



**Annual
Review**


**2011 -
2012**

**Why is civil
ACTIVISM IMPORTANT?**



Peace Dialogue Annual Review 2011-2012

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A man with a beard and dark hair, wearing a brown jacket, is speaking to a crowd. He has his right arm raised with a clenched fist. The crowd consists of people of various ages and ethnicities, some wearing winter hats and coats. The background is slightly blurred, suggesting an outdoor public gathering.

“You may never know what results come of your actions, but if you do nothing, there will be no results.”

Mahatma Gandhi

WHY IS CIVIC ACTIVISM SO IMPORTANT?

For more than four years Peace Dialogue NGO has been working in the peace-building field and, with its partners, has tried to create a peace movement and peace culture in the region. In 2011-2012 the keystone of the dream of the region's peace movement was civic engagement and development in Armenia--and in the region as a whole. It was especially important that youth undertake an important role in this movement.

Guided by its partners' years of international experience in different conflicting regions and by its own local and regional studies, Peace Dialogue highlighted the importance of (1) overcoming the culture of indifference and silence, (2) developing citizens' critical and analytical thinking so that they can differentiate reality from propaganda, (3) emphasizing non-

violent resistance, (4) recognizing the importance of the role and voice of the citizen, (5) promoting civilian supervision of decision-making processes, and (6) ensuring civil participation in the peaceful resolution of local, national, and regional conflicts.

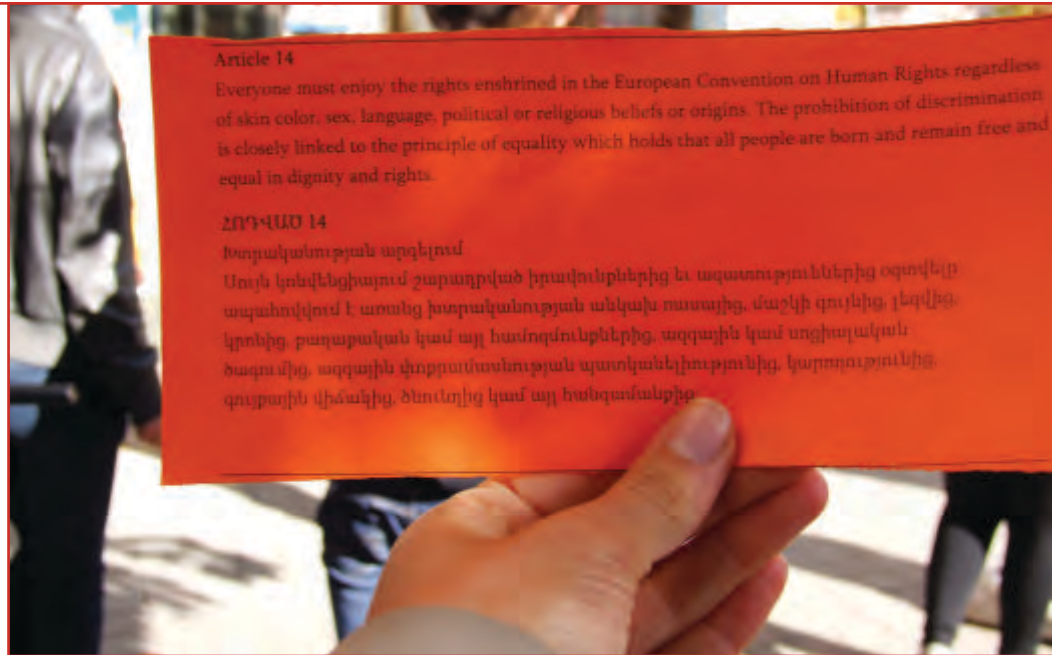
Led by the principle that a citizen must be responsible and fully endowed of his or her rights, PD highlighted the importance of a consciousness that recognizes the citizen and human rights as the highest values for the state and for all.

Through civil engagement (the development of civil activism) Peace Dialogue promoted a culture of peace and tried to build a peace movement. In such a culture, everyone would understand their role and responsibility in the community



and in peace acquisition and maintenance in the country and the region. Citizens would be vested with the right to demand peace from the authorities and struggle for the rule of law, social justice, and civic engagement in social and political processes.

Based on the organization's three-year “Let's see who we are, then choose who we want to be” ideology, young people have been chosen as a key power because they are more open to changes and are not ingrained with a stereotypical mentality. But young people do not have a platform and opportunities for self-expression and they easily become a more vulnerable target and tool for nationalistic and militaristic propaganda. The aim was to form a group of young women and men who would be ready to take responsibility, highlight the



importance of their role in the community, country, and region towards the acquisition and maintenance of peace, and work on development of a society that is aware of and recognizes the peaceful resolution of Armenia's conflicts. It was foreseen that the

group would involve young peers and would cooperate with various civil society representatives and organizations in the country and with youth and organizations in other conflict-involved societies.

In order to make the aspiration a

reality there was a need to give an opportunity to young people to develop critical thinking, analytical skills, and a number of other skills and abilities. Those skills are needed for the development of active citizens, conscious of the law. Young people can apply the skills to the peace-building processes of their choice. At the same time, there was a need to form a platform for using the acquired skills and abilities.

PD staff believes that peace is not a static phenomenon; it is a complex, long-term, and multifaceted social-political process that is based on the needs of society. The impact and effectiveness of the steps towards

achieving peace are directly correlated with the reduction of violence in society and the establishment of social justice.

PD staff agrees that, in post-conflict situations, building peace is one of the main tools for peace maintenance and, generally, peace-building is a process that can be initiated at any stage of the conflict, as well as in relatively peaceful societies. Peace-building includes all actions that support peace maintenance and violence prevention. Peace maintenance is multilayered and is not only achieved by diplomatic means but is the responsibility of all layers of society.

Reduction of structural or systemic contradictions

Improvement of relations between conflicting parties through the establishment of dialogue



Personal perception and behavioral change

Building peace by peaceful means.

Infographic:

«Berghof Glossary on Conflict Transformation; 20 notions for theory and practice», Berlin, 2012, pg. 63.



