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THIS PUBLICATION HAS BEEN PRODUCED WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE SIGRID RAUSING TRUST

# PEACE DIALOGUE NGO'S ANNUAL REVIEW I 2021-2022



VANADZOR 2023

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VANADZOR 2023

**PEACE  
DIALOGUE  
NGO'S  
ANNUAL  
REVIEW I  
2021-2022**



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# CONTENT

## OPENING REMARKS

ESTABLISHING THE INEXTRICABLE CONNECTION OF PEACE, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE WAY OF CREATING A NEWLY EMERGING SECURITY ARCHITECTURE .....	4
THEMATIC FOCUS / LEVELS OF INVOLVEMENT .....	8
VISION / MISSION / METHODS .....	9
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2021-2022 .....	10
PEACE DIALOGUE NGO'S PROJECTS FOR 2021-2022 .....	11
OUTCOMES OF PROJECTS IN 2021-2022 .....	12
PEACE DIALOGUE'S DONORS AND PARTNERS IN 2021-2022 .....	13

## OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS FOR 2021-2022

PROJECTS ON STRENGTHENING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES .....	14
PROJECTS ON PROMOTING GLOBAL PEACE MOVEMENT AND PEACE CULTURE .....	17
PROJECTS ON INVOLVING AND EMPOWERING LOCAL COMMUNITIES .....	20

## FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR 2021-2022

PEACE DIALOGUE'S FINANCIAL SITUATION AS PER 2021 .....	23
PEACE DIALOGUE'S FINANCIAL SITUATION AS PER 2022 .....	24
PEACE DIALOGUE'S TEAM 2021-2022 .....	25

# OPENING REMARKS

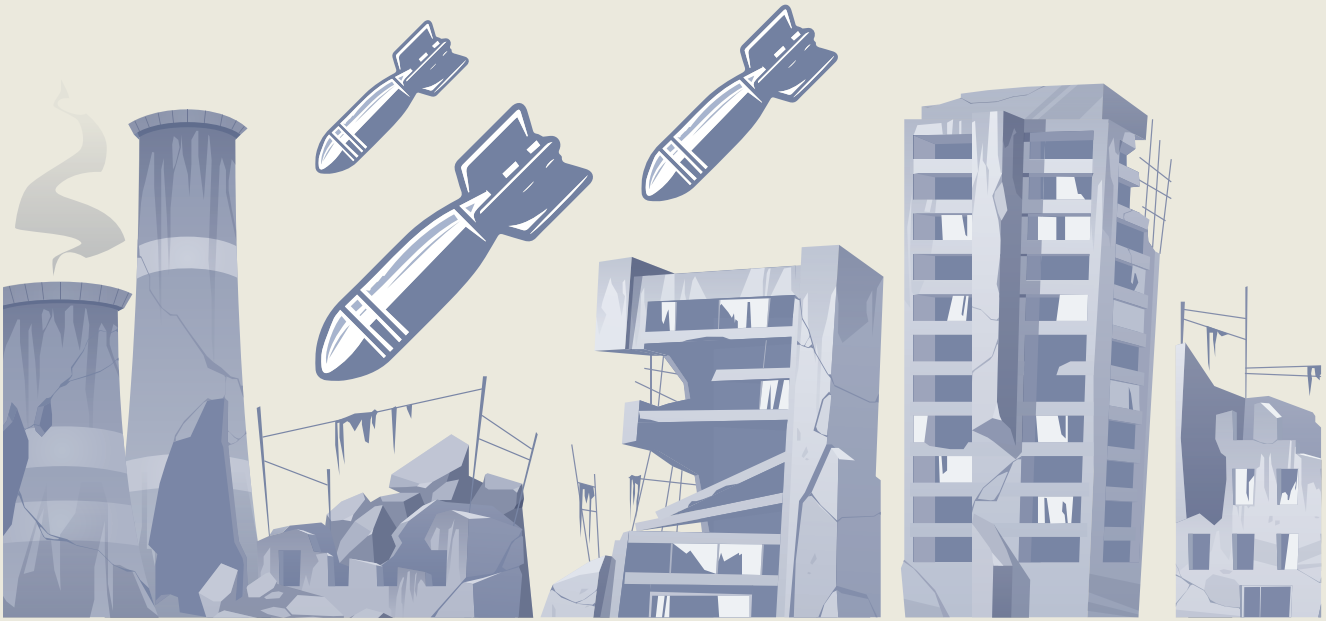
## ESTABLISHING THE INEXTRICABLE CONNECTION OF PEACE, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE WAY OF CREATING A NEWLY EMERGING SECURITY ARCHITECTURE



**EDGAR KHACHATRYAN,**  
PEACE DIALOGUE NGO, PRESIDENT

Lasting peace goes hand in hand with the establishment of a safe environment in the conflict zone. Nonetheless, it is impossible to achieve this safety without the respect for human rights and dignity. Carrying out our activities in a constantly heating up conflict zone that has taken thousands of lives and shattered thousands of destinies, we keep spreading these messages, like a mantra, to stay true to our path in a changing world such as ours.

