

Activity Report

2013

The Åland Islands Peace Institute

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2013 –from Old to New

For many people around the world the war in Syria and the violence in big parts of Sub-Saharan Africa have been a permanent source of mourning and wrath. Why did it happen a once more that innocent civilians become the greatest victims of war? Why did warring parties disregard humanitarian law? Why did an oppressive regime and rebel groups get support? Why is the political culture so implacable in many parts of the world, sometimes even here at home?

All over Europe we witness an increased use of force and a strengthened tendency of nationalism and extremism. The Åland Islands Peace Institute works with these issues directly or indirectly in different ways. In 2013 the Institute completed research projects on multilingualism and on territorial conflict solution, established a Nordic civil society network for discussions about peace in the Nordic region and worked to strengthen knowledge, methods and networks focusing on equality as well as empowerment in the Nordic region, Baltic States and Azerbaijan.

The year has been an intermediate year for the Åland Islands Peace Institute when big research projects were completed and results collected and disseminated. New projects, ideas and focus areas have started to take shape, both with regard to research but also regarding the de-

velopment and review of high-quality methods aimed to encourage empowerment, equal opportunities and peaceful conflict resolution. The development of research-based knowledge and methods as well as quality assurance go hand-in-hand at the Åland Islands Peace Institute.

In spite of many good project applications, financial allocations were lower, perhaps due to the prevailing apprehension of economic crises in our part of the world. What has not decreased, but continued to rise are interest, visits and requests addressed to the Institute regarding presentations, participation in seminars and conferences, information and cooperation of different nature. Therefore we are very glad that we see the latest years' endeavors give dividends in form of proven knowledge, appreciation and questions from all over the world.

A partly new Board of Directors and new competent co-workers contributed with their energy and impulse into the Peace Institute's activities. An increased interest in the Nordic countries' view on peace and the importance of the Nordic experiences for a peaceful society development give renewed accent with regard to the place of the Nordic countries and of Åland in an increasingly globalised world.

Dr. Sia Spilipoulou Åkermark
Director of the Åland Island Peace Institute

The Board of Directors

In 2013 three new members were elected to the Board of Directors and its agenda featured, among other issues, peace talks under the patronage of president Halonen and appointment of the first senior adviser of the ÅIPI.

The Åland Islands Peace Institute (ÅIPI) is a politically and religiously independent foundation. Decisions regarding the overall activities of the Institute are taken by the Board of Directors. The Board consists of seven to ten members, elected for a mandate period of two years.

In 2013 the Board of Directors convened in four meetings. The Board discussed, among others, the Institute's funding situation and the activities of the Institute's subsidiary company Fredsfast AB, which has been established to manage the administration of the Institute's premises in Mariehamn. The Board of Directors has also discussed the Peace Institute's Nordic and international contacts and commitments. These discussions resulted in the nomination of researcher Pertti Joenniemi in March 2013, as the first senior advisor to the Board of Directors. Thanks to the Board's engagement, former President of Finland Tarja Halonen announced at the end of 2013 that she was committed to act as the standing patron for peace talks at Kastelholm's castle on Åland

to take place in March 2014.

Member of the Board of Directors Lars Ingmar Johansson participated on behalf of the Institute as an observer in the presidential elections in Georgia October 2013.

The Board's annual meeting took place on 12 April 2013 in Vilnius, Lithuania. The Board of Directors had the possibility to visit the Center for Women and Children Nendre, A long-term partner organization that has been co-founded by the Peace Institute. During the annual meeting election to the new Board of Directors took place and three new members were elected, Susanne Eriksson, the Secretary General of the Åland Parliament, Olav S Melin, responsible for Society and Media Relations at the think-tank Magma as well as Katarina Fellman, Head of Research at the Åland Statistics. Pär Stenbäck, Roger Nordlund and Nils-Gustaf Eriksson resigned and received warm thanks for their important contributions to the work of the Board of Directors.



▲ Pertti Joenniemi was appointed as the Peace Institute's senior adviser, excerpt from *Tidningen Åland*, 26 March 2013.

Members of the Board

Barbro Sundback. Chair of the Board of Directors. Member of the Åland Parliament, former Speaker of the Åland Parliament.

Leena Lindqvist. Deputy Chair of the Board. Entrepreneur, trained social worker, therapist, Master of Social Sciences, international relations.

Lotta Angergård. Adviser in youth policy at the Åland government. Long term engagement in various international development co-operations.

Ulla Backlund. Active in the Norwegian Refugee Council, former director of the Norwegian Refugee Council offices in Georgia, Burundi and Lebanon.

Susanne Eriksson. Secretary General of the Åland Parliament.

Katarina Fellman. Head of Research at the Åland Statistics

Roger Jansson. Member of the Åland Parliament, former Member of the Parliament of Finland, former Speaker of the Åland Parliament.

Lars Ingmar Johansson. Former Secretary General of the Åland Parliament.

