

# Activity Report

2014

The Åland Islands Peace Institute



## 2014 – An immensely rewarding year!

The year of 2014 has been one of the most active and rewarding years in the history of the Åland Islands Peace Institute. New forms of activities have been initiated and the already established ones have been developed further, producing new results. In addition, a new research program for the period 2014 to 2017 was presented and accepted by the Board.

The Kastelholm Talks on Peace were held in the Spring. This was the first time and the plan is to hold them regularly. They are organized with the former president of Finland, Ms Tarja Halonen, as patron. The theme for the Talks was "Nordic Countries as a Peace Region". Through great media attention and a good general public interest, the Åland Islands Peace Institute gained significant visibility in connection to the Kastelholm Talks on Peace.

Research as well as dissemination of knowledge continued in 2014 as a main activity of the Institute within the core areas of autonomy, minority rights, and security. The Institute participated as well in activities of a Nordic network for peace and continued its work in the educational field through the development of an internet based academic course of the concept Åland Example, in cooperation with the Åland Open University. The course will according to plan be held for the first time in Spring term 2015.

The general interest for the Åland Islands and the Peace Institute is strong, both locally and internationally. The Institute received great many visitors and enquiries throughout the year, something that is stimulating for the Institute – if and when time allows.

Within the work on youth and equality issues, the projects on Fair Sex, School Peace, and Dialogue groups of girls and boys continued as planned. Some of these projects have been particularly noticed by the local community for very professional arrangements and management.

Financially, the core activities of the Institute have been suffering from instability and some acutely challenging situations appeared in 2014. This prompted the Board to initiate an overhaul of the work of the Institute as well as a review of activity programs for coming years. It was concluded, among other things, that the services of the Institute for the public authorities in Åland are, for instance, not fully covered and should be targeted as a source of funding in the future. We believe the work of the Institute, in all its diversity, contributes to the broad social and political development of the Åland Islands, something very important in a globalizing world.

Finally, the Ålands Islands Peace Institute Real Estate Company – wholly owned by the Peace Institute Foundation – has in 2014 completed a series of renovations, and has allowed the renting of some new spaces by two tenants.

# The mission of the Åland Islands Peace Institute

*The Åland Islands Peace Institute is a foundation without religious or political affiliations which supports and promotes both practical work and research in the field of peace - and conflict issues, considered in a wide sense, and departing from the special status of the Åland Islands.*

The Peace Institute shall promote a peaceful social development by challenging violence and acting for empowerment through establishing methods, knowledge and general conditions that make possible the development of potential capacities of individuals and societies.

The Institute therefore works within four specialised themes:

- autonomy, its manifestation in the Åland Islands as well as in comparable situations

- security, for individuals as well as societies. Demilitarisation, neutralisation and confidence-building measures as methods for the reduction of violence and increased security

- minorities, including matters of cultural and ethnic minorities' rights to identity and participation in democratic processes

- civil society, as an arena for dialogue and the development of knowledge of importance for a democratic and peaceful development of the society.

The Åland Islands Peace Institute is part of the civil society but also an academically anchored institution and think-tank, moving between "thinking, acting, and thinking again"! Our mandate in this context is to stimulate the generation of new ideas, knowledge and, while doing so, also analyse critically ongoing processes and developments.



**Self-government - security - minorities - civil society**



# The work of the Board 2014

The Board of the Institute consists of seven to ten members, and is responsible for its overall work, finances, and direction of the work. The Institute's long-term perspective, its buildings and office spaces and the securing of funding were issues that drew particular attention during the

year. Special focus was also laid on a reorientation of the work towards the Institute's core areas.

Also, the Kastelholm Talks on Peace were of great importance to the Board, due to their significance for the Institute's public profile.

## 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 organizations.

**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 independent public organization Statistics and Research Åland.

**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, Helsinki.

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



*The Chair of the Board of Directors, Ms Barbro Sundback (to the left) together with President Halonen and the Director of the ÅIPI, Ms Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, convening in advance of the Kastelholm Talks 2014.*



*The majority of the Board members of the ÅIPI attended the Nordic Peace Forum, held in connection to the Kastelholm Talk.*

# Research on autonomy, minorities and security

The core approach of the Åland Islands Peace Institute is to work in the overlapping realm between security, autonomy, and minority protection. This task is still important, and certainly scientifically very relevant. In 2014 a new research program was accepted and it envisages a new focus on the Baltic Sea Region and the Nordic countries. An example is the project "Nordic Self-Government Systems – Experiences and Visions from a Peace Perspective" which runs during 2014 and 2015, and which brings together eleven researchers who have analysed the development of self-government systems in the Nordic countries, from a peace perspective.

A new project focusing on demilitarisation and neutralisation has been developed during the year and it is planned to be fully active in the coming year, 2015.