Peace Dialogue believes that peace-building through non-violent means presupposes an activity on three layers in a conflict-involved society or between societies involved in a conflict:

- *The reduction of structural or systemic contradictions, which is an important condition for lasting peace.* The main elements of this are democratic standards, reformation of infrastructure that reinforce conflict (including the education system), sustainable economic development, social justice and the rule of human rights, the reinforcement of civil society, and the existence of constructive, independent, and impartial media.



- *The improvement of relations between conflicting parties through the establishment of dialogue* that will help to restore distorted

communication and reduce post-war hostility and its consequences. Reconciliation and trust-building are important at this layer.

- *Personal perception and behavioral change.* This implies reinforcement of individual skills of non-violent resistance and conflict transformation, breaking stereotypes, support for victim groups of war, and reconciliation of physical and psychological trauma.

In 2011-2012, PD invested its greatest efforts at the third layer, directed towards changing individual perceptions. Highlighting the importance of each individual's role and influence among society, the goal was to establish a culture of peace and the perception that non-violent resolution of conflicts results from behavioral changes.



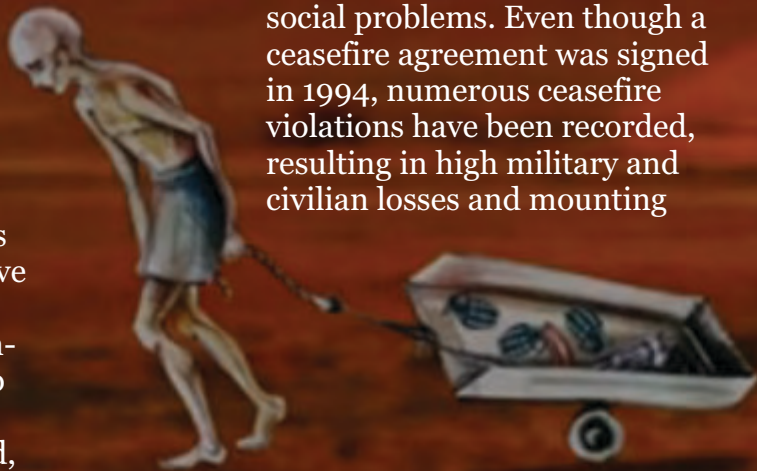


*“If you want peace,
work for justice.”*

Pope Paul VI

**WHY DID WE HIGHLIGHT
THE IMPORTANCE OF ACTIVISM?**

More than 20 years have passed since the Armenian-Azerbaijani war over Nagorno-Karabakh. It remains unresolved and continues to exacerbate various political, civil, socio-economic, and ecological problems. Moreover, the causes and consequences of the conflict, which has lasted for decades, have been distorted by the authoritarian and non-democratic leadership systems in the conflicting parties and, as a result, peaceful resolution of the conflict is perceived as unrealistic by both societies.



*Video snapshot: © 2011 Peace Dialogue,
More... More...
Character by Lusine Ginosyan*

Over the years, the governments of the conflicting parties have used the conflict to maintain power. They have used it to maintain their authority as long as they can and to distract both societies' attention away from constant social problems. Even though a ceasefire agreement was signed in 1994, numerous ceasefire violations have been recorded, resulting in high military and civilian losses and mounting

hatred and hostility. The conflict itself is a big issue for both societies and its misuse by the authorities has led to a number of unresolved socio-economic and political issues in both countries, directly connected to each other.

In addition to the security issue, which is frequently raised in various international and local platforms, the conflicting societies are highly prone to human rights abuses, political and economic monopolization, and a number of other problems. The conflict is often used by the authorities as a means of distracting the attention of the societies from urgent issues or justifying their own inability and inaction. Militarization is presented as a major achievement; huge budgetary allocations to the military are interpreted as a necessity to acquire modern military equipment to confront

the external enemy. Cases of violence and human rights violations in various fields, including in the armed forces, are justified in light of the notorious conflict.

At the meantime, this arrangement means that there are some developments that are out of public control. People tend to approach human rights violations in the army with understanding as the guarantee for stability. Because the majority of citizens think that Armenia is surrounded by enemies, various issues are not to be raised for security reasons. And the ruling elite use the issues' taboo status and the lack of public control to further their own interests.





Thus, the army has been turned into one of the most corrupt institutions in the conflicting societies.

Corruption has penetrated into all levels of the army, starting from military service and ending with procurement and supply. And the fact that institutions and agencies of justice and jurisprudence are also corrupt and not independent makes it impossible to restore violated rights.

Despite the fact that 187 soldiers died in the Armenian army from 2008 to 2011, only 25 of those soldiers died in ceasefire

violations¹. The other deaths were caused by violence and lawlessness in the army. According to reports of

Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Vanadzor Office, from the **49** deaths registered in the army in 2012, only **12** are the result of ceasefire

1. <http://transparency.am/statement.php?id=66>



violations, **11** committed suicides, **1** death was the result of careless treatment of a weapon, **15** deaths were the result of accidents, **6** soldiers died because of health problems and as a result of inadequate medical care, **1** was murdered, and **3** died as a result of negligence. It should be noted that the suicides showed signs of violence. Even though the above-mentioned threat affects thousands of soldiers, conscripts, and their families, the problem is still not discussed. Moreover, this forgotten massacre has become a taboo in the country.

While monopolizing and using the media for their own propaganda, the governments of the

conflicting countries have deprived their societies of the opportunity to get complete and unbiased information. Any information provided is done so only for the benefit of the regime in question. Access to alternative and unbiased information is minimal. The only somewhat unbiased information source is found in some online media outlets.

The value and role of the individual in these societies is made nearly non-existent in order to control them as easily as possible. In the value systems of the conflicting societies, the individual is seen as a mere component of greater society. Any manifestation of diversity and pluralism, as well as any new idea, interest in change, or expression of decency is regarded as a deviation from the



national value system or a result of foreign influence that weakens the nation and should be immediately suppressed.

Homogeneity is especially encouraged in social and political spheres and people are perceived not as individuals but as faceless creatures that are endowed with the obligation to serve the national interest.

Using mass media and even the educational system, the authorities are constantly reminding the citizens that the greatest value is manifested in their dedicated love and unconditional commitment to the motherland. In a country at war, any criticism and appeal for civil disobedience is marked as a betrayal and willingness to sell the homeland to enemies. Nationalism is identified with patriotism.