Olav S Melin. Responsible for Society and Media Relations at the think-tank Magma

Kjell-Åke Nordquist. Associate Professor at the University of Uppsala, Department of Peace and Conflict Resolution.



Meeting of the Board of Directors on 1 October 2013. Outside the Åland Island Peace Institute, from the left to right Kjell-Åke Nordquist, Susanne Eriksson, Lars Ingmar Johansson, Katarina Fellman, Roger Jansson, Ulla Backlund, Barbro Sundback, Olav S Melin and Lotta Angergård. Vice-chair Leena Lindqvist is missing on the photo.

The Mission of the ÅIPI

The Åland Islands Peace Institute (ÅIPI) is a politically and religiously independent charitable foundation. Its aim is to promote and support practical work as well as research in the broader area of peace and conflict resolution and from the vantage point of Åland and its unique status in international law.



Autonomy - Security - Minorities - Civil Society

The Peace Institute is to promote the peaceful development of society by combating violence and through empowerment, i.e. by developing relationships and methodologies and by raising awareness that enable individuals and communities to reach equality and to create opportunities to develop their full potential.

In practice, the ÅIPI works in four specialized areas:

Autonomy, on Åland and in comparison with other similar territorial arrangements. A special focus area is the relevance of autonomy arrangements for conflict resolution.

Security for individuals and groups means the absence of violence and the opportunity to develop their full potential. Demilitarisation and neutralisation as confidence-building measures are alternatives to militarisation and help reduce the use of force and military security.

Minorities include issues of cultural and ethnic minorities' right to their own identity and to participate in democratic decision-making processes.

Civil society is regarded as an arena and an actor for dialogue, critical reflection and knowledge development with

implications for democratic and peaceful development of societies.

The Peace Institute works as a part of civil society and as an academically entrenched institution and think-tank, or as we sometimes say, as a "think - act - think" organization, with research, the development of methods for empowerment and the peaceful development of society as well as with dissemination activities. As part of civil society, the Peace Institute's mandate is to generate new ideas and knowledge, and to complement and monitor other sectors of society.





From left to right: members of the Research Council Mikael Wigell and Kjell-Åke Nordquist, the Peace Institute's director Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, researcher Sarah Stephan and the new member of the research council Gunilla Herolf.

A New Research Programme and a New Addition to the Research Council

The mandate of the Peace Institute's Research Council is to decide on the direction of the Institute's research activities and support the Institute's research activities. As of April 2013 the Research Council is composed of Kjell-Åke Nordquist (chairperson), Associate Professor in peace and conflict studies, Mikael Wigell, PhD, researcher at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs, and, as a new addition, Gunilla Herolf, PhD, expert in European integra-

tion and security policy. The Research Council met twice in 2013. A new research programme covering the period 2013 - 2017 was adopted in December 2013. In addition to the key research areas, self-government, minorities and security, the new programme concentrates on the role of civil-society as well as Nordic experiences relevant to the peaceful development of society.



Guest researcher

In May and June 2013 the Institute hosted guest researcher Felix Schulte. Felix devoted his stay to researching the conflict resolution potential of territorial autonomy as part of his work on his Master's thesis at the Faculty of Political Science at Heidelberg University in Germany.

Research at the Peace Institute

The Peace Institute's research activities are conducted with the aim to build and transfer knowledge and influence public debates on peaceful solutions. The Institute's research activities focus on the overlapping areas of security, self-government and minority protection. Åland, the Nordic countries

and the Baltic Sea region are given reference points. Comparative analysis covers also other regions, not least concerning relevance of the Åland Example for questions touching upon autonomy reform, demilitarization, linguistic and cultural rights and the role of civil society for democracy.

Language Vitality Barometer Released

From 2010 and 2013 the Åland Islands Peace Institute participated in the research project ELDIA (European Language Diversity for All) that studied and compared 14 different Finno-Ugric language communities in eight European countries. The project's aim was to get a better understanding of the situation of minority languages and how language maintenance can be supported. The Peace Institute has been responsible for the legal and institutional analysis and for the co-ordination of the final comparative report, which is available online at www.eldia-project.org. The project has produced the EuLaViBar, a language vitality barometer that is meant as a tool for studying and evaluating the situation and vitality of minority languages. The ELDIA project was concluded in August 2013. The Institute's director Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, researchers Sarah Stephan and Heidi Öst as well as Petra Roter, Associate Professor at the University of Ljubljana, represented at the project's closing conference in Vienna in June 2013.



▲ Heidi Öst, Sarah Stephan, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark and Petra Roter at the ELDIA closing conference in Vienna



◀ The policy-relevant research results of the ELDIA project have been summarized in a policy brief published by the EU's research department: http://ec.europa.eu/research/social-sciences/pdf/policy-briefs-eldia_en.pdf



Democracy - Foundations and Challenges

On 26 – 27 September 2013 the Åland Islands Peace Institute hosted an international seminar entitled "Ideas and Realities of Democracy", organized in co-operation with the Civic Constellation Project. Around 20 researchers from all over the world participated and discussed their research on democratic participation, inclusion and exclusion from the perspectives of political theory, law and the history of ideas.