Alongside with these developments, the dissemination of research results



has continued unabated. A publication is for instance under way in 2014, that collects the results from the multi-year research project on European multilingualism (ELDIA). It will be published in 2015. Likewise, the components of what is often called the Åland Example – namely autonomy, demilitarisation and neutralisation, as well as the protection of language rights and culture – have been studied in different contexts during the period 2010-2012. These studies have during this year been used as parts in an academic course (5 ECTS credits) on the Åland Example together with the Åland Open University.

The Institute wants to meet the interest and need that is expressed for more information and knowledge about various aspects of the status of the Åland Islands, not the least from an international audience. The Åland Example concept can in this context serve as a source of inspiration for individuals and groups that are active in mediation or peace processes. A number of visits and meetings have been held during the year with this purpose.

Also the publication policy follows the general focus of the Åland Example concept. Two research reports were published in the research report series in 2014. These reports dealt with minority protection and security and equality issues, respectively.

## Publications 2014

### The report series - Report from the Åland Islands Peace Institute:

No. 1-2014  
Gender equality in peace processes – is it all just gender-washed? How UNSCR 1325 is implemented and understood in Sweden.  
*Katharina Hill*

No. 2-2014  
Minorities and immigration – frameworks of exclusion and inclusion in Åland and South Tyrol compared.  
*Verena Wisthaler and Heidi Öst*

### Other publications:

"Making Autonomies Matter: Sub-State Actor Accommodation in the Nordic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers - An Analysis of the Institutional Framework for Accommodating the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Åland within 'Norden'"

3 European Diversity and Autonomy Papers – EDAP 2014  
*Sarah Stephan*

## The Research Council

The Research Council of the Åland Islands Peace Institute functions as an advisory body to the Board, furthermore, it constitutes a resource and fulfil a quality assurance function of the Peace Institute research. The members of the council are elected for a mandate period of two years. The members of the council during the period April 2013 to April 2015 are the following: Board member Kjell-Åke Nordquist (Chairman), Associate Profes-

sor of peace and conflict research; Mikael Wigell, PhD, researcher at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs and Gunilla Herolf, PhD, expert in European integration and security. The Director of the Peace Institute directs the research activities of the institute and functions as the secretary of the Research Council. In 2014 the council had one meeting.

# E-course on territorial autonomy about to start

The Åland Islands Peace Institute has developed a university-level e-course on territorial autonomy, with the Åland Example as a main case study. The course will be launched in the spring term of 2015, in co-operation with the Open University on Åland.

The course approaches territorial autonomy from an interdisciplinary perspective, focusing on law and political science. The aim is to provide participants with a broad academic framework for discussing territorial autonomy from different perspectives, among others against the background of concepts such as self-determination, power-sharing and minority rights. The course includes modules on the demilitarisation and neutralisation, the autonomy regime as well the cultural and linguistic safeguards pertaining to Åland. A focus will be on the development of the regime over time, including more recent shifts in the regime. The course will also discuss the relevance of territorial autonomy as a possible tool for conflict resolution.

The course is strongly based on the current academic discourses touching upon territorial autonomy, to which the Åland Islands Peace Institute has been able to contribute, among others through its latest publication "The Åland Example and its Components - Relevance for

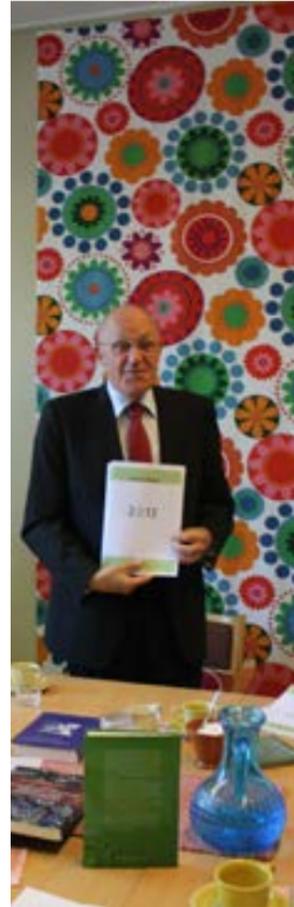
International Conflict Resolution" (2011) and a special edition of the International Journal for Minority and Group Rights (vol. 20, 2013).

The course is open for participants from all over the world, and for spring 2015, students from Åland, Finland, Sweden, Greenland, Azerbaijan, Denmark and Italy have registered.

"There is a great international interest in diversity questions, in the Åland Example and in how territorial autonomy can be used as a tool for conflict resolution. We are receiving request from e.g. Kashmir, Thailand and Indonesia. There is also curiosity in the Nordic countries on how autonomy solutions work in practice. However, not everyone who is interested has the possibility to come to Åland and neither has the Peace Institute the capacity to receive everyone. Hence, this course is a way to share the knowledge we have gathered", says the Peace Institute's Director Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark.



