 10th of April at the latest. The full presentation (in English language / or translation) has to be taken in writing to the conference and communicated there.
(needed for the detailed conference report which we contracted to publish after the conference.)

Official Language:

The official language of the workshop will be English, there will be translation service for Albanian and BKS.

Organising logistics:

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Contact Person:

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We are looking forward to seeing you in a successful conference



OMEGA
GESUNDHEITSSTELLE
HEALTH CARE CENTER GRAZ