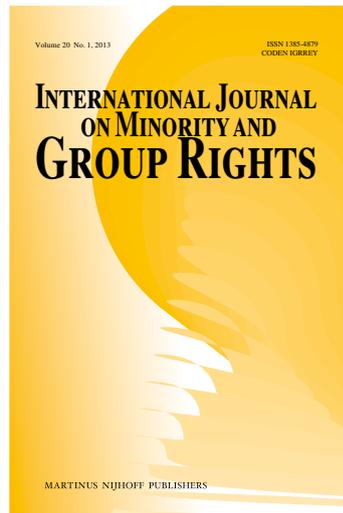


A Digital Course on the Åland Example and More Research on Territorial Autonomy

In 2013 the Peace Institute conducted further research on territorial autonomy and its relevance for international conflict resolution. The Institute has also started planning and developing a digital course on the Åland Example.

The research results from the 2010-2011 project “The Åland Example and its Components – Relevance for International Conflict Resolution” have inspired an inter-disciplinary follow-up publication. The Institute’s director Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark has contributed to and edited a special edition of the International Journal for Minority and Group Rights” (IJMGR Nr 1/2013) focusing on territorial arrangements as a tool for conflict resolution. Spiliopoulou Åkermark’s contribution deals with international law perspectives on territorial arrangements and the prerequisites for successful territorial arrangements.

Sarah Stephan, researcher at the Peace Institute, contributed with an article analysing the arguments made for and against different status proposals in the conflict between Georgia and Abkhazia. Members of the Peace Institute’s Research Council Mikael Wigell and Kjell-Åke Nordquist have contributed with articles looking at the Åland Example from a Helsinki-perspective and summarizing the experiences of East Timor respectively.



The term Åland Example encompasses the regime’s three main components, the self-government, demilitarization and neutralization, and the linguistic and cultural guarantees. The Institute experiences a great interest for the Åland Example and its research and offers tailor-made seminars and workshops on the Åland Example for local and international groups. However, not all groups with an interest in the Åland



Mikael Wigell’s article in the International Journal of Minority and Group Rights was reviewed in the local newspaper Tidningen Åland on 16.8.2013.

Example and in the Institute’s work have the opportunity to visit Åland. The Institute is thus developing digital information material. In 2013 the Institute has developed its webpage as well as a prototype for a digital university-level course focusing on the Åland Example and territorial arrangements. The course will be adaptable to different target groups.

www.peace.ax



On 21 March, the Peace Institute organized a round table discussion on “the Åland Question – historical events and contemporary interpretations”. Jerker Örijans, Folke Wickström, Mats Adamczak and Nina Fellman were part of the panel. The discussion was preceded by a debate in the Ålandic newspapers on the different interpretation of certain events in Åland’s history. At the end of January both Ålandic papers had published an op-ed by Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark emphasizing the importance of gaining a better understanding of the historical events. Excerpt from Tidningen Åland 26.1.2013.

International Attention for the Åland Example

Throughout the year the Åland Example has been discussed with visitors, among others from Africa and in summer schools in Bolzano and Flensburg.

In May the ÅIPI held a seminar about the Åland Example for a group of around 20 participants from regional Organizations in Africa. The Director of the ÅIPI Ass.Prof. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, researcher Sarah Stephan and information officer Susann Simolin presented experiences and lessons learned from the Åland Example and how those can be relevant for peace work both at an international and at a local level. The group came to Åland for a study visit arranged within the International Training Programme on Peace and Security in Africa (PASA). The course is financed by Swedish SIDA, and organized by the Institution for Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University, in co-operation with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) and Indevopol in Sweden.

In the spring and summer of 2013 researcher Sarah Stephan has the chance to take part in two summer schools, in Bolzano and Flensburg.

The summer school “The revival of self-determination: opportunities, concerns and challenges” at the Institute for Minority Rights at the European Academy in Bozen/Bolzano was an excellent opportunity to discuss current questions and challenges in the field of Minority Rights and self-determination with 25 colleagues from all over the world and to gain new insights into territorial conflicts and solutions. The summer school included a number of lectures, by among others Jens Woelk, Joshua Castellino, Francesco Palermo, Joseph Marko and many minority rights experts from all over Europe. The summer school also included a study visit to the quadri-lingual canton of Graubünden in Switzerland.

In Flensburg, Sarah gave a lecture on the Åland Example at the European Center for Minority Issues’ summer school on national minorities and border regions.

In November, Sarah was one of the panellists at a Global Bar arranged by the Swedish organisation Global Reporting in Belgrade. The debate focused on minorities, autonomies and cultural heritage. The idea behind the series of four Global Bars arranged in Belgrade in 2013/2014 is to create a new and lasting platform for discussions on culture, politics and social affairs in Serbia.



Excerpt from Nya Åland 28.5.2013.

Exchange of Knowledge

In 2013 the ÅIPI has welcomed many visitors and the staff has participated in events outside of Åland in order to share and exchange knowledge with individuals and institutions.