13.3.2014 a seminar on peace and democracy was held in the city library of Mariehamn. Lassi Härmälä, Programme Manager at Demo Finland, focused on the activities of his organisation in democracy consolidation in Nepal and in Tunisia. Maria Mekri, Research Director at Safer Globe, presented the project she is currently devoted to: the development of a Peace Index, which will be first applied to Finland.



To the left: Visitors to the ÅIPI from ILAC. Top middle; Professor Egbert Jahn and scholars from Åbo Akademi University. Bottom, middle; Doctor Koichi Kimura. Right; Ambassador Dan Ashbel.

## Exchanging knowledge

During the year, requests for ÅIPI knowledge have come from both near and far away places.

In 2014, the Peace Institute Director, Ms Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, has lectured on issues of minorities, diversity and territorial conflicts in events arranged on Åland, in Lund, in Umeå, in Warsaw and in Vilnius. Her assignments in various expert bodies, including the European Council Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities as well as the Contact Group between Åland and Finland have brought her, among others, to Ukraine. In September researcher Sarah Stephan participated in an international conference on self-determination at the University of Bern.

The Peace Institute has received

visits from scholars such as Lecturer Ari Virtanen and Professor Alain A. Grenier along with 15 students from the Université du Québec à Montréal. For the third consecutive year, the Peace Institute held a workshop on the Åland Example for participants in the course PASA - Peace and Security in Africa, organized by the Department of Peace and Conflict at Uppsala University, together with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) and the Swedish consulting firm InDevelop. Also, the Peace Institute's former guest researcher Rhodri C. Williams visited the Peace Institute together with colleagues from the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC) in Stockholm. Furthermore, PhD student Heidi Öst and Master students from the European Master's Programme in Human Rights and Democratisation at the Åbo Akademi University came to the Peace Institute

for a presentation of the Institute's research activities. Emeritus professor Egbert Jahn who has worked with Peace Research in Frankfurt and Copenhagen for over 40 years spent several days at the Peace Institute in April and May to study the Åland Example. Dr. Koichi Kimura, peace researcher and lecturer in Peace Studies at Fukoka University in Japan, paid a shorter and more spontaneous visit to the Institute.

Other visitors with a particular interest in the Åland Example have been members of parliament and youth groups from Finland, Sweden, Denmark and the USA. Moreover, information on the Åland Example has been presented to the Ambassador of Israel to Finland, Mr Dan Ashbel, and a group of civil society representatives from Armenia and Azerbaijan respectively.

# Minority and autonomy issues in Ukraine and the Crimea

In 2014, the crisis in Ukraine attracted vast attention, and the issue has been reflected also in the work of the ÅIPI. In her role as the President of the Council of Europe's minority committee the ÅIPI Director has been profoundly involved in the question of the situation of minorities in Ukraine. The employees of the Institute have also participated in media discussions on minority and autonomy issues related to Ukraine and the Crimean peninsula.

Through her mission in the Council of Europe's Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, the ÅIPI director Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark has traveled to Ukraine on two occasions in 2014 to examine and discuss the situation of minorities. Ultimately, the Advisory Committee was unable to travel to the Crimea, partly because of the safety risks of prospective conversation partners in the Crimea. The Committee, however, had the opportunity to meet and discuss with minority representatives outside the occupied territory.

On 1 April 2014, the minority committee of the Council of Europe adopted a report on the situation of the

national minorities in Ukraine. It was the first time ever that the committee compiled a report on minorities ad hoc, i.e. due to current events, and in addition to the regular application controls provided for in the Convention.

In the report the Advisory Committee expresses deep concern over the safety and access to rights for minority groups in the Crimea, especially for Crimean Tatars and persons belonging to the Ukrainian-speaking population.

In previous years, the Peace Institute has been involved in a dialogue process for the Crimea, including various stakeholders from the Crimea, in which autonomy issues and demilitarisation has been on the agenda. A few

years ago, researcher Sarah Stephan visited the Crimea, and has written the blog entry "Crimea between the global and the local", available on [www.peace.ax](http://www.peace.ax).

On several occasions, the Peace Institute was asked by the media to comment on the situation, in particular concerning minorities and autonomy issues. The Peace Institute's researchers have discussed those topics in local, national and international media.

In a broader sense, the Ukraine crisis has also been discussed locally in an informal meeting with people on Åland with direct connections to Ukraine and Russia.



## ÅIPI director completed mandate within Council of Europe

After two years as president of the Council of Europe's Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Associate Professor of International Law, completed her term of office in Strasbourg in September, when

she presented for the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe a final report on how the situation of minorities has developed in European states during the years 2012 to 2014. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark has been an expert member of the Council of Europe's Advisory Committee,

in 2002-2006 and in 2010-2014, i.e. during eight years in total. Her mandate as president of the Committee (2012-2014) has included monitoring visits and Committee Opinions adopted concerning, among others, Ukraine, Denmark, Bulgaria and Russia.