All day long the same mass media broadcast propaganda concerning gender roles and responsibilities as they relate to the Armenian ethnicity. Any gender-based crime or human rights violations are interpreted as unspeakable elements of national culture.

Moreover, the phenomena are often justified and any discussion is terminated by the victims, themselves, who, bearing society's value system, do not even dare to doubt the accepted social and moral norms that have the approval of centuries.

In such a situation, where all the conditions are present to prevent the formation of an individual as a legally conscious and responsible citizen, PD staff tries to be supportive for those who want and will want to work with the organization.




Cartoon by Taron Marukyan

“Nonviolence is an intensely active force when properly understood and used.”

Mahatma Gandhi

OUR PATH TO CIVIL ENGAGEMENT

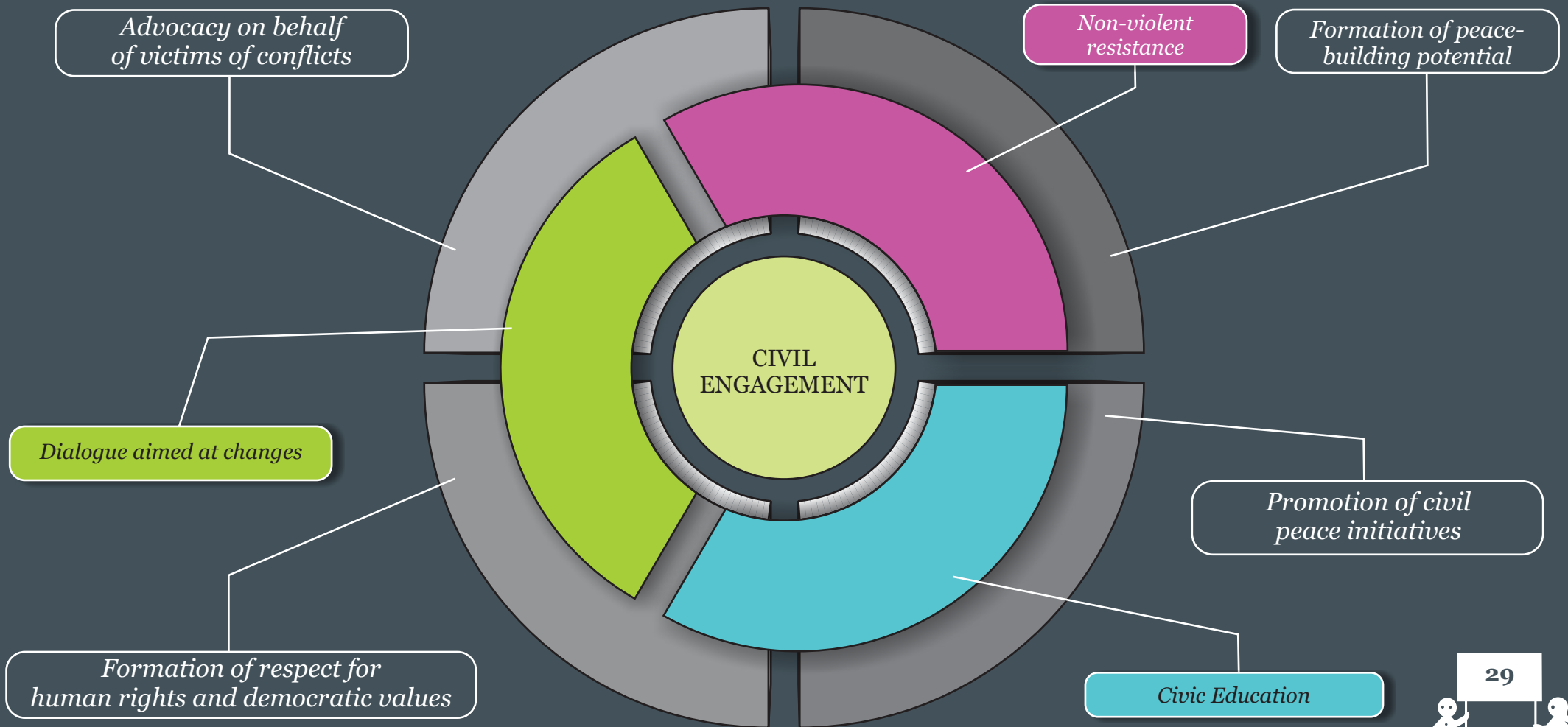




*In 2011-2012 the means to implement the organization's activity were quite clearly defined. Given the existing problems and socio-economic context, it was expected that education, non-violent resistance and change-directed dialogue were the best methods for promoting the organization's four main strategic directions: **formation of peace-building potential, formation of respect for human rights and democratic values, promotion of civil peace initiatives, and advocacy on behalf of victims of conflicts.***

- *Non-violent resistance*
- *Civic Education*
- *Dialogue aimed at changes*







Non-violent resistance

In the process of achieving social, economic, political, and ecological reforms, it was important for PD to utilize non-violent resistance, which is the base for the organization's activity.

Participants of the peace movement should not have any other principle than achieving peace only by means of peaceful struggle.

For the impacts to be achieved during the reporting period, the following components of activism have been chosen from various public components: citizen awareness, civil disobedience, peaceful marches, the organization of

campaigns, production of social advertisements, exclusion of economic and political cooperation, and establishment of civilian control.

Over the course of two years, with the active participation and usually at the initiative of community youth, Peace Dialogue implemented more than 40 events on the local, national, and regional levels. With the support of Germany's OWEN e.V., the organization implemented local initiatives in Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh.



Non-violent resistance

Video snapshot:

© 2012 Peace Dialogue,
Save our Soldiers.
Character by
Lusine Ginosyan

Appendix 1

ur soldiers!



Non-violent resistance

EVERYONE SHOULD VOTE THEIR OWN HEART: NEW FLASH MOB IN VANADZOR

Flash mob members recently distributed fliers with their slogan “you should vote your heart.” A group of active youth from Vanadzor interested in cooperation also took part in the flash mob organized by the Forum Theatre Group of Peace Dialogue NGO’s Let’s See... Let’s Choose... Let’s Change... project. It was held on August 30 in four crowded areas of Vanadzor. The flash mob was organized on the road to Vanadzor’s city council and mayoral elections. The primary aim was to discourage lists of how people will vote that are often compiled in advance, thus promoting fair and free elections in an atmosphere of expression of free will.

