



NATO SCIENCE PROGRAMME

Cooperative Science and Technology Sub-Programme

ADVANCED STUDY INSTITUTE

ADVANCED RESEARCH WORKSHOP

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"International Advanced Workshop Announcement"

NATO Advanced Research Workshop (ARW) 2011

" The Challenges of Reconciliation in Post- Conflict Communities"

**28.04.- 01.05. 2011
In Mlini, Dubrovnik, Croatia**



OMEGA

Transkulturelles Zentrum
für psychische und physische Gesundheit und Integ
Transcultural center
for mental and physical health and integration

International Advanced Workshop Announcement

" The Challenges of Reconciliation in Post- Conflict Communities "

The workshop will explore the concept of reconciliation in the post-conflict communities; review the good practice and community initiatives that contribute to resuming the inter-group relations among former adversaries.

The last ARW "Returnees And The Social Reconstruction Of Communities Affected By Armed Conflict" organized in Sarajevo in 2009 opened the question and identified the need for addressing in the following ARW the issue of reconciliation which is strongly connected with return and rebuilding of safe and prosperous communities.

Reconciliation is nowadays a much challenged issue. It is a complex and multidimensional concept enclosing individual, group and community levels, including psychological, social, economic and legal dimensions. Even more important than theoretical aspects, is the reality and dynamic of the process of reconciliation in areas affected by armed conflicts and terrorist acts and the questions which foster or hamper the process of reconciliation. The experience shows that reconciliation processes have been more difficult and less successful than expected.

The process of reconciliation is mostly described by foreign, external observer and annalists. Those who experienced atrocities and losses during conflicts, and members of the side responsible for a misdeed are underrepresented among discussants about reconciliation in scientific platforms. The result could be biased and idealized views on the process of reconciliation. Therefore the proposed ARW has the intention to confront and bring together at the same time the views of scientists that study the reconciliation processes with the experiences, views and attitudes of those who were direct participants of armed conflicts.

The results will show on the one hand how effective interventions may be and also how much has yet to be done in the area of reconciliation into post war societies. This is why the NATO ARW 2011 will be paying a special attention to programs for strengthening the reconciliation process of formerly adverse parties and thus the social recovery and reconstruction in countries of the Balkan and the Caucasus regions formerly affected by armed conflicts which are still very much into the process of social reconstruction.

The proposed ARW will pay particular attention to identification of feasible interventions and processes which can influence in a positive way the process of reconciliation. Models of good practices from countries experiencing past or present armed conflicts will be brought together and discussed.

We are looking forward to a successful meeting and your much appreciated participation!

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