In September, 2020, an extensive 44-day war erupted in the South Caucasus between the armed forces of Armenia and Azerbaijan. As a result of the bloodthirsty battles of an insanity not seen since the ceasefire at the end of the first Armenian-Azerbaijani war over the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in 1994, the parties suffered thousands of casualties. This war, perpetrated by Azerbaijan, resulted in the death of civilians (including children) with the number of casualties exceeding a hundred; a great number of soldiers and civilians are still reported missing or captured. The ceasefire signed in Novem-



ber, 2020, unfortunately, failed to put an end to the conflict and the resulting hostilities. Despite the obligations assumed by the ceasefire, the hostilities between the two parties did not stop in 2021 either. Furthermore, Azerbaijani armed forces carried out territorial advances in Nagorno-Karabakh in several directions, causing even more casualties and captures. Already in September, 2022, Azerbaijani troops intruded the sovereign territory of the Republic of Armenia targeting the civilian infrastructures in the regions close to the border. In December, 2022, Azerbaijan closed the only road linking Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh – the Lachin corridor. Based on the trilateral agreement signed in 2020 by Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia, the corridor was under the control of Russian peacekeeping forces. As a result, thousands of people found themselves as hostages, a number of families involuntarily got separated ending up in the opposite sides of the blockade; civilians with severe health problems were deprived of medicine and health services in general.

The population of Nagorno-Karabakh was disrupted of the supply of food and other basic necessities.

*... For many people such geopolitical developments have confirmed the well-known notion of “the power begets the right”: an approach that legitimizes the Inevitability of violence and “the right of the strongest”, and cast doubts on the idea of having alternative to peaceful means of resolving conflict. A ground was prepared to reinforce the public discourses that suggest security, democracy and human rights as mutually exclusive concepts ...*

Another event in 2022 came as a shock to the whole world – Russia’s invasion of Ukraine on February 24. The ongoing war has already taken thousands of servicemen’s lives. According to the United Nations and internationally known human rights organizations, the number of deaths in Ukraine has reached at least 6,755 and more than 10,607 civilians received non-fatal injuries. The realistic number of casualties is expected to be much greater, as Russian



armed forces keep irregularly launching rocket attacks on the residential areas, hospitals and other civilian infrastructures in Ukraine.

The above mentioned events have certainly affected not only the communities involved in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (region where Peace Dialogue is active), but also the changes in perception and approaches to security architecture around the whole world. The Ukraine war seems to have completely siphoned the attention of the international community, while forcing people to reconsider and reevaluate their attitude towards peace, security and human rights. Moreover, for many people such geopolitical developments have confirmed the well-known notion of **“the power begets the right”**: an approach that legitimizes the

inevitability of violence and **“the right of the strongest”**, and cast doubts on the idea of having alternative to peaceful means of resolving conflict. A ground was prepared to reinforce the public discourses that suggest security, democracy and human rights as mutually exclusive concepts.

To describe the trajectory of the 2021-2022 activities of our organization more generally, it is enough to mention that our priorities were determined by the necessity to develop effective approaches to face the above-mentioned challenges. On the one hand, we made an attempt to establish the inextricable connection of peace, democracy and human rights more obvious and comprehensive to the beneficiaries of all our projects on our way of creating a newly emerging security architecture. On the other



hand, we tried to find solutions to the problems caused by the war and neutralize the skepticism towards the above-mentioned values, which is progressively growing in the conflicting communities.

The aforementioned situation also forced us to implement various initiatives during 2021-2022 with the cooperation of our local and international partners in the regions that can already be considered the calling card of the organization, parallel to the programs on the establishment of lasting peace. These initiatives were aimed at the democratic reforms of the security sector and the improvement of human rights in the defense sector.

During the past two years we organized local and regional conferences and discussions in an attempt to create a platform for a dialogue. The latter intended to find a joint solution for the challenges emerging in this new reality. At the same time we have realized training courses and seminars with the aim to shape a public demand on the protection of human rights, peace and democracy and improve the potential of the individuals and the organizations operating in the above-mentioned fields.

Concluding my speech, I would like to express my conviction, that with the support and cooperation of Peace Dialogue partners and associates we will consistently keep working hard on developing new approaches, taking into account the experience and lessons learned during our activities. These approaches are to assist us promote the spread of democratic values, human rights, as well as the protection of interests of the conflict-affected communities. Concurrently, we will do our best to recover the mutual trust and dialogue opportunities between the conflicting community representatives.