At the beginning of the flash mob, the “candidate” demands his list of votes, compiled in advance. The “voters” approach, chained to each other. The candidate takes the votes with him by force but the voters realize their mistake

and free themselves from the candidate’s chains. They free themselves and rapidly distribute fliers. During the flash mob, participants wore masks to attract attention and make it more appealing.

“We can change.” The young people who had this belief were willing to participate in the flash mob. For Mane, one of these participants, this was a great opportunity to make her complaints known and fight for her future. “I want people to treat political elections as seriously as possible and feel responsible for their and their sons’ future.”

Samvel, the actor who played the candidate, considered his faith in being able to change the injustice around him as the main reason for his participation. And, summing up the discussion Gor, one of the members of the organization group said, “There will come a point when voters without any lists, any bribes, and any other promises will elect their own candidate. *We fight for it.*”



Appendix 2

Authors: Yana Hovhannisyan,
Hasmik Kirakossian

The Project's German Partner - OWEN - Mobile Akademie für Geschlechterdemokratie und Friedensförderung e.V.

The project "Let's See... Let's Choose... Let's Change..." is supported by the zivik (Civil Conflict Resolution) programme of the Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (ifa) with means from the German Federal Foreign Office.



Civic Education

The educational component is particularly important. The methods selected by the organization for developing analytical and critical skills among youth involved in the peace movement would give an opportunity to raise the profoundly taboo issues in society that include elements of violence and human rights violations and abuse. Methods that would create a platform for resolving those issues through non-violence have been chosen.

The social, economic, and political situation in the country and the experience

acquired in previous years by the organization were the base for selecting theatrical tools as more effective and applicable tools, especially in youth peace work. Thus, PD activity was based on the Brazilian *Paolo Freire's* Pedagogy of the Oppressed and theatrical methods of Brazilian socio-political activist *Augusto Boal*. There were at least two reasons for this choice. First, the methods were quite interesting and motivating and with their help it was possible to raise even the most taboo issues, look at the problem from different



Denis Matveev, trainer, consultant of Crisis Management Initiative (Finland)

dimensions, and discuss and identify interests and needs of different parties involved in the conflict.

Second, it decreases the possibility of aggression in the existing repressive political context.



Civic Education

Through the organization's three-year project entitled *Let's See... Let's Choose... Let's Change...* many like-minded young people from Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Nagorno-Karabakh had the chance to get acquainted with *Forum-Theatre* and *Newspaper-Theatre* tools, which were later widely used in their local initiatives.

In 2012, the educational components intensified based on the needs and interests of the participants of the movement. In this regard, the conflict transformation training was of great use to the activists.

Through the organization's projects and youth initiatives, trainings and discussions were organized on the following themes: gender roles, media impact, human rights and civil activism, civil awareness concerning ecological problems, alternative journalism, and the use of modern technology in civil activism.

“Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures.”

John F. Kennedy

Harald Hahn,
Forum-Theatre trainer (Germany)



Dialogue

PD staff considers dialogue between conflicting parties to be one of the most important peace-building tools. The organization's staff believes the formation of dialogue to be the best way to ensure face to face communication wherever the communication is hampered. During the activity, it was important to create a safe space for the representatives of the parties involved in the conflict where they could meet to shed all their stress and presuppositions.

PD sees dialogue as a preliminary step for building new relations, raising one's own needs, and discovering those of others.

The dialogue, meanwhile, is seen to be in a unique, specific socio-



Tatev Hovannisyan, Marina Grasse, Vahagn Antonyan

political context. Establishment of dialogue oriented toward change between the parties involved in community, national, and regional conflicts starts from the individual

level. Staff was convinced that change was possible only from individual consciousness. This will, in turn, result in behavioral change.

While overcoming the culture of

silence is a priority in societies where violence was defined as a tradition or a cultural value for a long time, the organization considers dialogue formation indispensable, as the most effective tool for raising issues and looking for solutions.

By using many theatrical methods to form dialogue and initiating movie screenings and discussions on different social and political themes, a platform was formed for youth from the societies involved in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to raise their everyday issues, exchange perceptions on different topics with peers, and learn about the histories, perceptions, experiences, and expectations of the parties involved in the conflict.



Dialogue

UNOY'S "YOUTH PARTICIPATION THROUGH VIRTUAL AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE" PROJECT HAS COME TO ITS END

The project "Youth Participation through Virtual and Intercultural Dialogue," organized by United Network of Young Peacebuilders (of the Netherlands), was launched in May of 2011. The project was aimed at providing the youth with the skills and tools for their active participation in social change processes, bringing together interested youth from across Europe and analyzing, debating, and increasing the role of youth through action, research, and advocacy. The project was funded by the Youth Foundation of the European Union and was implemented in collaboration with UNOY member organizations from Spain, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Armenia, Georgia, Romania, Azerbaijan and Turkey.

The project included three main phases: (1) action-based research on youth participation in society and intercultural

dialogue; (2) a five-day training course; and (3) local follow-up meetings to advocate for the recommendations of the research. The participants from the nine

human rights, and diversity. During the second phase—the training course held in July in the Netherlands--the participants were acquainted with



Appendix 3

countries conducted a small research project on issues affecting their country, city, and community. These issues included intercultural dialogue and peace, youth involvement in civil processes, gender, ethnic minorities,

several tools of conflict analysis and advocacy (conflict mapping and SWOT analysis) and practiced their skills in order to use them during their own local initiatives.

Now, the project has come to its end. In September and October, the Armenian group, consisting of volunteers from Peace

Dialogue NGO and Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Vanadzor Office, organized discussions with student groups from Vanadzor, Stepanavan, and Alaverdi. The main topics of the discussions were conflict, violence, negotiation skills, and youth participation in the conflict resolution process. During the workshops, the participants discussed their own experiences with conflict and violence, which were performed in small groups in a theatrical format. In the second part of the workshop, the participating youth learned about the above-mentioned topics in more detail. They were also informed about a series of international and local websites and blogs as a youth-oriented peace advocacy tool. After the implementation of the "Youth Participation through Virtual and Intercultural Dialogue" project, UNOY jointly with the project participants intends to publish a brochure jointly with the project participants. The brochure will be aimed at sharing the experiences gained by the youth who participated by implementing local projects in their communities.



Dialogue

*Mevludin Romanovich,
Center for Peacebuilding (CIM),
Bosnia and Herzegovina*

YOUTH MOBILIZATION: MEETING IN TBILISI

On June 6-13, a meeting on youth mobilization was held in Tbilisi. The meeting was attended by 23 participants from Vanadzor, Yerevan, Stepanakert, Baku, Sanskiy Most of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Berlin who were interested in peace-building. The meeting was organized by Vanadzor's Peace Dialogue NGO and its German partner

OWEN. The guests from Sanskiy Most, Vahidin Omanovich and Mevludin Rahmanovich, represented to the participants the experience of their organization, the Center for Peacebuilding (CIM), in the peace-building field. They described the history of the foundation, shared their own personal stories from during and after the war in their country, and described what made them found the organization and participate in the meeting.

Appendix 4

Furthermore, Peace Dialogue and the Center for Peacebuilding (CIM) also represented their strategy on youth mobilization, the actions that have been implemented, and their experiences. After that, the participants discussed what they had heard and what can be used from the presentation in daily life in their communities.

Marina Grasse from OWEN observed, "This was my first such meeting and I was

very happy to see that, despite the tension at the beginning, at the end of the meeting some participants thought about future joint co-operations and joint initiatives."

Peace Dialogue NGO director Edgar Khachatryan mentioned that the participants who are interested in Peace Dialogue's Let's see... Let's choose... Let's change... project and are eager to join together with their efforts will be invited to the second workshop. In that workshop, the participants will be introduced to the tools of the Theatre of Oppressed as a means to form critical thinking skills and motivate young people.

*The Project's German Partner - OWEN -
Mobile Akademie für
Geschlechterdemokratie und
Friedensförderung e.V.*

*The project "Let's see... Let's choose...
Let's change..." is supported by the zivik
(Civil Conflict Resolution) programme of
the Institute for Foreign Cultural
Relations (ifa) with means from the
German Federal Foreign Office.*





“One day we must come to see that peace is not merely a distant goal we seek, but that it is a means by which we arrive at that goal. We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means.”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

WHAT IMPACTS DID WE WANT TO ACHIEVE DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS?

THE LESSONS LEARNED

During the reporting period, PD staff tried to achieve the impacts planned for a long-term project, which is also to be continued in 2013. The **Let's see... Let's choose... Let's change...** three-year project, which is based on the organization's strategic philosophy "**Let's see who we are, let's choose who we want to be,**" was mostly implemented on a local level in the first year of implementation. In the second year of the project, the organization is carrying out work on a regional level, in cooperation with youth of all the parties directly involved in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. We

expect the same will be true for the third year.

In Azerbaijan, the project was carried out in cooperation with Germany's OWEN e. V. The project is supported by the zivik project of the German Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (ifa), supported by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Young Leaders for Peace project started in November of 2010. Its implementation was carried out until July of 2011. The next stage of the project is foreseen for 2013-2015. It is implemented in cooperation with Finland's Crisis Management

Initiative non-governmental organization, which was a part of the Peaceful Settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict European Partnership program (EPNK²).

During this period, the organization has been cooperating with local, regional and international organizations, as well as a variety of initiatives and groups.

During the past two years, work has been implemented with 17-35-year-olds from Vanadzor as well as with young

people living in different communities in Armenia. Through their engagement and direct participation, there was an attempt to influence youth groups at schools, universities, cultural centers, etc. Over two years, more than 300 young people have been involved in PD initiatives.

And in 2012, extending the range of activity, groups of active youth have been formed in Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan with the greater support and direct participation of Peace Dialogue's regional and international partners.

2. **EPNK** is a partnership of European NGOs working to enact initiatives which will cumulatively contribute to the peaceful settlement over Nagorno-Karabakh.

What results did we achieve in 2011-2012

In 2011-2012, as a result of many activities, PD achieved a number of impacts on the local, national, and regional levels. The organization and its members have also been subject to these impacts.

Peace Dialogue has become the leading organization in various sectors in Vanadzor, especially in the field of civic activism. The organization has become a platform for young people from Vanadzor where everyone has the opportunity to act on his own initiative and receive appropriate support if the initiative does not contradict peace-building principles that have been adopted by the staff. During its activity the organization has been recognized by and received numerous offers for cooperation from local, regional, and international organizations.

Peace Dialogue is a platform where young people from Vanadzor have the opportunity for self-expression, self-realization, and to learn about current political and social events.

A group of young activists has been formed in Vanadzor who possess analytical skills, understand the situation in the country and the region, are not the victims of state and nationalist propaganda, and are able to express their own opinions. Also, they are aware of their role and importance as responsible citizens who are conscious of law, always acting on their own initiative.

A faith and positive attitude towards change have been formed among youth from Vanadzor.

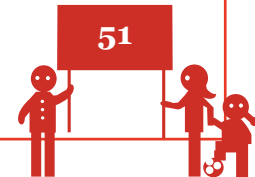
A group of young people from different cities in Armenia (Yeghegnadzor, Spitak, Hrazdan, Jermuk, and Alaverdi) had an opportunity to somewhat develop their skills.

Peace Dialogue activists, acting in cooperation with a number of organizations from Yerevan, including Army in Reality and Save Teghut civil initiatives, have become the leading like-minded people and supporters of those groups in Vanadzor.

Dialogue and cooperation have been formed among youth of the parties involved in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. In this regard, the stereotype among the conflicting parties and foreigners that it is impossible to have a peaceful dialogue between the conflicting parties has been broken.

Small groups of youth who are not indifferent to the current socio-political processes have also been formed in Stepanakert and Baku.

With the support of partners, the organization has created an opportunity for youth from Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Nagorno-Karabakh to meet to raise and discuss the topics of peaceful resolution of the conflict and share their perceptions.



Lessons learned in 2011-2012

Experiences from the last two working years have served as the basis for more effective planning of the organization's future activity and the selection of appropriate methods. Below are a few points that will receive special attention from the organization in the future.

In the atmosphere of the above-mentioned socio-political situation and value system, theatrical methods are highly effective and powerful tools for youth activation and engagement in the peace movement.

Formation of a platform for self-realization and dialogue are effective means for youth mobilization and civil engagement.

There is a need to work with young people against the persistent spirit of collectivism, a remnant of the Soviet Union, where the individual is devalued and only collective perceptions and approaches are of great importance.

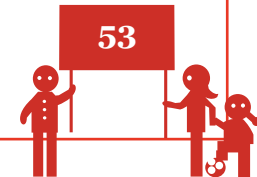
When coming up with any initiative it is important for young people to feel the availability and support of like-minded people as well as a precedent of success in similar actions.

Before mobilizing and activating young people, they need to have a precise understanding of how the problem links with their own needs and how important that is for them.

It is important to note that taboo issues often are not perceived as a problem in society. Conscious, long-term, and patient work is required to achieve progress on these issues.

When mobilizing young people on any issue, it is important to initially form a clear idea about the essence of the issue, the main methods for overcoming the issue, and the role of the young participants in order to avoid further misunderstandings and disappointments.

It is important to ensure a permanent and constructive dialogue between young people representing the parties involved in the conflict.





NEWS



**FUTURE PLANS.
WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO
ACHIEVE IN 2013?**

*Video snapshot: © 2011 Peace Dialogue, SWEN
Character by Narek Kardashyan*

Based on previous years of experience, lessons learned and studies done, in 2013 the organization will try to achieve the following results:

- *Development of critical skills for the perception of history among youth representing the parties involved in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.*
- *Public awareness, overcoming public apathy and hidden incidents, and equitable solutions.*
- *Public awareness of ecological issues, raising issues and active participation of citizens in the decision-making processes of this field.*

To achieve these results, PD intends to implement a number



of activities in keeping with its projects and the projects of partner organizations.

Based on personal and interpersonal changes related to peace and conflict resolution, the organization will go on developing peace-building potential among youth who are representing the parties involved in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict through its *Let's see... Let's choose... Let's change...* project. The organization will also try to develop critical-thinking and analytical skills in analyzing history among youth so that they become important actors in the recruitment of historical memories.

Studies carried out by the organization's staff showed that all conflicting parties use history to create false perceptions and to

keep nationalistic ideas vivid. In this regard, it is important that young people understand the importance of their role in the recording and transmission of real and unbiased stories. So, the organization plans to give young people skills to make documentary films so that they will have an opportunity, through their own efforts, to present stories that represent their own reality. Young people from Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Nagorno-Karabakh will be involved in this process. In addition, similar activity will be implemented through the Purple project by PD's German partner Berghof Foundation.



The ***Let's See... Let's Choose... Let's Change...*** project is being implemented with the support of the zivik project of the German Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (ifa), supported by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

PD will continue to support youth in realizing their role as an active player and the importance of coming up with their own initiatives in the peace-building process through the ***Young Leaders for Peace*** project, which is being implemented in the framework of the Peaceful Settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict European Partnership by Finland's Crisis Management Initiative and by the financial support of the European Union. Using new methodologies, the project plans to expand the scope of the project beneficiaries,



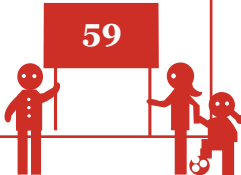
to help build trust between the conflicting parties, and to organize meetings between young people and decision makers on the national and international levels, thus building dialogue and letting young people join the ongoing peace-building processes.

In the last few years, environmental themes have been a part of social consciousness. A

group of citizens have become dissatisfied with the exploitation of the country's natural resources through monopolistic economic practices and violation of various international agreements and environmental norms. As a result a number of initiatives have been formed in response. The members of these civil initiatives demand that the country's authorities require the mining companies to act within the limits of the law, local needs, safe mine operation, and environmental protection. The Teghut copper mine in northern Armenia deserves particular attention. In 2001, the Government of Armenia illegitimately commissioned the exploitation of the area's copper resources to the Armenian Copper Program Closed Joint Stock Company for 25 years. The government has allowed mining,

violating Armenian law and a number of international agreements. The first phase of the mining project entails clear-cutting 357 hectares of forest, which is a major environmental catastrophe not only for Armenia but for the whole region. Mining in this location will result in 500 million tons of tailing waste (toxic liquid waste) and about 600 million tons of solid waste.

It will result in the extermination of more than 400 species of plants and animals. The threat to human health is also high. Environmental activists are struggling against the government's illegal decision and aim to prevent the threat to nature posed by mining.



Starting in 2012, PD has been actively involved in raising public awareness of environmental issues. In this regard, PD staff and volunteers have organized and will continue organizing many events, meetings, and protests. The organization will also continue to support the formation and development of eco-activism among young people.

In this regard, we will continue to work with Germany's **MitOst** and **CRISP** and Georgia's **IRIS GROUP**, as well as with our partners **Institute for Democracy and Human Rights** in Yerevan and **Asparez Journalists' Club** in Gyumri. The stress of the **Ecolab** joint project will especially be on the

promotion of environmental activism and further development. A group of young activists is expected to be formed. The group will be aware of environmental issues and group members will act as engaged citizens, actively participating in problem-solving and decision-making processes in this field.

The Ecolab project is one of the six components of **Joint Civic Education** program, which is being implemented in several countries in the region--Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, and the North Caucasus--by **MitOst** and **Crisp**. It has been developed based on the research of local needs. The program is funded by the German Ministry of Foreign Relations and the Robert Bosch Foundation.



PD and its Dutch partner **IKV Pax Christi** plan to inform the public about the deplorable human rights situation in the army and thereby create a public demand for respect for human rights in Armenia's armed forces through their **Safe Soldiers for a Secure Armenia** project. They will advocate for transparency in the military and liability in case of violations.

“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.”

Winston Churchill



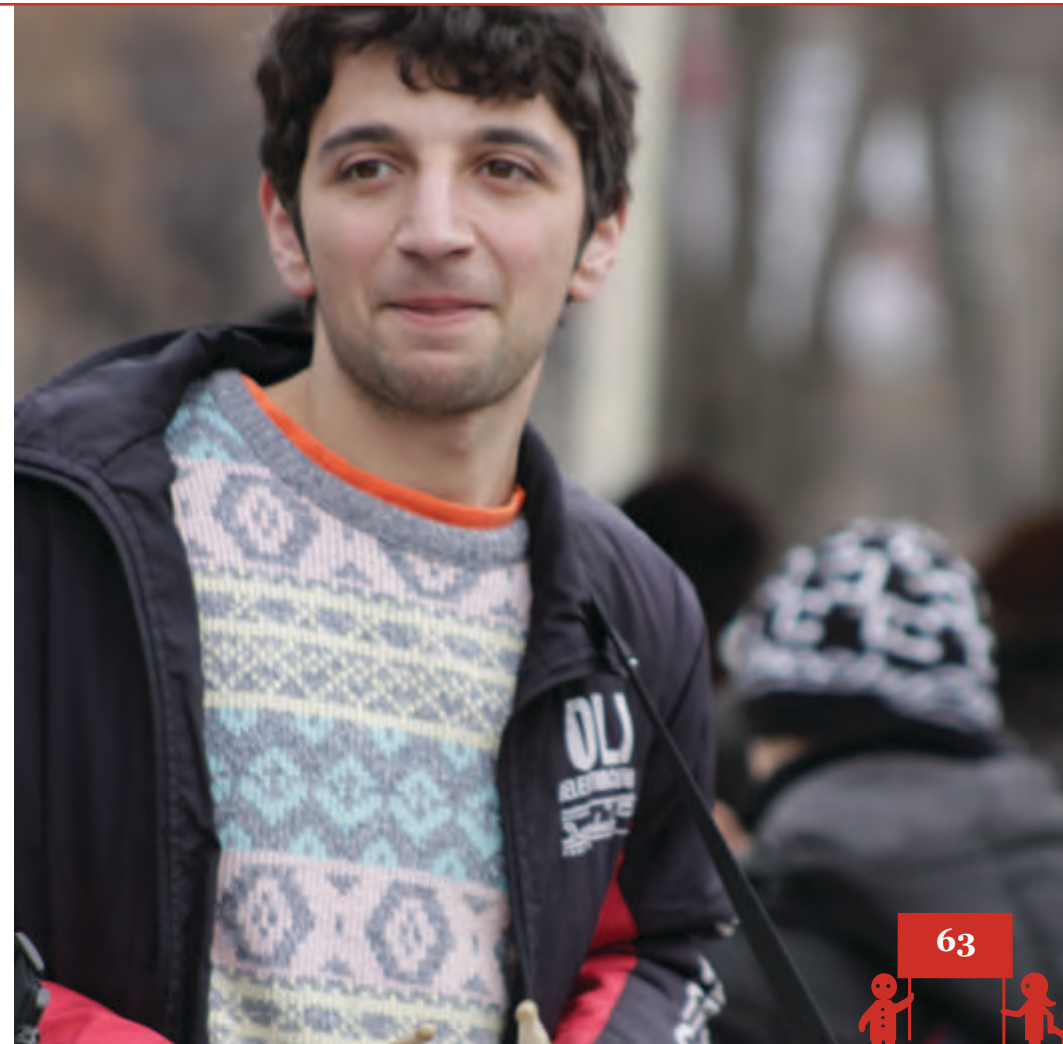
The project will involve international experts from the **EU**, **NATO**, and **OSCE** and local, national, and international actors who can have a positive impact on the situation in the army, develop knowledge of human rights and international treaties knowledge among staff officers, and get support from international organizations (including, **IKV PAX CHRISTI**) and different structures (**NATO**, **OSCE**, **EU**, etc.) to act in favor of reforms in the army.

Thus, PD is planning to increase sensitivity to issue among the authorities and break the indifference of local and international communities towards violence and human rights abuses.

International experts, civil society representatives, and independent researchers will study the issue from different perspectives and form alternative models for human rights protections in the army that best fit Armenia.

Along with all this, the organization continues to emphasize institutional development. Toward this end, we initiate regular events directed towards developing skills and abilities among members and volunteers.

Trainings and workshops, if necessary, are organized to reveal and define relevant needs. Highly qualified international specialists are invited to these trainings, and the staff and volunteers participate in regional or international trainings.

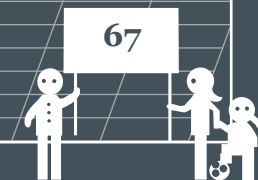
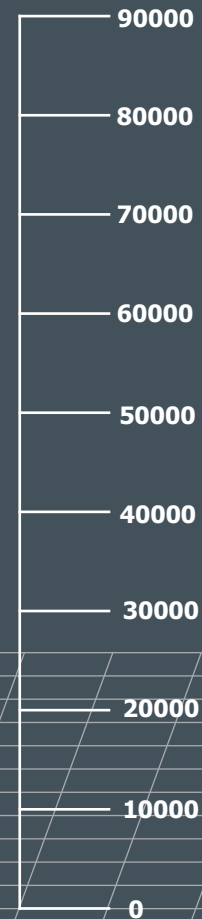
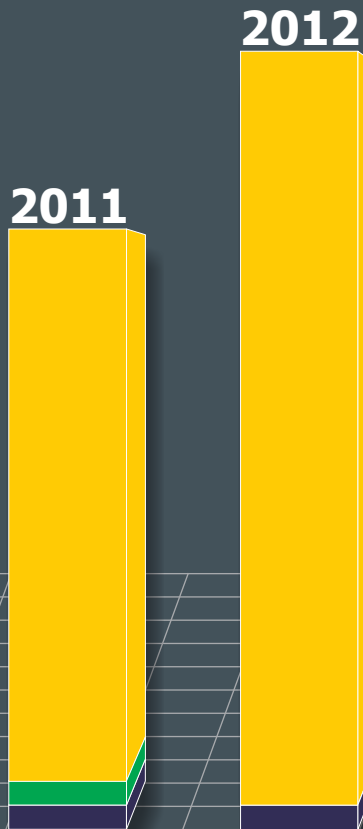




FINANCIAL REPORT

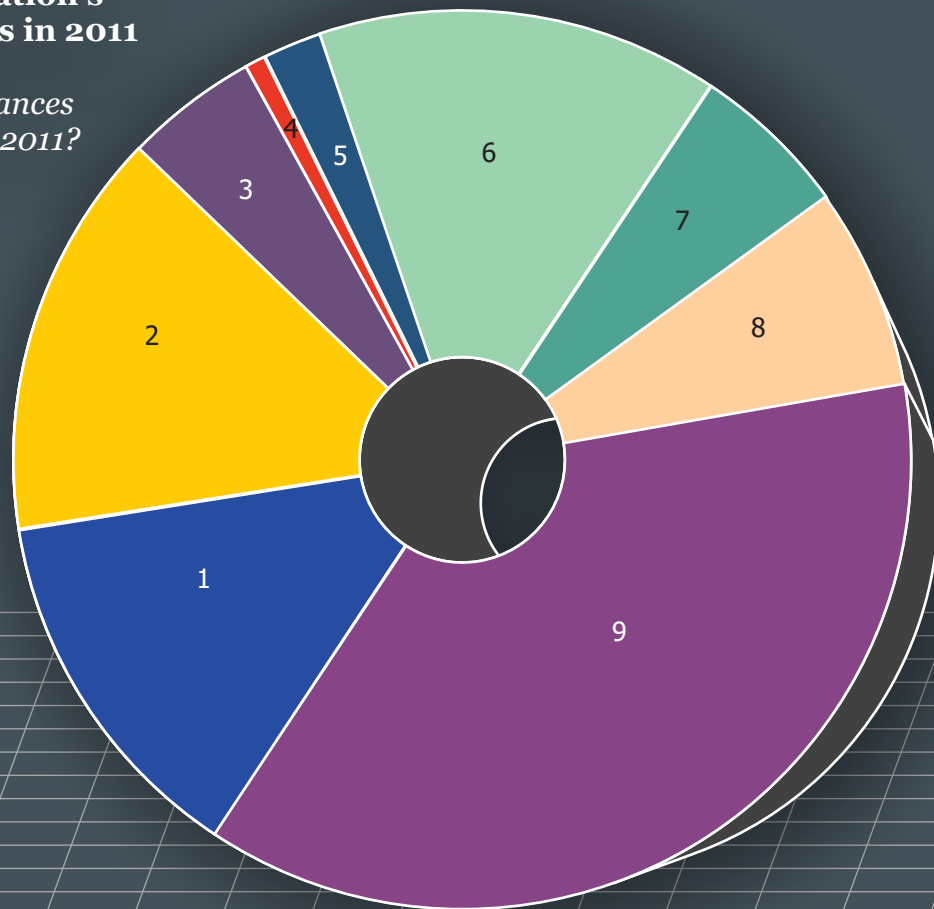
Financial allocations (revenues) in 2011-2012

PD revenues for 2011-2012 (in EUR)



The organization's expenditures in 2011

How were finances distributed in 2011?
(in EUR)

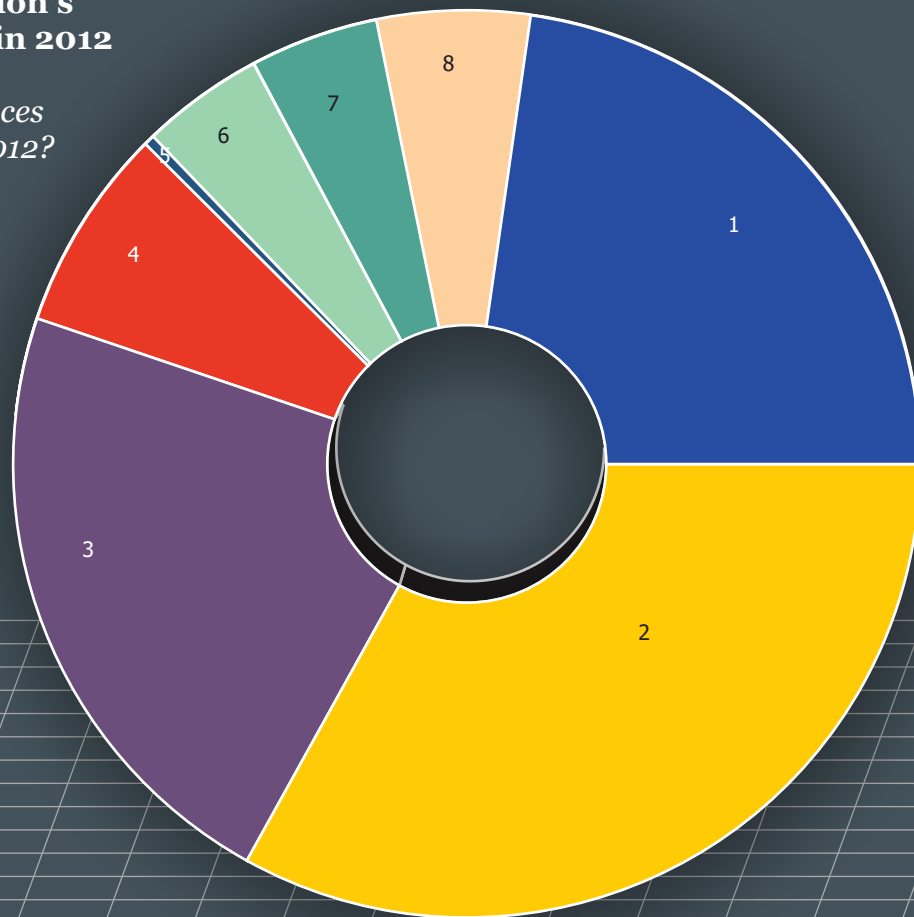


- 1 Training expenses 13.2%
- 2 Equipment 14.5%
- 3 Transport expences 4.79%
- 4 Catering 0.72%
- 5 Monitoring & Evaluation 2.09%
- 6 Rent of premises 14.68%
- 7 Translation costs 5.67%
- 8 Other expences 7.25%
- 9 Administration and honoraria 37.1%



The organization's expenditures in 2012

*How were finances distributed in 2012?
(in EUR)*



- 1 Training expenses 22.74%
- 2 Administration and honoraria 33.07%
- 3 Rent of premises 22.19%
- 4 Transport expenses 7.35%
- 5 Catering 0.39%
- 6 Translation costs 4.37%
- 7 Monitoring & Evaluation 4.57%
- 8 Other expences 5.32%





*Video snapshot: © 2012 Peace Dialogue, SWEN
Character by Narek Kardashyan*

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Annual Review 2011-2012