16.1 The ÅIPI had the honour of welcoming Minister for European Affairs at the Swedish Government, Ms Birgitta Ohlsson and the General Consul of Sweden to Åland, Ms Ingrid Iremark.



1.3 A round table discussion on "EU, Greece and peace" was arranged with EU-parliamentarian Nils Torvalds, Head of the Åland Government Camilla Gunnell and the Director of the ÅIPI Dr. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark.

10-11.4 The ÅIPI was present as an observer at the Nordic Council's Session in Stockholm.

29.4 Professor Markku Suksi with students from Åbo Akademi University visited the ÅIPI.

21.5 Visit by Satu Haapanen, Member of the Finnish Parliament, Member of the Nordic Council and Paula Moisander Secretary for International Affairs at the Finnish Parliament.

2.6 Op-ed on the economical crisis in Greece, written by Director Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark published in Swedish newspaper Upsala Nya Tidning.

10.9 Political State Secretaries and Special Advisers to the Ministers of Finland visited.

10.9 The Swedish Foreign Ministry's security policy unit visited.



17-20.9 Bror Myllykoski participated in the Finnish Peace Association's study trip to the European Parliament in Brussels.



4.10 Visit of Peter Nobel, former Discrimination Ombudsman in Sweden.

22.11 Director Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark participated in a meeting with the Research Council of the minority institution EURAC.



25.10 Visit of Ove Bring, professor emeritus of International Law, National Defence University and Stockholm University and former Legal Adviser to the Foreign Ministry.

25-29.11 Director Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark in Strasbourg for the session of the Advisory Committee on National Minorities of the Council of Europe. Spiliopoulou Åkermark also participated as a panelist in a WebTV interview together with Ms Astrid Thors, High Commissioner on National Minorities of the OSCE.

What's Up with Peace in the Nordic Countries?

In 2013, the ÅIPI has actively discussed Nordic approaches to peace. The Institute has organized seminars and has published opinion pieces and initiated the network Norden för fred?



The ÅIPI considers the Nordic countries to be rich in experiences of peaceful conflict resolution and peaceful coexistence. These experiences are worth highlighting and can bear valuable lessons-learned, as the substantial international interest in these experiences shows. At the same time, recent developments suggest that Norden is about to depart from its traditional peace profile.

The ÅIPI has highlighted this issue in opinion pieces and seminars since 2008, with the goal of creating an annual Nordic peace forum where politicians, diplomats and scholars from different disciplines and civil society representatives from the Nordic countries can come together to discuss the Nordic region's relationship to peace, historically and in the present, including domestic and external relationships.

In 2013 the ÅIPI was granted funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers in the framework of the

NordPlus adult program for the project "The Nordic Region Regarded from a Peace Perspective", in short "Norden for peace?". The project, which runs from autumn 2013 till spring 2016, brings together six organizations in the Nordic countries. The network includes the ÅIPI as lead partner as well as the Peace Union of Finland, the Norwegian Peace Council, Peace Alliance Denmark, The Association Norden Sweden and the Institute of International Affairs at the University of Iceland.

The network partners want to create a broad and inclusive discussion on approaches to peace in each of the the Nordic countries and within the Nordic co-operation, including in relation to the on-going intensification of security and defense cooperation between the Nordic countries.

In March, the ÅIPI, in cooperation with the Association Norden on Åland, arranged a seminar in connection to the current debate about Nordic

defense and security cooperation. Senior researcher Pertti Joenniemi held a keynote speech, followed by four commentaries and an open discussion. The debate was moderated by Dr. Mikael Wigell, researcher at the Finnish Institute for International Affairs and member of the research council of the ÅIPI. In October, Professor Lars Ingelstam from Sweden visited Åland to present his and Anders Mellbourns' report "Peace, security, defense - A report on the shift in emphasis from military to civilian in Swedish politics", written for the Network Partnership 2014. The ÅIPI has also participated in external meetings and seminars, including in the Foreign Ministry's coordinator group for peace mediation, the seminar "Approaches to Peace Mediation: Is There Space for a Nordic Approach?" including a follow-up meeting arranged by TAPRI in Tampere as well as a dialogue meeting on peace and foreign policy organized in Copenhagen by the network "fredsmi- nisterium.dk."



**Norden
& freden**



◀ Open seminar in Mariehamn on the report "Peace, security, defense" with Lars Ingelstam from the Swedish network "Partnership 2014".

The UN Commission on the Status of Women



Barbro Sundback



Jenny Jonstoj

Within the framework of the Peace Institute's consultative status in the ECOSOC, the chairperson of the Board of the ÅIPI Ms Barbro Sundback and Jenny Jonstoj, a former Project Manager and method developer with a gender perspective for the ÅIPI, participated in the UN's 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York in early March.

Prior to the session the Åland Islands Peace Institute issued a statement about the importance of violence prevention with a gender per-

spective among youth. The ÅIPI emphasizes especially that boys and men need to be involved in such work.