# THEMATIC FOCUS:



**STRENGTHENING  
RESPECT  
FOR HUMAN  
RIGHTS AND  
DEMOCRATIC  
VALUES**



**PROMOTING  
GLOBAL  
PEACE  
MOVEMENT  
AND  
PEACE  
CULTURE**



**INVOLVING  
AND  
EMPOWERING  
LOCAL  
COMMUNITIES**

**LEVELS OF  
INVOLVEMENT:**

**INTERNATIONAL  
LEVEL**

**REGIONAL  
LEVEL**

**LOCAL  
LEVEL**

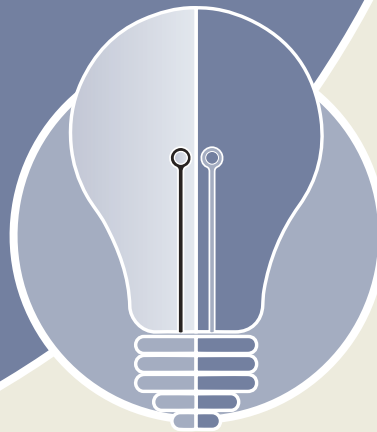
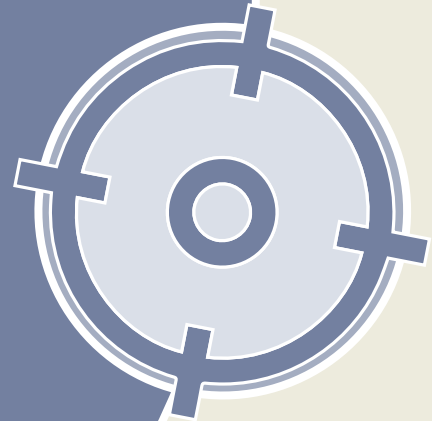
## VISION:

JUSTICE AND RULE OF LAW  
FOR PEACEFUL AND  
DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES.



## MISSION:

FOSTERING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS,  
FORMING MULTI-LAYERED DIALOGUE  
AND A CULTURE OF PEACE,  
BUILDING DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIC  
INSTITUTIONS IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED AND  
POST-CONFLICT SOCIETIES.



## METHODS:

HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING |  
LEGAL AID | ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING |  
POLICY DEVELOPMENT | MEDIA WORK |  
EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE | RESEARCH AND ANALYSES |  
CAPACITY BUILDING | NETWORKING...

# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR 2021-2022



# PEACE DIALOGUE NGO'S PROJECTS FOR 2021-2022



**INVOLVING  
AND  
EMPOWERING  
LOCAL  
COMMUNITIES**



**18%**

OF ALL PROJECTS DURING  
THE REPORTING PERIOD



**42**

**PERSONS  
INVOLVED**



**PROMOTING  
GLOBAL  
PEACE  
MOVEMENT  
AND PEACE  
CULTURE**



**36%**

OF ALL PROJECTS DURING  
THE REPORTING PERIOD



**385**

**PERSONS  
INVOLVED**



**STRENGTHENING  
RESPECT  
FOR HUMAN  
RIGHTS AND  
DEMOCRATIC  
VALUES**



**46%**

OF ALL PROJECTS DURING  
THE REPORTING PERIOD



**1766**

**PERSONS  
INVOLVED**

# OUTCOMES OF PROJECTS IN 2021-2022

19

ROUND TABLES  
AND DISCUSSIONS



23

TRAININGS AND  
SEMINARS



489

PARTICIPANTS



5

RESEARCH AND  
PUBLICATIONS

1622

INTERVIEWS WITH  
VULNERABLE GROUPS



82

LEGAL  
COUNSELING

5

COURT  
APPEALS

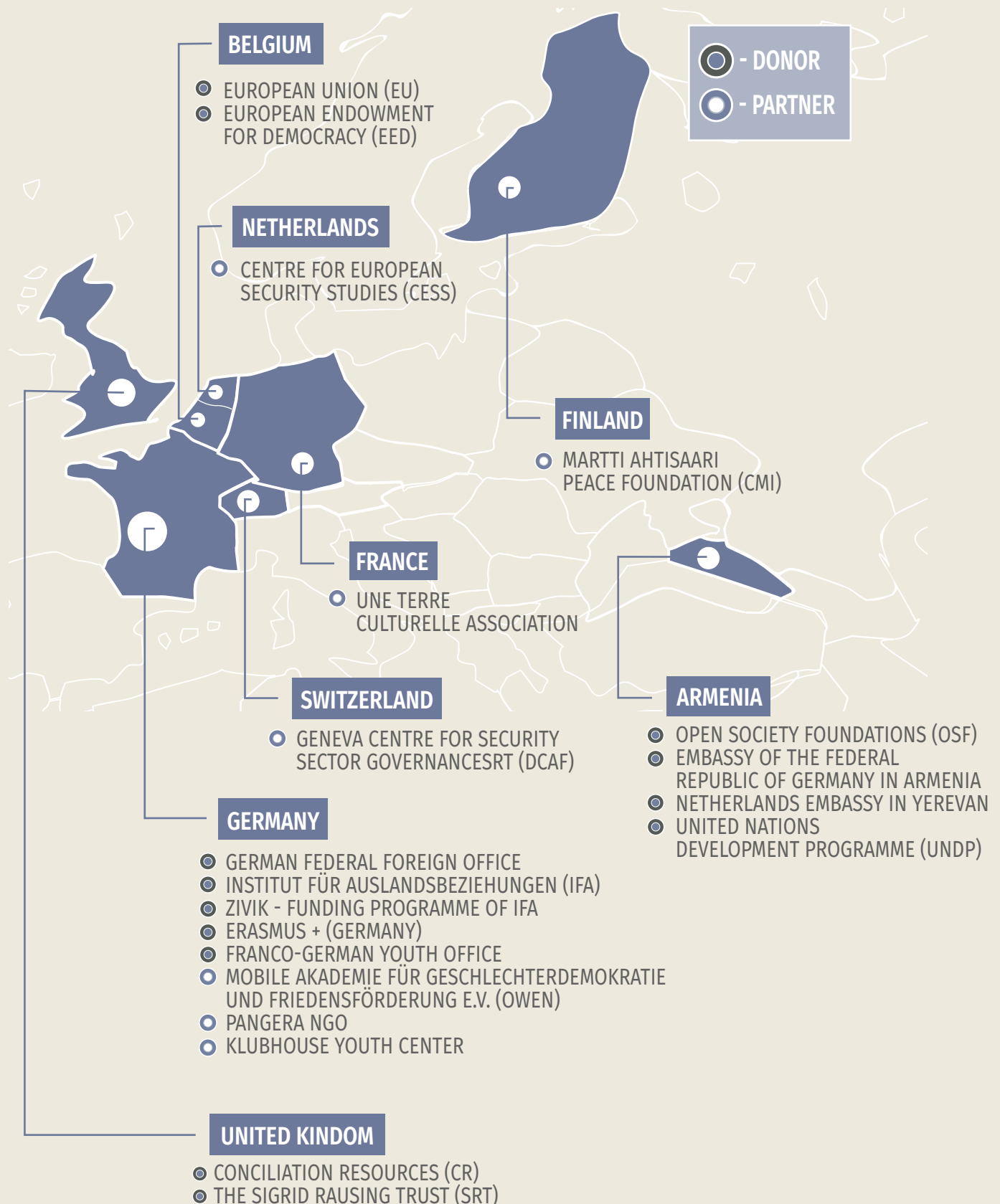


3

STUDY  
VISITS



# PEACE DIALOGUE'S DONORS AND PARTNERS IN 2021-2022



# OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS FOR 2021-2022

## STRENGTHENING RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES



## 1. DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY POTENTIAL FOR THE EFFECTIVE MONITORING OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ARMENIAN DEFENSE SECTOR

DURATION OF THE PROJECT: 12 MONTHS  
BUDGET: 14.311.000,00 AMD (+/- 34.236,84 EUR)  
DONOR: OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS-ARMENIA

With this initiative, the organization sought to enhance the role and importance of civil society in the development and implementation of state policy in the field of human rights protection in the armed forces.

## 2. FOSTERING CIVIL SOCIETY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF STATE POLICY IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION IN THE DEFENCE SECTOR OF ARMENIA

DURATION OF THE PROJECT: 15 MONTHS (ONGOING)  
BUDGET: 20.457.250,00 AMD (+/- 47.300,00 EUR)  
DONOR: EUROPEAN ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY (EED)

With this initiative, Peace Dialogue sought to enhance the government's efforts to improve the human rights situation in the defense sector. The organization aimed to achieve this goal by promoting constant civil society monitoring of the implementation of the Action Plan 2020-2022 derived from Armenia's National Strategy on Human Rights Protection. Additionally, Peace Dialogue aimed to provide evidence-based recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the activities of the parliament, state institutions, and relevant local and international stakeholders. As part of the project, the team interviewed over 700 conscripts and 120 former conscripts, most of whom had served in the military within the last five years. Moreover, the vast majority of interviewees had also participated in military operations during the 44-day war.

*"... For example, there were two servicemen whom we did not oppress or harass. When an officer came and said something needed to be done, they would run to do it without asking. It's hard to say why. They served alienated from us, but at the same time, if there was some work to do, they understood that they had to do it. But we did not beat them ..."*



*A passage from an interview conducted during the project*



### **3. CONTRIBUTION TO THE REGIONAL EXCHANGE MECHANISM ON THE RIGHTS OF CONSCRIPTS**

---

DURATION OF THE PROJECT: 6 MONTHS  
BUDGET: 1.822.500,00 AMD (+/-4.500,00 EUR)  
DONOR: GENEVA CENTRE FOR SECURITY SECTOR GOVERNANCE (DCAF)

---

The initiative was aimed at developing a regional, standardized approach on revealing the level of protection of conscripts' rights during their compulsory military service.

### **4. DOCUMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS DURING THE 44-DAY WAR**

---

DURATION OF THE PROJECT: 6 MONTHS  
BUDGET: 4.433.000,00 AMD (+/-7.150,00 EUR)  
PARTNER: CONCILIATION RESOURCES  
DONOR: SIGRID RAUSING TRUST

---

The project addressed the basic information deficit regarding the conduct and impact of the hostilities of the 44-day war. Around 247 video and photo materials allegedly describing violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law were documented.