# Nordic peace under scrutiny in the Kastelholm Talks on Peace 2014

The first Kastelholm Talks on Peace was held on March 28, 2014, under the patronage of former Finnish President Tarja Halonen at the Kastelholm Castle on Åland Islands. The panel consisted of the foreign minister of Finland, Mr Erkki Tuomioja, the Director of the Nordic Council, Ms Britt Bohlin, the Director General of the Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ms Aud Lise Norheim and Swedish MP and Vice-President of the Nordic Council, Mr Hans Wallmark.

The panel discussed the fact that many reasons lie behind a view of the Nordic region as a peaceful one, and that this creates international interest for Nordic political dimensions. While the observation may be correct, it should not imply a complacent attitude among the Nordic countries. Dialogue, rather than evangelization, is the preferred option for international relations. This Kastelholm Talks on Peace was the first one arranged by the Åland Islands Peace Institute. For further information please consult the webpage, [www.peace.ax](http://www.peace.ax).

# Research about Nordic self-government

A Nordic project on Nordic self-government and peace was initiated in 2014, with the Åland Islands Peace Institute as the lead institution. Researchers within different areas of specialization do case studies and comparisons involving the Åland Islands, Greenland and the Faroe Islands, in the fields of security policy, law, political science, and economics. The researchers are also discussing the various Nordic self-government forms in relation to the general development in the Nordic area as well as the relevance of these forms for a peaceful development within the region and internationally. The material produced in the project will be a foundation for a conference in Mariehamn, Åland, in January 2015 in connection to committee meetings in the Nordic Council held on Åland. The researchers participating in the project are Professor Markku Suksi, Dr Gunilla Herolf, Dr Rickard Palmer, LL.M. Sarah Stephan, Dr Maria Ackrén, Professor Agust Thór Arnasson, Professor Gudmundur Alfredsson, Dr Tove Maloy, Cand. Polit. Lise Lyck, Dr Kári á Rógvi and Associate Professor Sía Spiliopoulou Åkermark.

The project is financed by the Citizen and Consumer Rights Committee of the Nordic Council.



# Two seminars in a Nordic network for peace

The Project "Norden for peace?" is during a period of two and a half year organizing an open seminar in each of the five Nordic countries based on one of the main themes of the project. The first of these themes is the question of how the Nordic countries relate to peace as a concept and practice, the second theme is about the dissemination of peace attitudes on the grassroots level and in the adult education systems of the Nordic countries.

During 2014, two seminars were held in the project, the first one on Åland Islands, in March, named "Nordic Peace Forum" in connection to the Kastelholm Talks on Peace. In October the second seminar and network mee-

ting was held, in Iceland, on the theme of finding practical tools and approaches that can contribute to a peaceful social development. During 2014 an op-ed was published jointly in Sweden and Iceland, i.e. in Upsala Nya Tidning, Uppsala, and in two Icelandic newspapers.

The project "Norden for peace?" is a Nordplus Adult-financed project running between 2013 and 2016 and partnering with organizations in all the five Nordic countries. Project director is Susann Simolin at the Åland Islands Peace Institute.



From the left: Birger Norup, GAMIP/Peace Alliance Denmark, Ida Persson, Åland Mediation Office, Fredrik Harstad, The Norden Association Sweden, Silja Bára Ómarsdóttir, University of Iceland, Barbara Sivertsen, Norwegian Peace Council, Elise-Marianne Åberg, FNUF Sweden, Susann Simolin, Åland Islands Peace Institute and Tuuli Vuori, Peace Union of Finland.

# Strong media interest in mediation

The Mediation Office of Åland received a lot of media attention during 2014, for instance in connection to a public lecture about mediation. Also, its activities in number were higher than usual.

During 2014 some 43 cases were registered with the Mediation Office. 20 of them were brought to mediation and an agreement was reached in 9 cases. Of the 43, 10 were disputes a significant increase compared to the previous year.

The increased interest from media in 2014 for the mediation service will hopefully increase the knowledge among the Åland population about this service. The articles that were published were partly about mediation in general, and partly about the particularly sensitive issue of mediation between parties with family relations.

For the mediators, who are all working voluntarily, a number of trainings were arranged throughout the year. In addition to these regular trainings, a smaller group of mediators, including Mediation Bureau Director Ida Persson, participated in the "Mediation Days" for Swedish speaking mediators in Finland, this year held in Vasa, Finland. Focus during the days was mediation with an interpreter, inter-cultural mediation, and the case of women using violence.

For the Åland Islands Mediation Bureau, the most important issue discussed and analysed during the year was the complicated situation that is created by violence between generations within a family or between same-generation family members. The Mediation Commission held a meeting on the topic and discussed the matter so as to contribute to the managing of such situations.