Discussions in the session included several issues that can be recognized from the Nordic and even Ålandic debate. Among the topics were sexual violence and sexual harassment, violence and hate speech on the web and the inclusion of boys and men in gender equality work. Jenny Jonstoj has written two blog posts on the basis of the discussions in New York and they can be found at the ÅIPI website www.peace.ax.



Workshop on Gender at the UBC Conference

On the 3 October 2013 the Åland Islands Peace Institute held a workshop at the Union of Baltic Cities (UBC) XII General Conference arranged in Mariehamn, Åland, Finland. The workshop, entitled "Youth empowerment and non-formal education with gender perspective", highlighted the importance of non-formal education using non-formal learning methods that promote empowerment and gender equa-

lity among youth. An example of such methods is the Girl and Boy Group Method and the method Fair Sex that are based on the ideas of positive peace and aimed at creating a forum for discussing and reflecting on gender equality.

► *Project Manager Justina Donielaite in conversation with the UBC Secretary General Pawel Zaboklicki.*



A Meeting Place for Girls in Azerbaijan

Within the project Open Doors Azerbaijani women's organization Yuva has founded a youth center for girls in Baku, where currently 10 Girl Group leaders are actively engaged in Girl Group activities, including ca. 30 participants.

A highlight in 2013 was a study visit to partner organizations in Lithuania. Six Girl Group leaders from Baku and the chairwomen of Yuva had the chance, during the five-day study-visit from 13 to 17 October, to discuss the joys and challenges of working with Girl Groups with colleagues from Lithuania. In Vilnius they participated, together with three colleagues from Kaliningrad/Russia, in a deepening training led by trainers Ruta Zitkiene and Daiva Sabuniene. The study visit also included a visit to kindergarten and youth center Nendre and Missing Persons' Families'

Support Center in Vilnius as well as Kaunas' Girl Center and to the association Trinus in Kaunas. Trinus was founded recently by two Boy Group leaders with the goal to establish a more active network of youth workers across Lithuania working with a gender perspective. In Kaunas the group also visited one of the city's youth clubs run by the youth organization Patria. The study visit ended with a visit to the European Institute for Gender Equality and a presentation of the European Gender Equality Index and the Institute's gender equality databases.

Girl Group expert Mia Hanström's method handbook has been published in Azeri and is now used by the Girl Group leaders as a manual supporting them in their empowerment work with teenage girls. The handbook is one of few Azeri-language publications highlighting gender equality perspectives for youth work.

The project is financed by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emmaus Åland and continues until September 2014 with a focus on consolidating the center and its activities as well as method dissemination.



Girl and Boy Groups on the Åland islands

In spring 2013 the Åland Island Peace Institute started the project "Girl and Boy Groups on the Åland Islands" in cooperation with the NGO "Folkhälsan på Åland", with the purpose to broaden and coordinate the Girl and Boy Group activities on the Åland Islands and to develop a mechanism for quality management. In September 2013, 14 new Girl and Boy Group leaders were trained and during the fall, five new Girl Groups and one new Boy Group started all over the Åland Islands. In October 2013, a follow-up tutoring session for all the new leaders was arranged. In 2013, the Peace Institute and Folkhälsan på Åland discussed possibilities for cooperation with the City of Mariehamn Youth Department and with Fryshusets United Sisters in Stockholm. Information about Girl- and Boy Group activities directed to the public and to youth have been produced. A database with literature and method material for the Girl and Boy Group leaders is been created, as well as guidelines for quality management. This stage of the project continues until March 2014 and the Åland Island Peace Institute has applied for financial support to ensure the continuation of the project at least until December 2014.

What is a Girl and Boy Group Method?

The Girl and Boy Group Method is a method for the promotion of gender equality and the prevention of violence among youth. The basis of the method is a democratic and non-hierarchical discussion among a small group of young people together with their leaders. The Girl and Boy Group Method aims at individual empowerment and personal development and provides young people with tools that help to question and critically reflect upon prevailing gender norms and expectations, to improve their conflict management skills and to facilitate their active participation in society. The Åland Islands Peace Institute has implemented a number of cross-border cooperation projects with a focus on the Girl and Boy Group method since 2003 and introduced the method in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus.

Fair Sex-Project: Continuous Need for Discussions on Mutual Respect

The method Fair Sex and the corresponding method material aims to counteract sexual violence and to promote gender equality, empowerment and positive sexual habits among young people.

The project started as a campaign in 2011, within an EU-financed project, and has since then developed into an independent project with different components. The project is mandated and financed by the Åland Government and has in 2013 focused on the upper secondary schools and the Åland folk high-school on Åland.

The work with the staff of the three schools included has concentrated on providing support to the schools' respective equality working groups.