### **5. DEVELOPING INCLUSIVE OVERSIGHT OF SECURITY SECTOR IN ARMENIA**

---

DURATION OF THE PROJECT: 24 MONTHS (ONGOING)  
BUDGET: 3.037.500.00AMD (+/-7.500,00 EUR)  
PARTNER: CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN SECURITY STUDIES  
DONOR: NETHERLANDS EMBASSY IN YEREVAN | ARMENIA

---

The goal of the project is to develop effective and inclusive oversight of the security sector in Armenia. The project consists of a series of expert labs aimed at initiating multi-stakeholder consultations on key issues related to the security sector. Overall, during the reporting period, 35 representatives from the Parliament, National Security Council, Human Rights Defender's Office, the Ministry of Defence, as well as representatives from civil society organizations took part in the aforementioned events.

# OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS FOR 2021-2022

## PROMOTING GLOBAL PEACE MOVEMENT AND PEACE CULTURE



**PROMOTING  
GLOBAL PEACE  
MOVEMENT AND  
PEACE CULTURE**

1. CONTACT 2.0

2. OPEN NARRATIVES

3. ARCHIVE OF THE ARMENIAN AZERBAIJANI CONFLICT  
(THE REAL FACE OF WAR: AN ORAL HISTORY INITIATIVE)

4. CIVIL SOCIETY – PARLIAMENT DIALOGUE  
FOR PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF  
THE NAGAORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT

## 1. CONTACT2.0

---

DURATION OF THE PROJECT: 12 MONTHS

BUDGET: 19.585.413.31AMD (+/-32.269,11 EUR)

PARTNER: OWEN - MOBILE AKADEMIE FÜR GESCHLECHTERDEMOKRATIE UND FRIEDENSFÖRDERUNG E.V.

DONOR: ZIVIK PROGRAMME OF THE INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN CULTURAL RELATIONS (IFA),  
THE GERMAN FEDERAL FOREIGN OFFICE

---

The project was aimed at fostering peace processes in the societies involved and affected by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict through identifying, empowering and mobilizing the local peacebuilding potential of young people from the conflict involved societies.

*“... Sometimes it was shocking, sometimes quite nice or difficult to hear the opinion of Armenian teenagers and young people. I discovered a range of ideas about violence and how they deal with it. As a whole, we came to the conclusion that we are the source of violence and at the same time the victims of it ...”*

*A young participant of the Contact 2.0 project*

## 2. OPEN NARRATIVES

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DURATION OF THE PROJECT: 27 MONTHS

BUDGET: 81.979.391.00AMD (+/-155.965,00 EUR)

PARTNER: CONCILIATION RESOURCES

DONOR: EUROPEAN UNION

---

The goal of the project was to promote the formation of public discourse on possible ways of overcoming challenges in the fields of security, human rights protection, and democracy resulting from the Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, particularly the 44-day war. This was done through critical and self-critical analysis of lessons from the past and present among different public groups. Additionally, one of the essential components of the project was the identification of dominant narratives on conflict and peace and the development of alternative approaches to them. This will contribute to preparing conflict-involved societies for future reconciliation.

*“... Although the final and long-term solutions to the problems are in the realm of political decision-making, the importance of building a healthy debate on such sensitive issues at the civil society level should not be overlooked. More people from the settlements located on the Armenian-Azerbaijani border should also be involved in further events in the scope of the project ...”*

*Silvia Zehe, the political adviser of the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia*

---

### **3. ARCHIVE OF THE ARMENIAN AZERBAIJANI CONFLICT (THE REAL FACE OF WAR: AN ORAL HISTORY INITIATIVE)**

---

DURATION OF THE PROJECT: 12 MONTHS (ONGOING)  
BUDGET: 14.470.819.20AMD (+/-35.040,00 EUR)  
PARTNER: CONCILIATION RESOURCES  
DONOR: SIGRID RAUSING TRUST FOUNDATION

---

The goal of the project is to collect the stories of people who are affected by the consequences of the 2020 Second Karabakh War. On the basis of the latter, an archive will be created that will reflect the approaches and perceptions of the people who went through the war, particularly by finding the materials that are not available in other sources. In addition to preserving important historical memories, Peace Dialogue aims to use some of the interview materials to initiate public debates about war and peace.

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### **4. CIVIL SOCIETY - PARLIAMENT DIALOGUE FOR PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT**

---

DURATION OF THE PROJECT: 12 MONTHS (ONGOING)  
BUDGET: 2.025.000.00AMD (+/-5.000,00 EUR)  
PARTNER: MARTTI AHTISAARI PEACE FOUNDATION  
DONOR: EUROPEAN UNION

---

The project was aimed at creating a sustainable platform for civil society actors and parliamentarians to address post-war challenges and foster strategies for reducing the risks of new escalations in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict context.

# OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS FOR 2021-2022

## INVOLVING AND EMPOWERING LOCAL COMMUNITIES



**INVOLVING AND  
EMPOWERING  
LOCAL  
COMMUNITIES**

**1. JOURNALISM WITHOUT BORDER  
INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

**2. ALTERNATIVE MECHANISMS FOR  
CONFLICT RESOLUTION**

## 1. JOURNALISM WITHOUT BORDERS INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

DURATION: 7 MONTHS

THE BUDGET OF THE PROJECT WAS NOT AT THE DISPOSAL OF PEACE DIALOGUE NGO.

PARTNERS: UNE TERRE CULTURELLE ASSOCIATION, PANGERA NGO,  
KLUBHOUSE YOUTH CENTER

DONORS: FRANCO-GERMAN YOUTH OFFICE, ERASMUS+

The project was aimed at introducing young participants representing Armenia, France, and Germany to the tools of modern journalism and social media, developing field-related skills, as well as creating a platform for networking and exchanging cultural peculiarities of the three countries. The project was implemented in three one-week phases held in Germany, France, and Armenia, respectively.

## 2. ALTERNATIVE MECHANISMS FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION

DURATION OF THE PROJECT: 6 MONTHS

BUDGET: 3.136.000,00 AMD (+/-8.000,00 USD)

DONOR: UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

The purpose of the project was to form a constructive approach to working with conflicts among young people representing the northern regions of Armenia and to equip them with tools for effective conflict resolution. Peace Dialogue created a series of symbolic stories for the course, which were presented to the participants without an ending. The goal of presenting incomplete stories was to stimulate critical thinking and encourage participants to develop their own solutions based on the information and assumptions discussed, and to make connections between imaginary scenarios and real-life events. As a follow-up to the project, a manual was developed summarizing the techniques and tools applied to analyze the stories discussed during the course, as well as the methodology employed. The manual was published with the support of the Sigrid Rausing Trust.

*“... The course helped me to quickly and effectively analyse conflicting situations and understand the underlying causes ...”*

*16-year-old Inessa Tumanyan,  
Vanadzor*

*“... I have found this course incredibly beneficial in teaching me how to effectively address conflicts rather than simply avoiding them ...”*

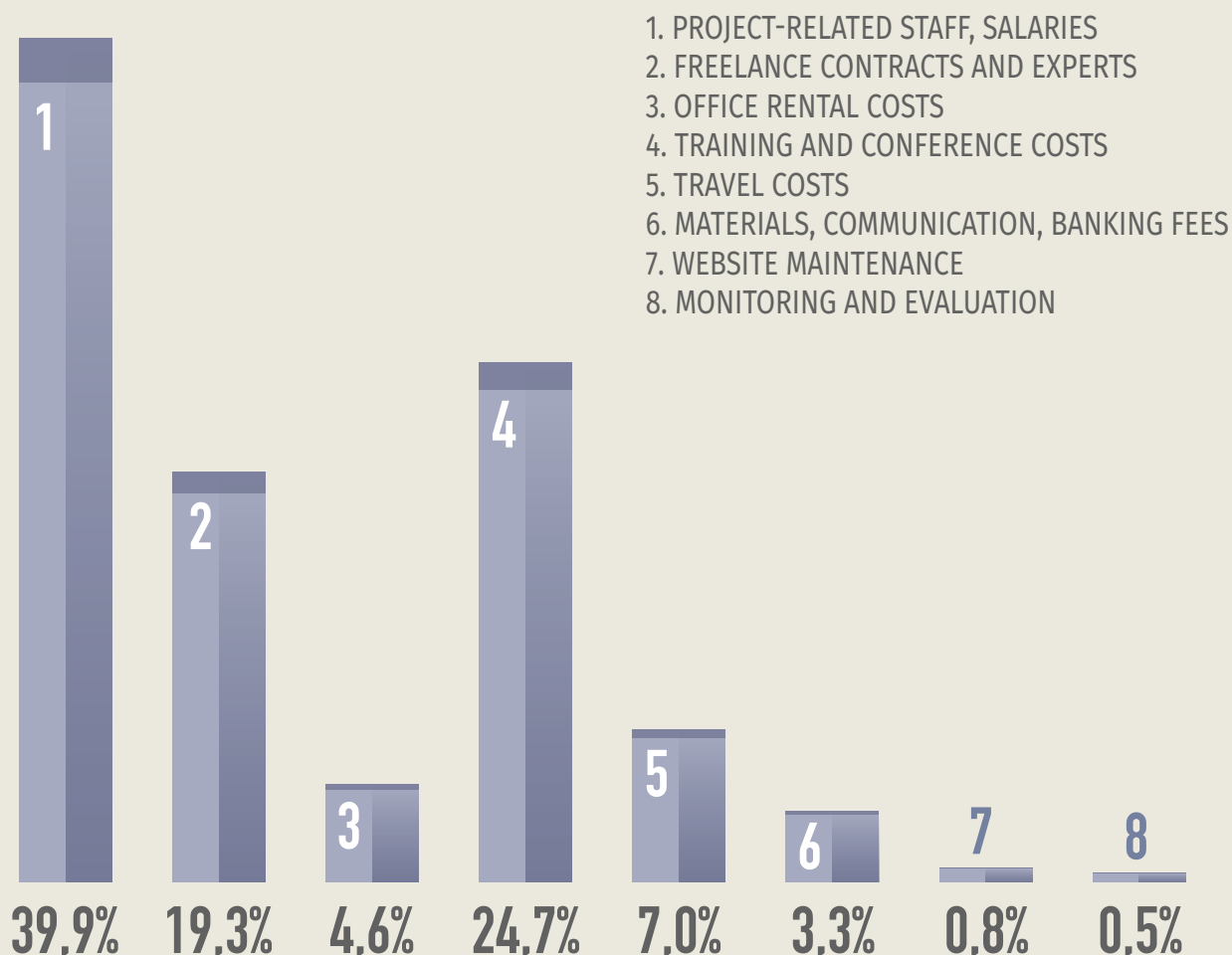
*16-year-old Ararat Sarukhanyan,  
Margahovit village*