In November, a public lecture held by Eleonore Lind, Sweden, was organized in Mariehamn and gathered some 120 attendants. Ms Lind has worked with mediation during many years in Sweden and presented mediation as a tool for conflict management. The lecture was widely appreciated. Finally, the Mediation Bureau contributed to key issues in mediation through a lecture by Ida Persson in the seminar "Practicing Peace" in Reykjavik within the framework of the project "Norden for peace?".

## Mediation in brief



The Åland Mediation Office is run by the Åland Islands Peace Institute and offers mediation services in accordance with Finnish legislation. Mediation in criminal and certain civil cases is a voluntary, non-party and non-chargeable service that allows the parties of a crime or civil case to handle the events in the presence of non-party mediators. Voluntary mediators help the parties with the negotiations.



*In November the Mediation Office arranged a public lecture with mediation expert Eleonore Lind.*

# Fair Sex workshops improved. Dissemination outside Åland.

The set of work shops in the Fair Sex project were updated and improved during the year, and has drawn a lot of attention among high school youth and practitioners inside and outside of Åland.

With the ending of 2014, the Fair Sex project has finalised its three year project period. With two persons employed, an intern and three persons employed on an hourly basis the project could finalise its original goals.

A central part of the work has been to develop a quality assurance for the improved workshops. Assessments made by work shop participants as well as work shop leaders have been the basis for the improvement and, in addition, an outside area expert has reviewed the material and given comments. An important part of the updating has been to clarify what can be described as "grey zones" and also to clarify a norm critical approach. Also, new images have been commissioned from cartoonist Sara Elgeholm in order to make visible some more themes than were initially included.

As in previous years, Fair Sex workshops have been held in all classes in grade two in the Åland Lyceum as well as in the Katapult Youth Group, the Folk High School, and Yrkestränings-programmet (YTP), an upper secondary high school for youth with intellectual disabilities. Totally 48 workshops were held during 2014.

For the teachers and other staff at the different schools, a successive three-year programme was created, basically designed with a broad training the first year, an equality training the second year, and the third year was framed so as to respond to particular needs and interests expressed by the different staff groups.

In the Swedish speaking parts of Finland, the organization "De ungas Akademi", Academy of the Youth is active and the Fair Sex project started cooperation with the Academy, thus being able to reach out to young members of this group as well. Four workshop trainers were trained in this region of Finland and four pilot workshops were organized by the Fair Sex staff in the Grankulla school. The Academy of the Youth plans to include the Fair Sex project into their 2015 workshop offers.

Finally, the Fair Sex project has participated in train-



ings and conferences in mainland Finland as well as in Russia during 2014. The expansion of the Fair Sex project into mainland Finland's Swedish speaking regions was made possible due to a grant from the Finnish Ministry of Education. The local project activities on Åland Islands were covered by a grant from the Local Government of Åland.

## School Peace

The School Peace project is based on cooperation between the Åland Public Health Institute (Folkhälsan), Save the Children and the Bureau of Education at the Local Government of Åland with the purpose of creating a safer and improved school environment for pupils and students as well as teachers and all staff at

schools. This is made through a number of preventive measures in support of the fundamental values guiding the work in each particular school.

As each year, the "Peace in Schools" was proclaimed on Åland, this year with the school of Övernäs as organizer and pupils from other schools attending.

The 2013/2014 theme was "Fair on the Internet" and the theme was

maintained also for 2014/2015. Three issues of the newsletter School Peace News were published in 2014 and distributed among pupils, parents and staff/teachers.

Finally, during the fall, a mentorship training was organized and the possibility and need for an increased level of cooperation was discussed between the different actors in the School Peace network.

# Nordic-Baltic network for equality in youth work

The Peace Institute has during 2014 coordinated a Nordic-Baltic network with the purpose of focusing an equality perspective in youth work, exchange of knowledge and experiences and in order to cooperate for the dissemination, development and quality assurance of the Girl and Boy Group Method.

This Nordic-Baltic network received support from the Nordic Council of Ministers for organizing two network meetings during 2014. The first meeting was held in Vilnius, Lithuania, in February 2014. The Åland Islands Peace Institute representatives participated in that meeting.

Presentors about experiences from working with the girls/boys group method, were the Missing Persons Families Support Center /Lithuania), the Resource Centre for Women Marta (Latvia), and the Girls House and Boys House respectively, from

Helsingfors. All network partners participated during June 2014 in the Nordic Forum held in Malmoe, Sweden, and they also arranged a well received seminar about the Girl and Boy Group Method, as a way of challenging gender role stereotypes and encourage critical thinking through dialogue in groups. The project has created a forum for dialogue with the aim of developing the method of the Girl and Boy Group work, in order to introduce equality as a theme and practice in social youth work.



# The Peace Institute at the Nordic Forum

June 12–14, 2014 four staff members of the Åland Islands Peace Institute participated in the Nordic Forum, they were: Justina Donielaite, Cecilia Brenner, Liselott Lindén, and Malin Söderberg. The overarching purpose of the Forum was to provide new strategies and concrete actions in support of global and local equal rights and treatment.



Malin Söderberg and Justina Donielaite at the Nordic Forum in Malmoe.

# Girl and Boy Groups on Åland



”Girl and Boy Groups on Åland” is a cooperation project between the Åland Peace Institute and the public health organization Folkhälsan. The project aims at developing, guiding and securing the Girl and Boy Group Method.

The Peace Institute has in 2014 focused mainly on methodological development. During the year a questionnaire for evaluation of Boy and Girl Group activities was developed and the results of the evaluations show that the groups have been much appreciated, both by leaders and participants. Guidelines for quality assurance of the Girl and Boy Group Method have been defined.

In 2014, the project has created an electronic database with a view to facilitating the boy and girl group leaders in their work. The database contains useful information, re-

porting forms and evaluation forms, method, materials, tips on practical exercises and activities, and reference material. All materials posted have been examined from a gender perspective and norm critical perspective, to be consistent with the project’s basic values.

During the year, Folkhälsan and the Peace Institute have organized a training for new Girl and Boy Group leaders as well as four tutorial sessions for already active leaders. Themes for this year’s tutorials have been ”inspiration”, ”gender and media”, ”power and gender” and ”fair on the internet”.

A fare-well party was arranged by the Peace Institute and Folkhälsan in 2014 for all Girl and Boy Groups that have been held in fall of 2013 and spring 2014.

Finally, in addition to these activities, the Folkhälsan and the Åland Islands Peace Institute have invited persons working in the youth sector for information and inspiration in their youth work. These activities have been open also for the public, something in order to reach out and inform the society at large about the activities of the Girl and Boy Groups.

## Girl groups in Azerbaijan

The project ”Open Doors” began in October 2011 in Azerbaijan, and finished in fall 2014. The Peace Institute’s partner organization Yuva has established popular Girl Groups

in a newly established youth center in the resource-lacking suburb of Ahmedli in the Baku area. During the year, project evaluation and questions about long-term financing have

been on the agenda for the project. It is agreed that Yuva will focus on having open the girl’s center while the Peace Institute will focus on training and education for Girl Group leaders.

# Interns and volunteers

The Åland Islands Peace Institute accepts every year both interns and voluntary workers for shorter or longer periods. During 2014 totally 7 interns have been working for instance with general information, the Fair Sex project or writing reports.



From the left: Alexandra Zhukova, Adem Ferizaj, Varvara Barysevich, Armenak Tokmanjuan, Jennifer Linder, Kristina Dulebova and Fanny Thalén.

**Alexandra Zhukova** comes from Russia and was an EVS volunteer in 2014 at the Peace Institute. She worked mainly with information and photography. Alexandra has an exam in psychology from the St. Petersburg Institute for Psychology and Social Work and has previously worked as a psychologist at the centre for social assistance for families and children in the Kalinski District in St. Petersburg.

**Adem Ferizaj** stayed in the Åland Islands Peace Institute between February and June 2014, while writing a report on military presence in minority regions, mainly Greenland and Cyprus. Adem studies at the Social Science Faculty of the Campus Sciences Po Paris, of the Franco-German University in Nancy, in programs that consist of courses given in German, French or English.

**Varvara Barysevich** has a Belarussian background and is presently studying peace, mediation and conflict research at the Tampere University. She was an intern during the summer of 2014 and was working with an improvement of the Peace Institute's contacts with civil society organisations in Belarussia. Varvara has previously studied international law at the Belarussian State University. She also assisted in the creation of an e-course on the Åland Example.

**Armenak Tokmajyan** stayed with the Peace Institute during August 2014, working mainly with the issue of the role of visual arts in peacebuilding processes. Armenak has a one-year master in peace, mediation and conflict research from the University of Tampere, Finland and he has previously been studying in universities in Amsterdam, Sciences-Po Paris and Kalamoon, Syria.

**Jennifer Linder** was an intern at the Peace Institute during fall 2014, mainly working in the Fair Sex project where she held workshops. Jennifer has a bachelor of international social work from Gävle University College, Sweden.

**Kristina Dulebova** is from Slovakia and was an EVS volunteer for the period from October 2014 to October 2015. Kristina has a bachelor in international relations and diplomacy from Matej Bel University in Slovakia. At the Peace Institute Kristina will work on mediation and in projects of empowerment and human rights.

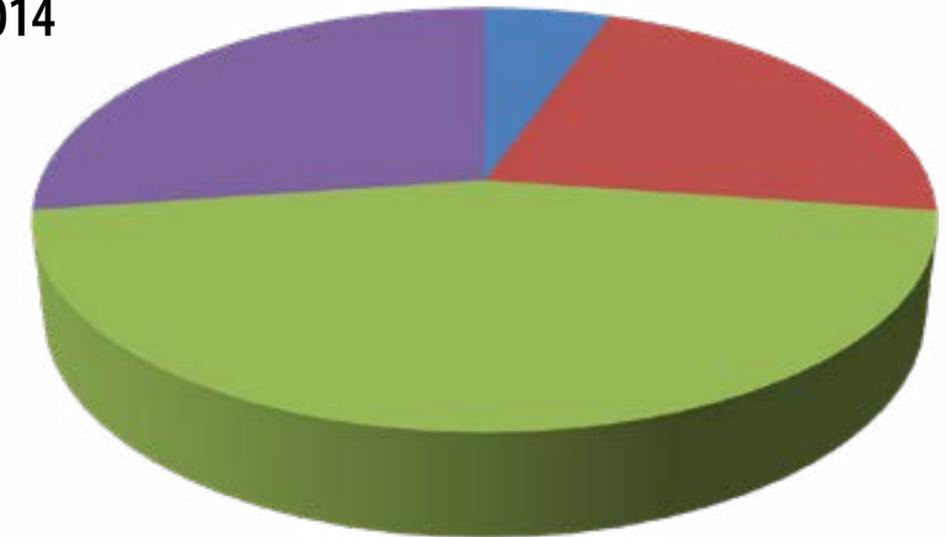
**Fanny Thalén** was a university intern at the Peace Institute from November 2015 to January 2015. She was working mainly with communication issues and publications. Fanny studies the last year of media and communication science at Luleå Technical University, Sweden. She has studied Slavic Studies at the Humboldt University, Berlin, and has as well been working as a radio journalist.



Cut from local newspaper Tidningen Åland 28.7.2014

# Finances

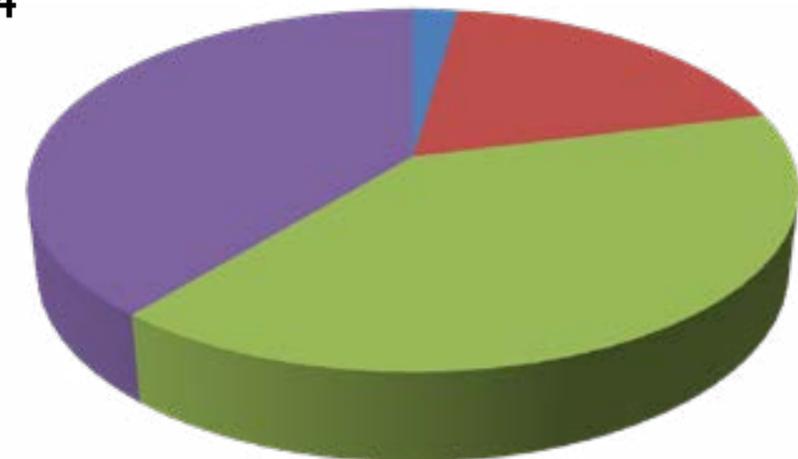
## Expenses 2014



■ Knowledge development ■ Knowledge dissemination ■ Methods ■ Office and administration

1. Knowledge development	23 145	5 %
2. Knowledge dissemination	93 896	22 %
3. Methods	194 955	45 %
4. Office and administration	116 897	27 %
	<b>428 892</b>	<b>100 %</b>

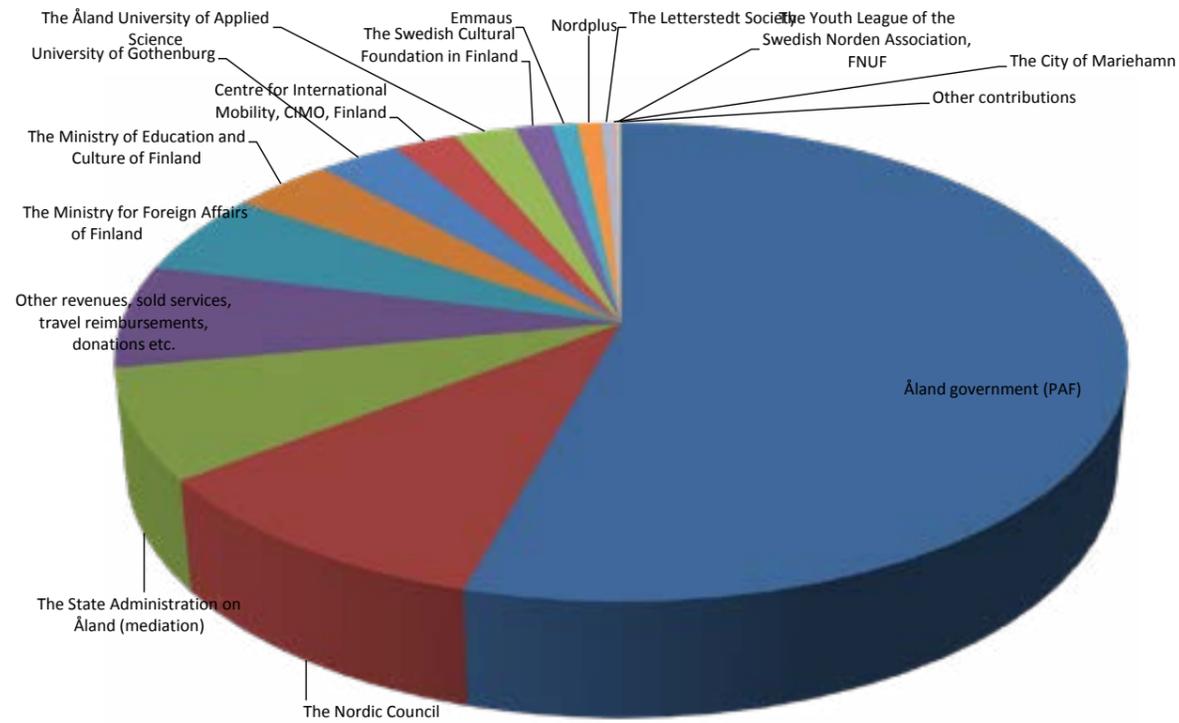
## Funding 2014



■ Knowledge development ■ Knowledge dissemination ■ Methods ■ Office and administration

1 Knowledge development	10 000	2,3 %
2 Knowledge dissemination	81 984	18,7 %
3 Methods	174 507	39,9 %
4 Office and administration	170 956	39,1 %
	<b>437 446</b>	<b>100 %</b>

# Funding 2014



1 Åland government (PAF)	237 466	54,3 %
2 The Nordic Council	45 063	10,3 %
3 The State Administration on Åland (mediation)	32 503	7,4 %
4 Other revenues, sold services, travel reimbursements, donations etc	30 477	7,0 %
5 The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland	24 293	5,6 %
6 The Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland	16 605	3,8 %
7 University of Gothenburg	13 330	3,0 %
8 Centre for International Mobility, CIMO, Finland	10 381	2,4 %
9 The Åland University of Applied Science	10 000	2,3 %
10 The Swedish Cultural Foundation in Finland	6 000	1,4 %
11 Emmaus	4 101	0,9 %
12 Nordplus	4 027	0,9 %
13 The Letterstedt Society	1 648	0,4 %
14 The City of Mariehamn	820	0,2 %
15 The Youth League of the Swedish Northern Association, FNUF	436	0,1 %
16 Other contributions	293	0,1 %
	<b>437 445</b>	<b>100 %</b>

## Staff 2014

### Employees:

Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Director  
 Susann Simolin, Information Officer  
 Sarah Stephan, Researcher, Project Manager  
 Bror Myllykoski, Head of Administration (Jan-Mar), Real Estate Manager (April-Dec)  
 Annina Destberg, Head of Finance (Apr-Sept)  
 Henrietta Hellström, Head of Finance (Oct-Dec)  
 John Knight, Librarian  
 Ida Persson, Mediation Officer  
 Johanna Eker, Cleaner, on hourly basis

### Project staff:

Justina Donielaite, Project Manager, Gender Coordinator  
 Cecilia Brenner, Project Manager  
 Liselott Lindén, Project Assistant  
 Malin Söderberg, Project Manager and Method Developer

### External services:

Fredrik Karlsson, Book keeper



The mug "A piece of peace" - illustration by Mia Englund

## 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 institute, in selected craft shops on Åland and at Mia Englund's workshop in Jomala Björsby. Every mug sold will contribute to 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](http://www.peace.ax).

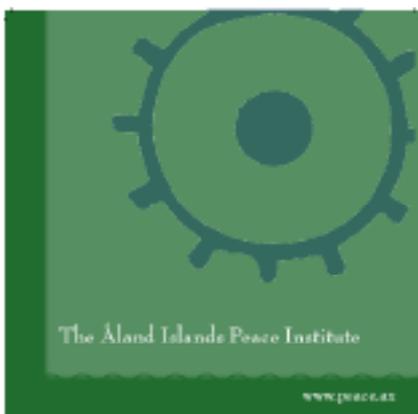
Donation cards are available in banks  
and at undertakers on Åland.

## Newsletter

The Åland Islands Peace Institute sends electronic newsletters to subscribers 4-5 times a year. To subscribe please register at [www.peace.ax](http://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](http://www.peace.ax).

Publications can also be ordered from [books@peace.ax](mailto:books@peace.ax).



Ålands fredsinstitut

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