The working groups have received support with drafting equality plans and action plans for managing sexual harassment. The student-centered component of the project has included interactive workshops where sex, mutuality, rape and gendered norms

have been discussed. In 2013 also the youths at Katapult, an activity for young people who do not currently attend school and do not have a job, and the students within Yrkesträningsprogrammet (YTP), an upper secondary high school for youth with different kinds of intellectual disabilities, had the chance to participate in Fair Sex workshops

Prior awareness among the young people attending the workshops differs a lot. Some have been discussing the topics that are brought up in the Fair Sex workshops already in junior high school, while some are discussing the social aspects of sex for the first time during the Fair Sex workshops.

The workshop evaluations show that the participants appreciate to

discuss the topics brought up during the workshops. Students also express that the information about rape and what "fair sex" means is important to discuss.

The development of method material for the students at YTP has been particularly challenging and important. The involvement of consultant Jack Lukkerz has guaranteed the high-quality of the material used for students with intellectual disabilities and has contributed to the competence-development of the Fair Sex staff. In connection to his visit Lukkerz held an open lecture on "sexuality and intellectual disabilities" in Mariehamn.



Project Assistant Liselott Lindén and Project Manager Cecilia Brenner.



Open seminar in Mariehamn with consultant Jack Lukkerz.

A Positive Year for the Mediation Office

In 2013 there has been a 50% increase in the number of cases received. Many training and information activities were organised for the mediators, and several information sessions were held to raise awareness of the mediation services provided.

In 2013, the number of cases received amounted to a total of 44. Two of these were civil and the remaining 42 criminal cases. 31 out of 44 cases were mediated and in 23 cases the parties reached an agreement. Of these 23 cases, 19 have so far been closed, and two are still waiting for a follow-up.

Several information sessions on the mediation services have been held throughout the year, at the Odd Fellow Association, the Zonta Association, the Education and Culture Department and at the Discrimination Committee.

The regular internal meetings for mediators have been visited by the Alcohol and Drug Clinic, by the Prosecutors and by Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Director of the ÅPI. In October a training session was held by the mediation supervisor Daniela Sundell from the Turku Mediation Office. This was a much appreciated event by the mediators. In July, Mediation Manager Linda Johansson attended the summer school with the theme “Restorative Justice in intercultural settings; business as usual?”.

Mediation Manager Linda Johansson is on leave between 31/8/2013 and 31/05/2014, Ida Persson functions as Mediation Officer. Ida Persson has during the fall met with the prosecutors, the police and the two district court judges. Ida Persson has also visited the Ekenäs and Turku mediation offices, to become familiar with the mediation activities in Finland.

In 2013, the cooperation between the police and the Mediation Office has been further strengthened. Today, the police often send cases at an early stage to the Mediation Office. Improved cooperation is probably one of the main reasons for the increased number of cases. During the fall, Ida Persson met with the police investigators, among other things, to discuss this cooperation and how it can be improved and developed even more.



Substitute mediation officer Ida Persson

Mediation in Brief

Mediation is a free-of-charge and voluntary service based on the Mediation Act (1015/2005). Mediation provides the parties in a criminal or civil case with the opportunity to own their conflict and find a solution through constructive discussions. This is achieved with the help and support of two trained, impartial volunteer mediators. The Mediation Office is run by the Åland Islands Peace Institute. Mediation, as conflict management tool at an individual level, is part of the peace work conducted at the Åland Islands Peace Institute.

Volunteering Opportunities for Youth

The ÅPI provides volunteering opportunities for youth within the European Voluntary Service, EVS. The Institute is functioning as both sending and hosting organization for volunteers. Gulnar Mammadova from Azerbaijan and Gohar Mamikonyan from Armenia have contributed with voluntary work and have been a part of our team until the end of September 2013. The personal peace process that they have gone through during their stay on Åland has been presented in newspaper articles “From Conflict to Friendship” (published on 1.10.2013 in Nya Åland) and “Came from Enemy Countries – Became Friends on Åland” (published on 23.10.2013 in Huvudstadsbladet). A new volunteer, Alexandra Zhukova from Russia, arrived in October and will be working with us for a period of one year. In the beginning of November 2013, Ingrid Eriksson from Åland started her volunteering project, titled “Connecting the North”, at the Youth League of the Swedish Nordic Association in Stockholm.



Mingeling

During the year, the ÅIPI participated in public events, like the proclaiming of the School Peace, of Opportunity's Square and Christmas markets in Mariehamn.



The cup "A Piece of Peace" is a cooperation between artist and potter Mia Englund and the Åland Islands Peace Institute, sold to the benefit of the ÅIPI.



12.9.2013 "School Peace" was declared in Godbyhallen arena. Organizers of the event are public health organization Folkhälsan on Åland, Save the Children Åland, the Åland Government department for education and the ÅIPI.



31.8.2013 The Åland Islands Peace Institute was one of some 30 organisations present at the market square of Mariehamn at the event "Market of possibilities". Director Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark held a speech on human rights, which was this years' theme. Per-Erik "Percka" Söderlund, support staff at the ÅIPI, entertained with the band "Husbandet".



The ÅIPI took part in the Christmas market at the market square of Mariehamn. Above trainee Nemi Snellman assists in the preparations.