# FINANCIAL REVIEW FOR 2021-2022



## PEACE DIALOGUE'S FINANCIAL SITUATION AS PER 2021

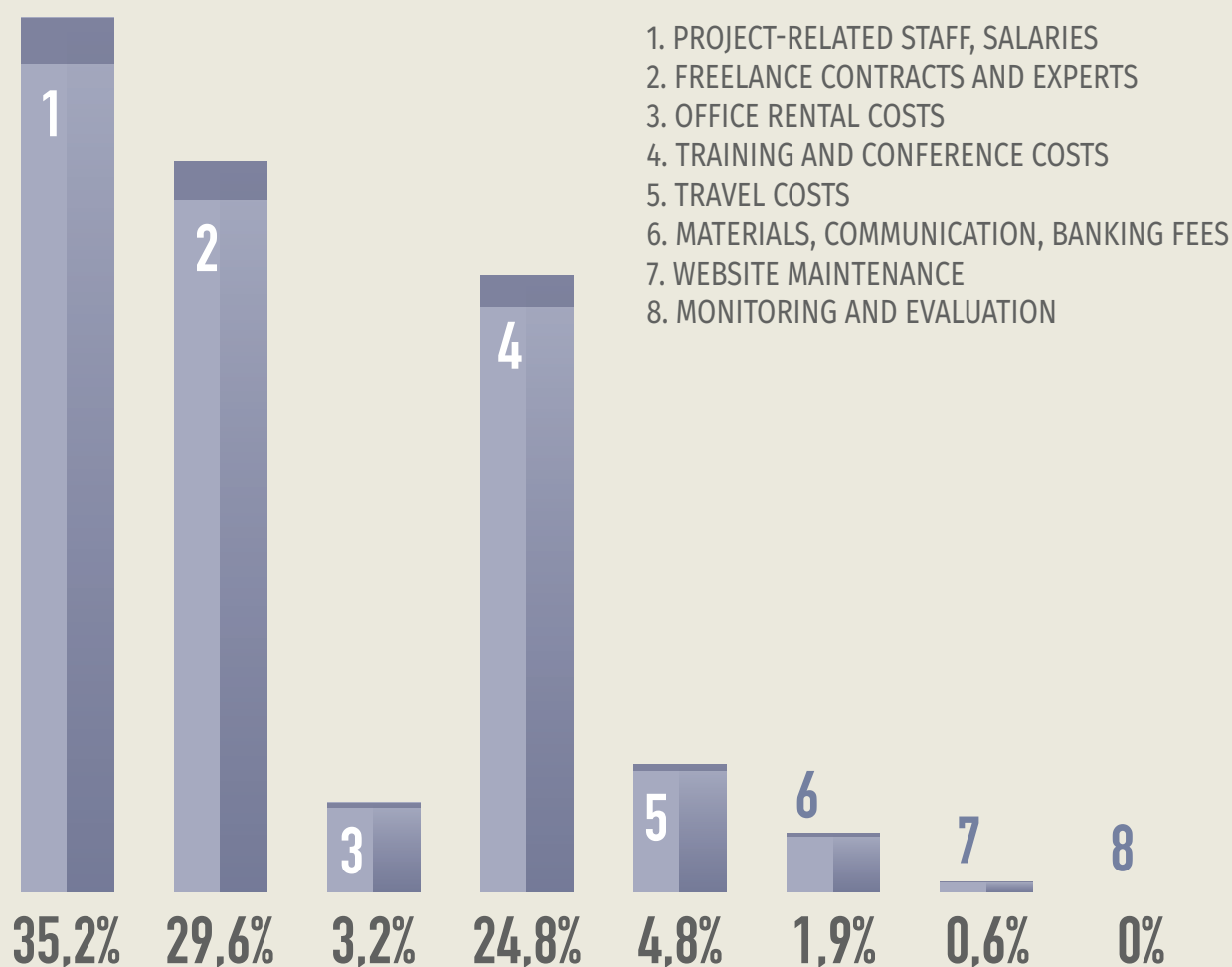
N	INCOME AND ACTUAL EXPENSES IN ARMENIAN DRAM (AMD)	TOTAL INCOME (AMD)	ACTUAL EXPENSES (AMD)	TOTAL BALANCE (AMD)
1	PROJECT-RELATED STAFF, SALARIES	26 139 350,14	27 482 363,79	-1 343 013,65
2	FREELANCE CONTRACTS AND EXPERTS	7 047 779,49	13 317 757,35	-6 269 977,86
3	OFFICE RENTAL COSTS	3 040 272,00	3 145 282,62	-105 010,62
4	TRAINING AND CONFERENCE COSTS (SEMINAR ROOM RENT, MEALS, ACCOMMODATION)	14 542 936,56	17 024 257,28	-2 481 320,72
5	TRAVEL COSTS	4 046 764,54	4 827 237,94	-780 473,40
6	MATERIALS, COMMUNICATION, BANKING FEES	1 769 507,71	2 286 636,57	-517 128,86
7	WEBSITE MAINTENANCE/ONLINE/ OFFLINE PUBLICATIONS	601 977,44	522 984,44	78 993,00
8	MONITORING AND EVALUATION	300 000,00	330 000,00	-30 000,00
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>57 488 587,88</b>	<b>68 936 519,98</b>	<b>-11 447 932,11</b>