From the left: Christmas dinner for the staff. New staff: Ida Persson, substitute Head of Mediation, Malin Söderberg, Method Developer and Cecilia Brenner, Manager for the project Fair Sex.

Personnel of the ÅIPI

The ÅIPIs innovative force is based on a competent and energetic staff. Staff training is an important element of the ÅIPI's development work. In 2013, three new employees were welcomed to the Institute and the ÅIPI had in total 8 full-time positions of which three were permanent and the remaining positions project based. The full-time positions were partitioned between some twenty employees with different employment contracts.

Anställda:

Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Director
 Susann Simolin, Information Officer
 Bror Myllykoski, Head of Administration
 Sarah Stephan, Researcher, Project Manager
 John Knight, Librarian
 Linda Johansson, Head of Mediation, on leave from 1.9.
 Ida Persson, acting Head of Mediation
 Kristina Tingström, Cleaner, on hour basis
 Liuda Donielaite, Cleaner, on hour basis
 Johanna Eker, Cleaner, on hour basis

Project Staff:

Justina Donielaite, Project Manager, Gender Coordinator
 Cecilia Brenner, Project Manager
 Liselott Lindén, Project Assistant
 Malin Söderberg, Trainer and Method Developer
 Jenny Jonstoj, Gender Expert
 Ulrika Navier, Gender Expert
 Rebecca Björkholm, workshopleader, on hour basis
 Ida Persson, workshopsledare, workshopleader, on hour basis

External services:

Fredrik Karlsson, book keeper, on consultant basis

Interns

Each year the ÅIPI hosts several interns, mostly university students. During 2013 the ÅIPI has hosted three interns.



Katharina Hill is studying for a Master of Social Sciences in International Security and Law at the University of Southern Denmark. During her internship 2.7 – 23.8 she mainly worked with a report on gender equality in peace processes and with Nordic peace co-operation.

Liuda Donielaite, a student of telecommunication engineering at the Faculty of Electronics at Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, has worked with the home page and its content management system and with providing individual support to staff in various IT-matters during her internship 2.7 – 30.9.



Nijole Neuman was an intern two days a week during the period 2013 October – 2014 March, as a part of her studies in Swedish at the course Integration.ax. She has mainly worked with international projects and networks.

Financing

The economy of the ÅIPI is based on two pillars; a stable core funding and a dispersion of financial assets through project funding from several different donors.

The budget of the ÅIPI decreased from 660.147 euro in 2012 to 504.997 euro in 2013.

Despite many good and successful applications for funding, revenues have decreased during the year. This is partly due to a lower amount of approved funding, in comparison to the year 2012, and partly due to lost rent incomes. These are now allocated to the real estate company Fredsfast AB that manages the property on Hamngatan 4.

The funding from the City of Mariehamn decreased with 90 %, in comparison to the year 2012.

The funding from the Åland Government (within the framework of funding provided based on the revenues from the Government-owned gambling company PAF), including both core funding and project-specific funding, constitutes 44 per cent of the total amount of funding and revenues for 2013.

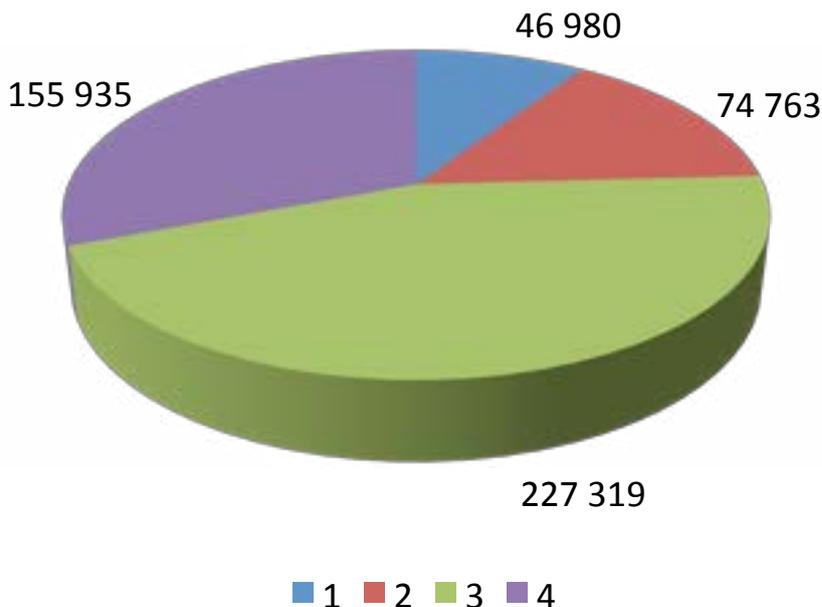
Other important donors for specific projects are The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, the EU research program, the Nordic Council of Ministers, the State Administration on Åland and the Center for International Mobility (CIMO).

The Director and Board of the ÅIPI have continued their discussion with the Department of Finance at the Government of Åland, the City of Mariehamn and other donors in order to secure the financing of activities, in addition to the projects that in 2013 have been funded through short-term funding by EU and the Nordic Council of Ministers, among others. Across all of the activity areas, the positive development of the ÅIPI has been followed by challenges concerning the financial stability, which is vulnerable in a small organisation.

Overall, however, the liquidity has been more balanced in comparison to previous years, despite the fact that the annual result is negative.

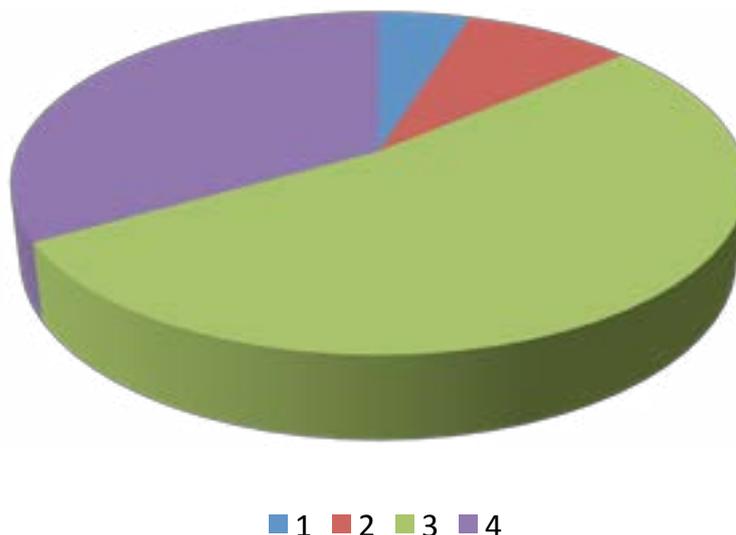
Many larger projects have been concluded during in 2013 and new project plans are being developed for the year 2014.

Expenses 2013



1. Knowledge development	46 980	9%
2. Knowledge distribution	74 763	15%
3. Methods	227 319	45%
4. Office and administration	155 935	31%
Total:	504 997	100%

Funding 2013



1. Knowledge development	18 955	4,8 %
2. Knowledge distribution	35 007	8,9 %
3. Methods	208 624	53,0 %
4. Office and administration	131 254	33,3 %
Total:	393 840	100%

Donors

Åland Government (PAF basic funding and project funding)	173 295	44.0 %
The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland	101 685	25.8 %
The State Administration on Åland (mediation)	32 374	8.2 %
Other revenues, sold services, travel reimbursements, donations etc.	26 818	6.8 %
The Nordic Council of Ministers (Norden for peace?)	17 635	4.5 %
EU Research (ELDIA)	14 200	3.6 %
Emmaus	14 122	3.6 %
CIMO/EU and the Swedish Cultural Foundation in Finland	12 451	3.2 %
Other funding	1 260	0.3 %





The mug “A piece of peace”



The mug “A piece of peace” is a cooperation between artist and potter Mia Englund and the Åland Islands Peace Institute. The mug can be purchased at the institutet, in selected craft shops on Åland and at Mia Englund’s workshop in Jomala Björsby. Every mug sold will contribute peacework, with €2 going to support the Åland Islands Peace Institute.

The Peace Fund

The Åland Islands Peace Fund was established by the Åland Islands Peace Institute with the purpose of supporting work for peace. As the peace fund grows the interest earned can be granted for purposes decided by the Board. The peace fund can also be used for special purposes, for example, condolences.

Payments can be made to:

Ålandsbanken 660100-12 09 154
IBAN: FI22 6601 0001 2091 54
BIC: AABAFI22

Nordea 203218 -22 564
IBAN: FI70 2032 1800 0225 64
BIC: NDEAFIHH

Donations can also be made through
www.peace.ax.

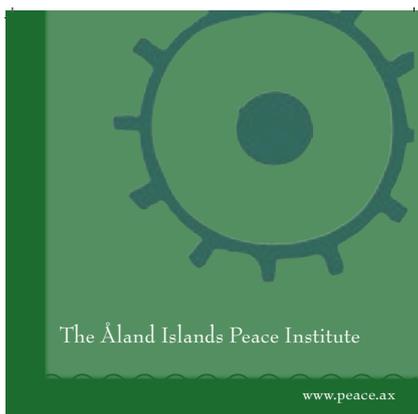
Donation cards are available in banks
and at undertakers on Åland.

Newsletter

The Åland Islands Peace Institute sends electronic newsletters to subscribers 4-5 times a year. To subscribe please register at www.peace.ax

The report series ”Report from the Åland Islands Peace Institute”, working papers and selected additional publications, can be downloaded in pdf, free of charge at www.peace.ax.

Publications can also be ordered from books@peace.ax.



 Ålands fredsinstitut
www.peace.ax

THE ÅLAND ISLANDS PEACE INSTITUTE,
HAMNGATAN 4/PB85
AX-22101 MARIEHAMN, ÅLAND, FINLAND
PHONE +358 18 15570, FAX +358 18 21026