## PEACE DIALOGUE'S FINANCIAL SITUATION AS PER 2022

N	INCOME AND ACTUAL EXPENSES IN ARMENIAN DRAM (AMD)	TOTAL INCOME (AMD)	ACTUAL EXPENSES (AMD)	TOTAL BALANCE (AMD)
1	PROJECT-RELATED STAFF, SALARIES	28 445 652,19	28 425 682,19	19 970,00
2	FREELANCE CONTRACTS AND EXPERTS	23 999 611,13	23 849 430,33	150 180,80
3	OFFICE RENTAL COSTS	2 544 925,51	2 541 455,51	3 470,00
4	TRAINING AND CONFERENCE COSTS (SEMINAR ROOM RENT, MEALS, ACCOMMODATION)	20 180 952,54	20 039 979,79	140 972,75
5	TRAVEL COSTS	3 702 064,74	3 833 763,94	-131 699,20
6	MATERIALS, COMMUNICATION, BANKING FEES	1 586 426,42	1 509 562,58	76 863,84
7	WEBSITE MAINTENANCE/ONLINE/ OFFLINE PUBLICATIONS	347 949,16	455 717,06	-107 767,90
8	MONITORING AND EVALUATION	0,00	0,00	0,00
	TOTAL:	80 807 581,70	80 655 591,40	151 990,29



# PEACE DIALOGUE'S TEAM

## 2021-2022

The successful operation of Peace Dialogue owes much to the expertise and commitment of its team, consultants, and volunteers. In 2021-2022, the organization's team comprised of 8 professionals specializing in areas such as human rights monitoring, project management, and conflict resolution.

The team possessed extensive knowledge of the latest happenings in the South Caucasus region, as well as practical experience in implementing innovative approaches to peacebuilding work, and a range of practical skills in operating in conflict-affected environments.



**EDGAR KHACHATRYAN**

PEACE DIALOGUE NGO  
FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT



**MARIANNA KHAZHAKYAN**

PROGRAM OFFICER  
PEACEBUILDING AND GENDER



**ANAHIT YEGORYAN**

ACCOUNTANT



**ARTUR SUKIASYAN**

LAWYER



**ANNA ZURABYAN**

MEDIA AND PUBLIC  
RELATIONS COORDINATOR



**ANUSH HARUTYUNYAN**

PROGRAM OFFICER  
HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECTS



**ANI HARUTYUNYAN**

EXPERT-CONSULTANT  
SECURITY SECTOR REFORMS/  
DEFENCE OVERSIGHT



**ARMINE ZAKARYAN**

EXPERT-CONSULTANT  
DEALING WITH THE PAST  
AND TRANSITIONAL  
JUSTICE PROJECTS

2022. DEFENCE GOVERNANCE AND OVERSIGHT  
IN ARMENIA: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION/DCAF,  
PEACE DIALOGUE



2021. IMPLEMENTATION OF DEFENSE SECTOR-  
RELATED ACTIONS IN THE SCOPE OF 2020-2022  
ACTION PLAN DERIVING FROM ARMENIA'S  
NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS  
PROTECTION: PUBLIC DISCUSSION



2021. DEVELOPING INCLUSIVE OVERSIGHT  
OF SECURITY SECTOR IN ARMENIA/CESS,  
PEACE DIALOGUE

2022. JOURNALISM WITHOUT BORDERS:  
BERLIN PHASE



2021. OPEN NARRATIVES: FOSTERING CRITICAL  
CONVERSATION ON SOCIAL AND POLITICAL  
IMPACTS OF THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT



2021. HISTORY AND I –  
WORKSHOP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE