

Activity report

2011

The Åland Islands Peace Institute



Photo: Lukrecija Bielskyte

The highpoint of the year was the conference on the Åland Example as used in international conflict resolution, which gathered together researchers, diplomats, politicians and other interested parties from many parts of the world.

Year 2011 – Focus on Gender Issues, Minorities and the Åland Example

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The Åland Islands Peace Institute (ÅIPI) has three main ambitions, in accordance with the vision approved by the board of directors in 2010, and further developed by an ÅIPI value statement in 2011:

- Serve as a basis for development of knowledge concerning, among other things: the Åland Example, the promotion of conditions for peaceful conflict resolution and empowerment. This goal is realized through research and method development.
- Influence societal development, through the spreading of and discussion of fore mentioned knowledge, through publications, seminars, workshops and lectures.
- Be a local, as well as, an international meeting place for the exchange of knowledge and experience.

The motto for the Åland Islands Peace Institute has become: Thinking and Acting for Peace.

Knowledge has been gained, especially through two Eu-

ropean projects. The research project "European Language Diversity for All" (Eldia) studies the conditions for smaller Finno-Ugrian languages and multilingualism in eight European countries.

The interregional project "Challenging Gender Roles for the Prevention of Trafficking" has included both a study on the effects of the girl and boy group method on gender attitudes, as well as continued theoretical development of the method.

The highlight of the year was the conference on the Åland Example and its application in international conflict resolution, which took place on November 1, 2011, in Mariehamn, and was opened by the President of the Republic of Finland Tarja Halonen. Seldom have so many ministers of parliament, experienced politicians, diplomats from the entire world and researchers been able to meet on the Åland Islands for such discussions lasting an entire day.

Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark
Executive Director

Associate Professor of International Law

Facilities and Liquidity Issues on the Board Agenda

During 2011, the most important issues for the board have been to secure accessibility to building facilities and liquid assets.

The Åland Islands Peace Institute (ÅIPI) is a political and religiously independent foundation. The ÅIPI Board of Directors decides on the overall activities of the institute.

The ÅIPI Board of Directors gained a new member in 2011, the 2011 Speaker for the Åland Parliament and presently the Deputy Head and Minister of Finance with the Government of Åland Roger Nordlund. Bertil Jobeus, former General Council of Sweden on the Åland Islands, decided to withdraw. He was thanked for his many years of valuable service on behalf of the Åland Islands Peace Institute.

During 2011, the Board of Directors has met five times. Besides issues related to daily operations, the Board of Directors has, among other issues, worked on promoting the possibilities for the ÅIPI to remain at its present location, at Hamngatan 4 in Mariehamn. This, as a result of the announcement of the Government of Åland that the building would be put up for sale.

However, the Government of Åland, in its budget for 2012, decided to grant the ÅIPI request to hand over the building to the ÅIPI without charge.

The Board of Directors has also held several discussions regarding the ÅIPI precarious economic situation as the time-lag between expenditures and payments, especially for EU-financed projects, has resulted in the Institute having to cover large sums of money, which has affected the liquidity.

The Institute was forced to open a line of credit and the Board of Directors wrote a debate article suggesting improvements on the European, national and regional level regarding the structure of European financing. The debate article was published in the local newspapers.

Fattigt fredsinstitut vill skjuta upp hyran

"Poor peace institute needs to postpone payment of rent"
Local newspaper Åland 28.9.2011

Vill Åland kunna dra nytta av EU-projekt?

Det är bra och viktigt att EU bör fortsätta att förstärka sin per-

"Does Åland want to take advantage of EU projects?"
Local newspaper Nya Åland 8.12.2011



"The Peace Institute to own its premises"
Local news paper Åland 8.11.2011

Members of the ÅIPI Board of Directors

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.

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

Nils-Gustaf Eriksson. Psychiatrist, expert in crisis management with practice on the Åland Islands.

Sunniva Hansson. University of Essex (Master of Law with specialty in international law and human rights). Works with Media Law. Former intern at the International Crime Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, in The Hague.

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.

Roger Nordlund. Deputy Head and Minister of Finance of the Government of Åland. Former Speaker of the Åland Parliament.

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

Pär Stenbäck. Independent Monitor with the International Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement for Israel-Palestine (MDAPRCS). Board Member in several organizations. Former Minister of Education in the Finnish Government.

The Mandate for the Peace Institute

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.

According to its bylaws, the ÅIPI is to work, both practically and theoretically, to promote and secure peace. The combination of knowledge and action, has been distilled into the formula "Think-Act-Think" and describes the work done by the institute in recent years. The mandate of the ÅIPI translates into an ambition to act both locally on Åland and in the surrounding area, as well as internationally.

The understanding of the Peace Institute is that peace in a broader sense means the absence of violence and the possibility for individuals to develop their full potential. In this sense peace should always be seen as an instrument of empowerment.

The fact that Åland and its unique position is the basis for our work means that the Peace Institute mainly works within three areas of interest: security, self government and minority issues. The Åland Example and its three components demilitarisation and neutralisation, self government and its development, and linguistic and cultural guarantees are analysed and presented to various audiences.

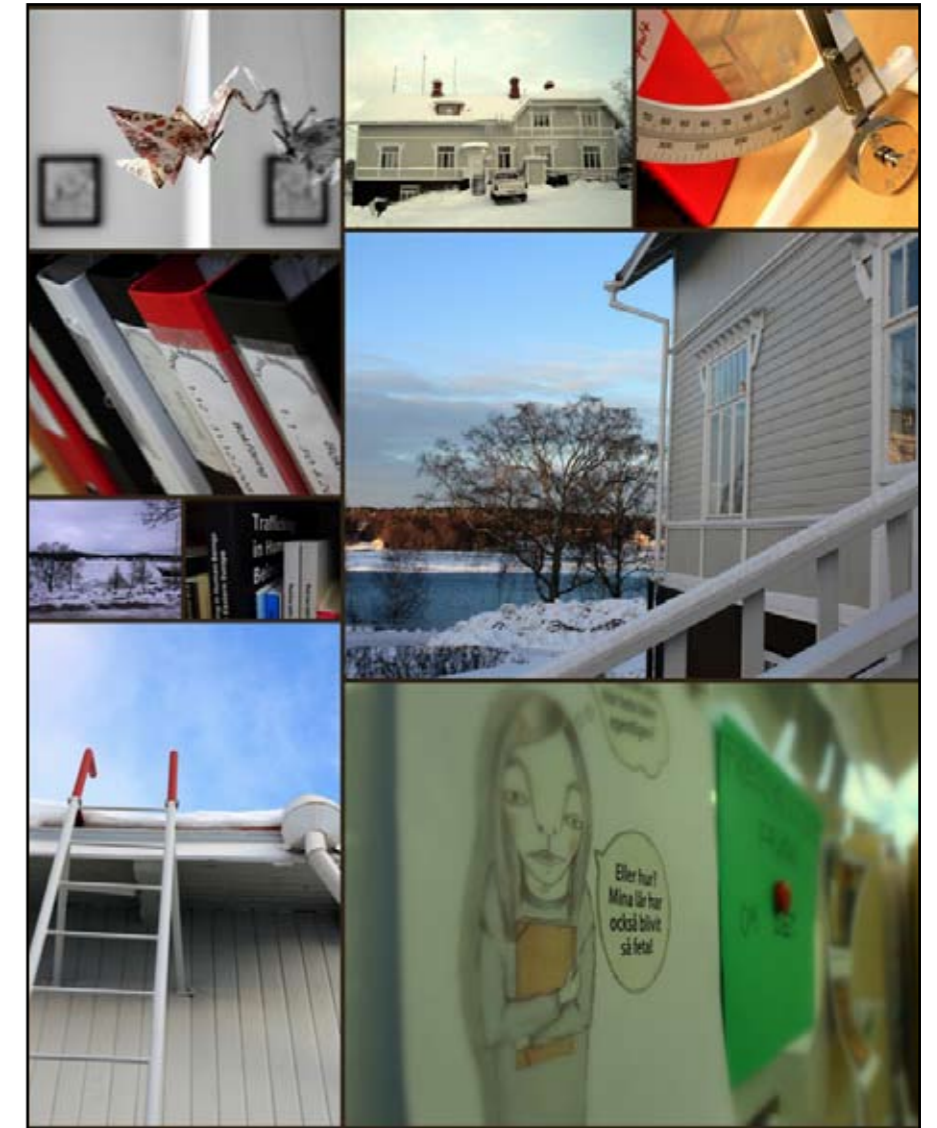
The ÅIPI works to promote peace in many different ways, both on small and large issues, on the individual, as well as, the structural level. The practical work focuses mainly on gender and equality issues, youth and mediation work. The work is done in collaboration with partner organizations on Åland, in Latvia, in Lithuania, in Russia (the regions of Kalingrad and Karelia) plus in Southern Caucasus. The Peace Institute's longstanding involvement with issues of equality between men and women, and the prevention of violence are examples of this work. This work includes gender based violence and human trafficking. On the one hand, equality issues are a field of action on its own right. On the other, a gender dimension is to permeate all work done by the ÅIPI, at an intergovernmental, societal and individual level.

The Åland Islands Peace Institute shares its research, expertise and experiences gained by its practical work on peace, through different forms of

information distribution and lobbying, i.e. through international visits, networking, seminars, conferences, publications, research articles, debate articles, digital newsletters and the homepage www.peace.ax.

The link between the absence of violence and social and individual empowerment is central in the work done by the Peace Institute. Empowerment is both a consequence of peace, and a

requirement for lasting peace. Such a viewpoint allows that both the self-government and the Åland Example can be analysed with the help of the double tool of absence of violence and empowerment of individuals. The two axis in the peace concept, that is, non-violence and empowerment, result in a critical approach which can be applied to all social phenomena and processes.



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International Conference and Book on the Åland Example

That there is international interest in the Åland Example and its potential within conflict resolution was confirmed on Tuesday, November 1, 2011. That was the day when close to 100 people from a multitude of countries gathered in Mariehamn on Åland, to attend the conference “The Åland Example and Its Components - Relevance for International Conflict Resolution”.

The conference was opened by the President of the Republic of Finland Tarja Halonen. Among the speakers were many distinguished diplomats, politicians and researchers, such as, Elisabeth Rehn, Jan Eliasson, Stephan Wolff, Tove Malloy and Markku Suksi, to name a few. The audience consisted of diplomats from countries in Asia and Central Europe, mingling with Members of the Parliament of Åland, Nordic public officials, students and representatives of the media.

The conference was arranged by the Peace Institute as a conclusion of a research project that has been carried out during 2010-2011. The research project studied, on the one hand, the different components of the Åland Example, and on the other hand the Åland Example as a tool for international conflict resolution.

The Director of the Institute and its Head of Research Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark together with the researchers Sarah Stephan and Heidi Öst argues that one can see both continuity and change in what can be classified as the three components of the Åland Example: the self-government and its institutional design, the demilitarisation and the neutralisation in addition to the cultural and linguistic guarantees aimed at minority protection.

The book also documents and analyzes how the Åland Example and its three main components have been used in specific disputes and conflict situations, such as, in the Caucasus, Kashmir, Japan, East Timor, Tibet

and in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Stephan and Öst have interviewed the following distinguished diplomats, politicians and researchers: Heikki Talvitie, Jan Eliasson, Terhi Hakala, Pär Stenbäck, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Sten Widmalm, regarding the use of the Åland Example in connection with attempts of conflict resolution. The book also includes contributions by professor emeritus Yash Ghai, professor Kjell-Åke Nordquist, dr. Fujio Ohnishi and the Åland representative in the Finnish Parliament, Elisabeth Naclér. Many of those who contributed to the research and the book, also participated in the conference.

The book also documents and analyzes how the Åland Example and its three main components have been used in specific disputes and conflict situations

Both in the book and at the conference, the importance of not only discussing institutions was emphasised. One should also discuss processes and the multifaceted contact areas. Many speakers warned against considering the Åland Example as a “one-size-fits-all solution” but to value it as a way of thinking and a tool, which can open up discussions about self-government, demilitarisation and the protection of minorities.

The research and the publication were made possible through financial support by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Åland Parliament Jubilee Fund and the Government of Åland.

On the peace institute homepage: www.peace.ax, there are audio files containing all the conference speeches and discussions, plus power point presentations and other written material, which is available for downloading.

Photo: Lukrecija Bielskyte



ELDIA - European Research on Multilingualism and Minority Languages

By studying and comparing fourteen different language groups in eight European countries the ELDIA researchers collect knowledge about ways to strengthen minority languages and how one can understand language contact in an increasingly globalized world

The project "European Language Diversity for All" (ELDIA) is in process March 2010 until June 2013. Researchers connected to research institutions in six countries study the status of languages such as North Sami in Norway, Karelian and Estonian in Finland, Võro and Seto in Estonia, Finnish in Sweden, Veps in Russia and Hungarian in Austria. These are languages that have not previously been studied extensively. The project will result in a toolbox, which can be compared to a barometer, - a "language vitality barometer" - measuring the vitality of different languages. The role of the ÅIPI in the project is to coordinate the research regarding

the impact of laws and regulations on the preservation of minority languages. In 2011, ten researchers, three of which are working at the ÅIPI, have worked on the judicial, political and institutional portion of the project. Eight out of nine reports were completed for publication on ELDIA's homepage within the report series: "Working Papers in European Language Diversity".

In April 2011, an internal research workshop was held in Mariehamn with the participating researchers: Anders Fogelklou, Nadja Nieminen Mänty, Petra Granholm, Heidi Öst och Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark. In September 2011, the ELDIA project

and the first results of the legal-institutional analysis were presented by Petra Granholm och Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark at the conference "The role of Legislation in Enhancing Linguistic Diversity", arranged by the MERCATOR-Network in Barcelona.

During 2011, three steering committee meetings were held, in Slovenia, Finland and Estonia where the ÅIPI executive director Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark participated. During 2011, planning was initiated for an ELDIA-conference to be held on Åland in September 2012.

The project receives financial support from the EU -7th framework research program.



ELDIA



Researchers Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Heidi Öst, Petra Granholm, Nadja Nieminen Mänty and Anders Fogelklou in ELDIA-discussions at ÅIPI in April 2011.

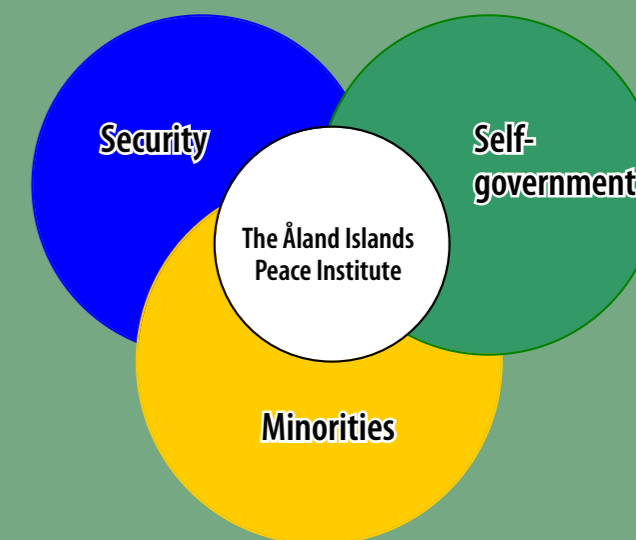
Research

The research done by the ÅIPI concentrates upon the overlapping field of security, self government and minority protection. The aim is to study and promote empowerment for individuals and institutions focused on peace and non-violence. The ÅIPI researchers participate in research projects and often serve as experts at seminars and events arranged by other organizations.

The second research program, which was adopted in 2010, and is in operation for the period 2010-2014, can be downloaded from the ÅIPI homepage. During 2011 research at ÅIPI has been focused on the following:

- The content and relevance of the Åland Example (2010-2011);
- Analysis of attitudes on equality, sexual violence and human trafficking, and the effects of the so called Girl and Boy Group Method on these attitudes (2010-2011).
- Language protection and multilingualism. (European Language Diversity for All, ELDIA, 2010-2013).

The ÅIPI Research Council is a body that safeguards the quality of the work and reports to the Board of Directors. During 2011, the Research Council had the following members: Chair Kjell-Åke Nordquist, Associate Professor at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research at the University of Uppsala and the School of Theology in



Stockholm), Nils-Gustaf Eriksson, psychiatrist, expert on crisis management with own practice on Åland and Dr. Mikael Wigell who was appointed by the board in April 2011 and is a researcher at the Foreign Policy Institute in Helsinki. The ÅIPI executive director Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Associate Professor of international law, is council rapporteur and secretary. During 2011 the council has had two meetings (April and November) and has provided support mainly for the Åland Example research, as well as for other research.

Publications

The publishing activities of the Institute include books and reports. The reports were published, both electronically and on paper. The report series, with the title "Reports from the Åland Islands Peace Institute", releases approximately three issues annually. These reports are authored by the staff, guest researchers, interns or invited authors. During 2010, three reports were published, one method manual on the Girl and Boy Group Method (in two languages), together with a research publication on the Åland Example and its components.



Publications can be ordered from books@peace.ax. A pricelist can be found on the homepage www.peace.ax. All the reports in the series, and selected additional publications, can be downloaded in pdf, free of charge at www.peace.ax.

Åland Demilitarisation - Challenges & Questions

International security policy regimes are not fixed and defined once and for all, but should rather be considered as dynamic, changeable and affected by the ever changing contexts and the changing attitudes and actions of various stakeholders. At a seminar in March 2011, the challenges for the demilitarisation and neutralisation of the Åland Islands were discussed in relation to the different stakeholders' interests.

Commemorating the Day of Demilitarisation on March 30, the ÅIPI arranged, on March 24, 2011, a discussion with the theme: "The Åland Demilitarisation and Neutralisation: Open Questions and Present Challenges", at Hotel Pommern in Mariehamn. Some twenty people participated in the discussion.

Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Executive Director of the Peace Institute and Associate Professor of International Law, started the discussion by presenting the background and present status of the Åland demilitarisation and neutralisation. Amongst the challenges, she mentioned the remilitarization of the Baltic Sea and an increased intermingling between civil and military activities.

Spiliopoulou Åkermark claimed that there are new questions regarding the demilitarisation and the neutralisation. Which status does the regime of Åland have in comparison with for example the UN charter, the EU treaties, or the Open Skies agreement and other military undertakings? Who is to oversee the system and who has the power of interpretation?

She talked about the importance of taking into account all conventions and treaties which regulate the Åland security status, because just such continuity, together with a discussion between several parties, creates international regimes. Therefore it is important to document practice and also to document the points upon which the different parties disagree.

The three overarching questions, that were posed to the commentators and the public, had to do with how can Åland act and vis a vis who; who is Åland in this case and what does Åland want?

Elina Pirjatanniemi, Professor of State and International Law and Head of the Department of Human

Rights at Åbo Akademi, discussed the relationship between military alliances and demilitarisation or neutralisation, and if there possibly exists a tension between the two? If Finland joins NATO, will the fate of the Åland regime lie in the hands of NATO, and will military and political considerations decide the fate of its demilitarisation and its neutralisation?

Harry Jansson, Member of the Åland Parliament, member of the Legal Committee and the Autonomy Committee, said that he is not worried about a NATO membership, as NATO has a tradition of respecting demilitarised areas. In his opinion, the demilitarisation and neutralisation are inseparable parts of the Åland status and that this reasoning has backing in the preamble in Protocol 2 to Finland's accession treaty to the EU, which refers to Ålands special status within international law. Harry Jansson claimed that Åland is not merely a tax exemption within the EU, but also a security policy exemption.

The Speaker of the Åland Parliament, and Chair of the Autonomy Committee, Roger Nordlund, served as moderator for the discussion. He concluded, by stating that the seminar can be seen as a small part of what many of the participants stressed, the value of publicly discussing the demilitarisation and neutralisation.

One of the ÅIPIs most important tasks is to, on the one hand, oversee and on the other hand analyze the special status Åland has within international law. The ÅIPI is actively involved in the discussion regarding the interpretation and application, plus the critical review of international treaties and national laws, which regulate the special status of Åland.

The ÅIPI considers demilitarisation and neutralisation to be measures contributing to peace and trust at a structural level.

Which status does the regime of Åland have in comparison with for example the UN by-laws, the EU treaties, or the Open Skies and other military undertakings?



Debate about Åland and Libya

In a debate article about Åland, Libya and our attitude to international violence, which was published in the local newspapers on March 30 2011, the Åland Day of Demilitarisation, Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Director of the ÅIPI, discussed the resolution on and the interventions in Libya. Military intervention in Libya is legitimized by "the responsibility to protect" civilians, a doctrine not established as a legal obligation in international law. Spiliopoulou Åkermark argued that there is a trend towards increased use of violence, internationally, and that this is mirrored in the fact that the restrictions against violence, in the UN charter can be deviated from and weakened, as has happened in the case of Libya. This can have effects also on a local level. If the UN charter can be re-interpreted, and the prohibition against the use of violence is weakened, could not the same happen with the treaties regarding the Åland demilitarisation and neutralisation, with reference to new security threats (i.e. terrorism) and new security policy cooperations between NATO, the EU or the Nordic Countries? The same day, local newspaper Ålandstidningen, published an opinion piece, written by the editor Niklas Lampi, with the headline "Demilitarisation Unfortunately Doesn't Work Against Khaddafi". Spiliopoulou Åkermark continued the discussion about the Åland demilitarisation and why discussions about peace are necessary. The discussion also inspired Susann Simolin, information officer at ÅIPI, to write the blog "Does the Responsibility to Protect Equal the Right to Intervene with Violence?"

The debate articles and the blog are available in Swedish on the homepage: www.peace.ax.





Girl and Boy Group Work - for Equality and Against Violence

The Girl and Boy Group Method is a Nordic model for work centered on equality and change amongst youth. The method is used both on Åland and internationally, for example in work done in the Baltic countries and in South Caucasus.

A Girl or Boy Group is a leisure time activity within a closed group of 6-8 youth, who meet regularly, usually once a week in the company of a trained adult leader. The value free discussion forms the basis of the method. Values, norms and equality are important themes. There are agreements within the group regarding privacy, attendance and everyone's right to speak without being interrupted. The participants choose the themes to be discussed, as well as the activities to engage in.

This group method aims to strengthen the integrity, self-understanding and ability to cooperate and at the same time to provide tools to question norms, handle conflicts, and actively participate in society.

The Girl Group Method has sometimes been described as a successful

Åland export product. Since 2003, the ÅIPI has, with Emmaus Åland as collaborator and financial partner, developed and spread the Girl Group and later the Boy Group- method in Lithuania, Belarus and Latvia, plus in Kaliningrad (Russia). Emmaus Åland and Save the Children Åland, support the training of leaders and finance the groups in Lithuania.

Girl Groups have been used on Åland since 2005, mainly by the civil society organization Folkhälsan and the City of Mariehamn Youth Department. Recently, work with Boy Groups has also begun.

However, today it is not possible to offer every youth on Åland a chance to participate in these groups. In October 2011, ÅIPI in partnership with Folkhälsan, arranged a discussion with Girl and Boy Group

leaders about the groups. Invited were candidates for the parliamentary and county elections, public officials, within the provincial and county governments, school personnel, youth workers, representatives from the nonprofit sector and other interested. Approximately 40 individuals attended.

During the discussion, it was pointed out that the financing should be institutionalized and guaranteed from year to year, that the coordination between involved parties should be improved and that the information about the possibility to participate in groups should be broadened.

In order to study closer these issues during 2012, the ÅIPI has submitted an application for project funds to the Government of Åland.



Continuing education in the project "Overcoming Gender Disparities as a Tool for Social Change", in Kaliningrad.

Supporting Equality and Civil Society in Lithuania and Russia

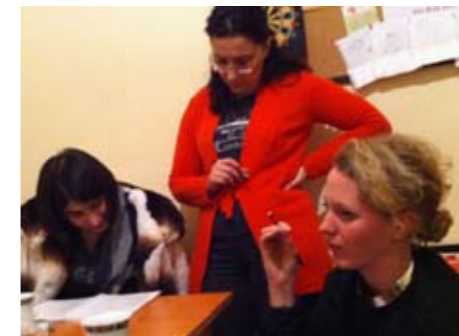
Since September 2010, the ÅIPI administers the project, "Overcoming Gender Disparities as a Tool for Social Change", together with the Lithuanian organization Nendre and the Russian organization Zvezda Nadezhdy in Kaliningrad. The first phase of the project was completed in August 2011. Starting in October 2011 the Nordic Council of Ministers granted a one year extension to the project.

The overall goal of the project is to support the development of civil society and to empower individuals and institutions through among other means, the Girl and Boy Group Method. Using the method as a base, we engage

women and men, and girls and boys in separate discussion groups, where the aim is to promote equality and increase the participants sense of well-being.

During Fall of 2011, the ÅIPI arranged a three day long continuing education course for 22 Russian and Lithuanian group leaders. The course provided an exchange of experiences, as well as a deepening of knowledge, within the area of equality and gender theory.

The project reaches approximately 40 men, 40 women and 100 youth in Lithuania and Kaliningrad. The project's outcomes are studied by the Karelian Center for Gender Studies in Petrozavodsk (Russia).



Visit at Yuva in Baku, fall 2011

Partnership for Center with Gender Perspective in Azerbaijan

Within the project "Open Doors" the ÅIPI co-operates with Yuva Humanitarian Centre, an organization for women in Baku, Azerbaijan. The project started on October 1, 2011. The collaboration is based on a common interest in the Nordic Girl Group Method. Through the project the ÅIPI supports Yuva, for the construction of a center for girls, in one of the most deprived areas of Baku, where Yuva wants to offer girls meaningful leisure activities with a gender perspective. The central themes for the project are gender awareness, empowerment and engagement in society. In 2011, the translation of the Girl

Group manual to Azeri was initiated. Project manager Sarah Stephan and gender expert Ulrika Navier travelled to Baku for a first visit. The partner organizations focused on identifying the need for adaptations, and the challenges connected to the introduction of the method in Azerbaijan. This is a prerequisite to successful use of the method in the new environment, where traditional gender roles are important.

The project is financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emmaus Åland.

Promote Equality Locally, Prevent Human Trafficking Globally



Combined continuing education course for Girl and Boy Group leaders from Åland and Latvia, in Latvia, August 2011.

In order to prevent gender based violence, efforts to promote equality should be aimed at girls as well as boys. This was the basic notion for the project “Challenging Gender Roles to Prevent Trafficking”, when the Girl and Boy Group Method was introduced in Latvia and research was conducted on the effectiveness of the method.

Between October 2009 and December 2011 ÅPII has, in collaboration with the Latvian organization Resource Center for Women, Marta, administered the preventive project “Challenging Gender Roles for the Prevention of Trafficking”. The project has been financed by the Central Baltic Interreg IVA-Programme 2007-2013, while the Government of Åland has contributed with the national co-funding.

The goal of the project has been to develop collaboration between the partner organizations, start Girl and Boy Groups in both countries, measure the effects of participation in a Girl or Boy Group, plus raise questions on prevention of gender based violence in the political and public arena.

The project was special, in that it

is unusual to do proactive work to prevent human trafficking for sexual gains. It is also unusual to focus on boys and men, when working to promote equality. The Boy Group Method is not fully established on Åland, and in Latvia this is the first time the Girl and Boy Group Method has been used. There is also a lack of research, in the effects of the Girl and Boy Group Methods.

During the second half of 2011, the focus has been on tying together project activities with research –into the report “The Effects of the Girl and Boy Group Method – a Gender and Sociopsychological Perspective on Equality Based Youth Work on Åland and in Latvia”. Research shows that a majority of Girl and Boy Group

participants have been positively influenced by their participation, and that they themselves are of the opinion that these groups are one of the few, or even the only places where they have the opportunity to talk about equality and norms, connected to gender.

In December 2011, there were concluding conferences on Åland and in Riga. Popular segments during each conference were two films, produced by Marta, which showed the Girl and Boy Group Method in practice. At the conferences, the research report and the method book on the Girl and Boy Group Method, were also presented.

“Successful youth activity against violence”

Lyckad ungdomssatsning mot våld

– De Åländska beslutsfattarna måste inse att tjej- och killgrupper är billiga investeringar för ett bättre samhälle. Fredsinstitutets projektsatsning på ungdomars beredskap att tackla olika former av könsrelaterat våld är framgångsrik. Men snart behövs nya huvudaktörer.

I tre års tid har Ålands fredsinstitut varit part i EU-projektet “Utmana könsroller för att motverka sexslaveri”. Det handlar om ett interregprojekt med Lettland som i korthet går ut på att genom förebyggande arbete med unga människor öka respekten för jämställdhet i samhället och därmed också förhindra att de blir offer för människohandel.

Tidigare projekt i Litauen har krävt att projektverksamheten ska handla om att förebygga



Project Outcomes

- 65 Girl and Boy Group leaders have been trained (goal: 40 leaders)
 - 27 Girl and Boy Groups have been started (goal: 14 groups)
 - Approximately 200 youth have participated in a Girl or Boy Group (goal: 105 youth).
 - Two information campaigns have been carried out
 - A method manual for Girl and Boy Group leaders has been published in Swedish and in Latvian.
 - A research report has been published in English, Swedish and Latvian.
- The method manual and the research report can be downloaded free of charge at www.peace.ax.

“Sheer praise for Girl and Boy Groups”

Information Campaign

An information campaign entitled Fair Sex, was introduced in April 2011. The goal of the campaign was to prevent sexual violence and encourage discussions about sex and relationships, reciprocity, respect and equality among youth. Posters that depict sexual situations, with drawings by Hanna Stenman, were hung up in schools and youth centers. In cooperation with the City of Mariehamns Youth Department, an event for high school students was arranged in the club house Uncan. The radio station Steel FM broadcasted advertisements about the campaign. The entire campaign can be found on Facebook and on the ÅPII homepage.

The campaign material was used in developing workshops on fair sex, which were held in high schools on Åland. (See page 17).

Research Outcomes

- As to whether the Girl and Boy Group Method challenges gender norms, increases participant awareness of inequality and empowers them, the research shows that:
- participants show greater knowledge of gender issues and have a vocabulary at their disposal to discuss them;
 - participants are able to discuss equality both on an individual and a structural level;
 - participants see gender/gender roles, as a social construction rather than biologically predicated/static;
 - participants exhibit a higher degree of critical thinking around norms linked to gender;
 - participants are to greater degree able to discuss and share their thoughts with others;
 - participants exhibit a higher degree of feelings of security and even an increased sense of confidence.



Picture: Hanna Stenman

School Peace

- Preventive Work in Schools

The ÅIPI has long been engaged in and continues to work for peace education in schools and to prevent violence, bullying and sexual harassment to take place in schools. During 2011, there were discussions about the importance to further strengthen the cooperation and to increase the preventive work done in high school.

The organizations Save the Children Åland the ÅIPI and the Åland Government Department of Education, with Folkhälsan serving as the principal coordinator, work together for school peace on Åland. The project School Peace strives to emphasize the value of having everyone in the education field working together for a humane school climate. For several years, through the project School Peace, the ÅIPI has arranged trainings in the so called StegVis-Method for teachers on Åland. StegVis, is a training program for elementary schools aimed at promoting the students' social and emotional competency and to prevent violence. During 2011, no training was held as the demand was small. On September 8, 2011 School Peace was proclaimed for the fifth time, in the main square of Mariehamn. All students, in grades four and nine on Åland, were invited to the proclamation.

Approximately 300 students from elementary through high school level, participated, as well as the general public. The theme that the students will work with during the 2011-2012 school year is: "Respect".

During 2011, the School Peace organizations have, among other things, discussed the relationship the activities of the School Peace organizations have to the other preventative work done in schools. Who are the participating organizations and which methods are they using? How can the sustainability be guaranteed? The ÅIPI has applied for funding from the Government of Åland to map participating organizations, structures and methods, and to make recommendations for how the preventive work in schools could be strengthened and coordinated, and form a coherent continuity against violence in the everyday life of children and youth.

During Spring and Early Summer of 2011, the school peace organizations; Folkhälsan on Åland, the ÅIPI and Rädda Barnen, as requested by the student health services in the high school, have discussed how the organizations and the student health services could cooperate to increase and improve anti violence and health promotion work for high school youth. School peace programs, that have taken place in high school classes, during recent years, have been provided by the organization Folkhälsan (i.e prevent sexual harassment/ violence and gender based bullying by the lectures "Love Doesn't Start with Fighting"). During 2011, a new program, workshops on fair sex for high school students, was introduced (see next page).



Elever och allmänhet vid torget i Mariehamn då skolfred utlystes. FOTO: DANIEL ERIKSSON

Skolfred utlystes på torget

Skolfredsåret 2011-2012 utlyses på torget i Mariehamn den 8 september. Alla åländska skolans årskurs fyra och nio hade bjödits in till evenemanget.

Med utlysandet av skolfred vill man bland annat betona att skolfred inte kan byggas upp på en dag, utan är en del av skolarbetet under hela läsåret.

På programmet stod bland annat sång och

musik av Lemlands och Lumparlands skolor, festtal av vicelantrådet Britt Lundberg, postning av fredshälsningar samt musik av Ålands musikintituts elever.

Skolfredsarbetet är ett samarbete mellan utbildningsbyrån vid Ålands landskapsregering, Ålands Fredsinstitut, Landskapsföreningen Folkhälsan på Åland och Rädda Barnen på Åland.

NINA ERIKSSON



Lemlands och Lumparlands elever uppträder. DANIEL ERIKSSON

"School Peace proclaimed in Mariehamn". The newspaper Åland 10.9.2011

Workshops in Åland Schools: Sex, Expectations and Limits

"When is it too late to say no?" "Is it ok to nag oneself to sex?" Is it true that boys always want sex?" As part of the ÅIPI violence prevention work, these and other questions about sex and relationships have been discussed with all students in grades two in high school.

Media, pornographic films and the sex education in schools, sometimes give conflicting messages about sex. Often, there is a lack of discussion about communication, relationships, respect, values, norms and equality in relation to sex.

During Spring 2011, within the project "Challenging Gender Roles for the Prevention of Trafficking", ÅIPI carried out the campaign FAIR SEX. The campaign material addresses questions such as: "What do I want? How should I express what I want? How do I know what the other person wants? How should I deal with what other people think?" To discuss and think about such questions can increase the probability for positive sexual experiences, as well as decrease the risk of becoming a victim of, or the risk of victimizing someone else through insulting treatment and assault.

Using the campaign material, the ÅIPI has, by request of the high school health services and financed by the Government of Åland, developed and run workshops about Fair Sex, as part of the School Peace project. The workshops have been offered to all grade two high school students.

The purpose of the FAIR SEX workshop is to encourage discussions about sex and relationships, reciprocity, respect and equality, in order to prevent sexual violence and to promote positive sexual experiences among youth. Besides the questions already mentioned in the campaign, the workshop also focuses on questions such as: "How can I avoid hurting someone (even by mistake)?" "How can I make sure that I don't hurt myself and that I act out of concern for myself and others, rather than for example based on norms, expectations and opinions about how one 'should' behave?" All this is connected to communication - the ability to dare discuss issues about and around sexual relationships - before, during and after.



Ulrika Navier from ÅIPI talks about fair sex.

The workshop is interactive. For two class hours (tot. 75 minutes), students discuss sexual expectations and norms, with trained leaders. Students have the opportunity to among other things, practice how to say no to things they don't want to do, both before, during and after sexual intercourse. Students also have the opportunity to think about how to communicate one's own wishes in a positive way and also how to find out what the other person wants, before acting, so not to risk overstepping anyone's boundaries.



Picture: Hanna Stenman

Education for Mediators Held on Åland

Mediation, in cases of violence in close relationships, and the voluntary work, as the pillar of mediation, were two of the themes discussed when volunteer mediators from the Swedish speaking region of Finland gathered in Mariehamn for the annual Swedish language mediation days.

Mediation in Finland is based on volunteering. In Finland there are approximately 1100 active volunteer mediators, of which about 120 are Swedish speaking. Continuing education is arranged annually for the mediators. In 2011, the Åland Mediation Office served as host for the event that took place in Mariehamn, September 10-11, 2011, in cooperation with the Regional office of Lapland, the Mediation Office of Western Nyland and the Mediation Office of Ostrobothnia. The event drew 25 participants.

Professor Henrik Lindeborg lectured about the benefits and the drawbacks of retributive law, in comparison to reparative law. Henrik Elonheimo, Doctor of Law, discussed volunteerism as the basis for mediation work in Finland. How widespread can mediation become, based on volunteerism? The majority of the participating mediators emphasized that there are many benefits with a system of volunteer mediators. Most important of all is the fact that the parties themselves are encouraged to develop a solution to the conflict, rather than expect the volunteer mediators to present a solution.

The theme, violence in close relationships, was discussed by Christina Wiknér-Löthman. Mediation, in cases of violence in close relationships, is

permitted only in limited circumstances in Finland. Only the police and the prosecutor can initiate mediation in such cases. Normally, to take on such cases, it is required that the mediator has participated in specialized education in mediation in cases of violence.

As a result of the training on Åland, additional Swedish language training in mediation, in cases of violence in close relationships, is being planned, in cooperation, with the Åland and

the Turku Offices of Mediation.

The question regarding whether it is appropriate to mediate in cases of intimate relationships has been frequently debated, both on Åland and on the Finnish mainland.

Amnesty International in Finland has maintained an electronic appeal to prohibit mediation in cases of close relationships. On Åland the question is currently being discussed within the mediation commission and the ÅIPI Board of Directors.



An Interview with Dr. Henrik Elonheimo published in connection with the Swedish language mediation days. Fax from the newspaper Åland 15.9.2011.



The Åland Mediation Office

Since the fall of 2006, the Åland Islands Office of Mediation offers mediation services, between parties in cases of criminal acts and in certain cases of disputes. Mediation is prescribed by law and the Finnish National Bureau of Åland purchases the services from the ÅIPI. If neither of the parties revokes the contract, it is renewed annually. During 2011, a total of 24 mediation meetings were held. In 18 of the cases the mediation work resulted in a settlement.

Furthermore the goal of the Mediation Office has

been to strengthen the contacts with mediators, mediation offices and organizations both on the Finnish mainland and in Sweden, to distribute information about the Mediation Office to the general public, and to support the volunteer mediators, and through continued training help them grow in their role as mediators.

The Mediation Office is financed by the Ministry of Social and Health Affairs, Finland.

Young in Europe

The ÅIPI is included in several networks with links to EU youth programs. Within the framework of these networks there are opportunities to participate and arrange various youth exchanges. The aim for these exchanges is to provide youth on Åland opportunities to get to know people from other cultures, and to share knowledge on peace and peaceful solutions to conflict.

The ÅIPI is both a sending and receiving organization for the European Voluntary Service (EVS). The goal for EVS is to create solidarity, promote active participation in society and mutual understanding between young people. In addition to creating value for the host society, the volunteers are to learn new skills and languages and to discover new cultures.

ÅIPI, as the only accredited organization on Åland, has so far provided support to all youth on Åland, who have shown an interest in EVS.

During 2011, the ÅIPI has worked on creating a simpler EVS profile, with focus on collaboration with already established partner organizations.

On the right, Gunel Isakova, volunteer from Azerbaijan. Below some of her pictures taken on Åland



ÅIPI Volunteers



During 2011, the ÅIPI received three volunteers and sent one volunteer for service abroad.

Jeanette Mauricio (Spain) is a journalist, who volunteered at the ÅIPI from August 2010 to May 2011. She worked mainly with communication and gender issues. Jeanette holds a Masters degree, in both Human Rights and Gender Studies at Complutense University in Spain. In addition she holds a Masters degree in Journalism from San Marcos National University in Peru.

Lukrecija Bielskyte (Lithuania) was an EVS-volunteer at the ÅIPI from August 2010 to May 2011. Lukrecija is a trained linguist from Vilnius University and her main subjects of study are Swedish and literature. During her time at the ÅIPI she worked with the EVS program and

collaborative regional work. She was, above all, responsible for the contacts between Åland and Lithuania.

Gunel Isakova (Azerbaijan) volunteers at the ÅIPI from September 2011 to June 2012. She will be working with the Project Open Doors (empowerment for young women in Azerbaijan), plus with new project development. Gunel studies International Relations at Baku Slavic University.

In February 2011 Moa Rytterstedt, 17 years old and from Åland, travelled to Leipzig in Germany to volunteer at the preschool FAIRbund e.V for seven months.



Jeanette



Lukrecija



Gunel

Information and Influence

The ÅIPI strives to influence societal development towards peace, both locally and internationally. To that aim the ÅIPI shares information about its work and expertise and to inform and influences debates on issues within the core areas of the institute.

We publish books and reports, arrange seminars and lectures, write debate articles and blog entries, as well as provide information about our work on our home page www.peace.ax, on Facebook and through digital newsletters.



Homepage www.peace.ax

During 2011, a total of 17,335 visitors and 29,808 visits were registered on www.peace.ax. During 2011, eleven blog entries on the Åland Peace blog were authored by the ÅIPI current or former personnel, guest researchers and board members or by invited guest writers.

Occasionally the ÅIPI has also started using Facebook for both general communication and communication directed to specific groups.

Newsletters

The ÅIPI sends out free newsletters, by email, to subscribers and information to key organizations. During 2011, four newsletters were sent. Visitors are asked if they would like to become subscribers and those who are interested can register at our homepage: www.peace.ax.



Networks, Visits and Cooperation

The ÅIPI wishes to share and exchange knowledge with individuals and institutions, that have information, within the ÅIPI interest areas, plus establish cooperation and gain support from individuals and organizations that can support ÅIPI.

The ÅIPI hosts both local, Nordic and international visitors and adapts the information provided according to the needs of the visitors.

An important link in the information and research work is the participation in different networks, as well as, the visibility at chosen conferences and meetings. Among the networks that ÅIPI participates in are: the ÅIPI consultative status within the UN at the Economic and Social Council ECOSOC, the contact group between the Government of Åland and the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where the executive director of ÅIPI is a participant, plus the Peace Union of Finland, where the administrative director Bror Myllykoski is a board member.

All the projects that ÅIPI is involved in are built on close cooperation with other organizations, both on an international, and a local level. As examples of this are the participation in Project Peace Education, the cooperation with the Department of Human Rights at Åbo Akademi and the long lasting cooperation between the ÅIPI, Emmaus Åland and the Centre for Women and Children in Nendre, Lithuania.

Open Reference Library

The ÅIPI reference library is included in the Åland data base Katrina and therefore, the material is available to the general public.

Over the years the library has been supplemented with literature specific to the areas relevant to the activities of the ÅIPI. The library contains 1682 titles.

The on-line database has also, over the years, been supplemented with additional material and now contains 2235 articles.



Debate Articles

The ÅIPI works at influencing opinions by offering debate articles to various newspapers. The goal is to publish 4-5 articles per year. During 2011, eight opinion pieces were published in the local newspapers and one in the national newspaper Hufvudstadsbladet. The articles dealt with, among other things, efforts to prevent sexual violence, the relationship of the right to domicile to Finnish citizenship and why it is important to talk about peace.



Jonstoj, as guest columnist for the newspaper Åland, under the theme "Summer Leaders".

Visits by Journalists

On August 20-21, 2011 Åland was visited by a group of journalists from Afghanistan, who visited Finland as part of a cooperative venture between Female Journalists Inc. and the project "Learning together". The group visited the ÅIPI to learn more about Åland and the gender based work done by the institute. They also met with the staff of the newspaper Åland to exchange ideas with female journalists who work locally.



Problematiskt slopa krav på finländskt medborgarskap

STORINGSRÅDET vill sträva mot att Ålands befolkning ska kunna bli finländska medborgare. Detta innebär att de som har varit utländska medborgare ska kunna bli finländska medborgare. Detta innebär att de som har varit utländska medborgare ska kunna bli finländska medborgare.

In addition to the ÅIPI opinion articles and advertisements, the institute was mentioned 76 times in the local media, during 2011. The ÅIPI also contributed three times to work related articles in the magazine Fredsposten. The ÅIPI staff members Jenny Jonstoj and Justina Donielaite were asked to participate as guest writers for the newspaper Åland, under the theme "Summer Editorials".

Seminaries

The ÅIPI arranges seminars, conferences, lectures and discussions about present issues that have relevance for the ÅIPI. The ÅIPI researchers and other personnel also participate in seminars arranged by other organizations, on Åland as well as abroad.

During 2011, the ÅIPI arranged on their own, as well as, in cooperation with other organizations, seven seminars locally. ÅIPI personnel served as speakers at nine external seminars. Plans for a seminar, either in Helsinki or Stockholm, have been postponed to 2012 and 2013.

Examples of events during 2011:

- 7.3.2011 Panel debate: How to Prevent Sexual Violence?
- 21.3.2011 The Anti Racism Day: Discussion on racism, held in cooperation with the Multicultural Society of Åland.
- 24.3.2011 The Åland Day of Demilitarisation and Neutralisation: Open Questions and Present Challenges.
- 10-11.9.2011: The annual Swedish language mediation days were arranged in Mariehamn.
- 3.10.2011: Discussion about Girl and Boy Groups, held with group leaders in cooperation with the organization Folkhälsan on Åland.
- 1.11.2011 Close to 100 individuals from many different countries gathered in Mariehamn for the international conference: "The Relevance of the Åland Example and its Components for International Conflict Resolution."



Personnel

The board of Directors appoints staff members, proposed by the executive director. During 2011 The ÅIPI had in total 7,45 full time positions, distributed among 20 some individuals, with different terms of employment.

Staff Members:

Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Executive Director, 80 %.
 Susann Simolin, Public Relations Manager, 75 – 100 %.
 Bror Myllykoski, Administrative Manager, 100 %.
 Heidi Öst, Researcher and Meditation Program Manager, 80-100%.
 Sarah Stephan, Researcher and Project Manager, 50 – 100 %.
 On leave of absence 01.03-14.09.2011.
 John Knight, Librarian, 13,5%.
 Denis Nazarenko, Research Assistant, 50 %. 1.1 – 30.6.2011.
 Fredrik Karlsson, Bookkeeper, hourly employee.
 Frans Jansson, Cleaner, hourly employee. 1.1 – 30.6.2011.
 Signe Jansson, Cleaner, hourly employee. Starting 1.7.2011.

Project Staff:

Jenny Jonstoj, Project Manager, 100 %
 Ulrika Navier, Project Manager and Project Assistant 40 –100 %
 Golnar Bahar, Project Assistant, 50 %
 Gunilla Björkman-Bobb, Financial Manager, 70 – 80 %. 1.1 –31.7.2011.
 Justina Donielaite, Project Manager, 45 %. On maternity leave 1.1 – 28.2, 2011.
 Ann-Louise Idman, Financial Manager, 70 %. 1.11 – 31.12.2011
ELDIA Project Researchers:
 Petra Granholm, ÅIPI.
 Anders Fogelklou, Uppsala University.
 Lisa Grans, Åbo Akademi.
 Marianne Meior, Estonian Human Rights Center.
 Petra Roter, University of Ljubljana.
 Dewa Zwitter, University of Graz

Interns

The ÅIPI sees internships as a way of supporting education and development of competencies in the ÅIPI fields of interest. Each year the ÅIPI hosts several interns, mostly university students.

During the Summer of 2011 the ÅIPI hosted three university interns. Charlotte Winberg, holds a masters Degree in Political Science. She majored in International Law at Åbo Akademi. Charlotte assisted with the publication and conference on the Åland Example, in addition to working at the Åland Mediation Office. Martha Hannus, enrolled in an International Masters Program in Political Science, Economics and Global Studies in Gothenburg worked as Project Assistant within the research project ELDIA , plus with ÅIPI information development.

Lovisa Helguson Arlid, was Project Manager and coordinator for discussion groups organized by the organization Rädde Barnen. She is an experienced presenter on gender- and equality issues and worked with the project "Challenging Gender Roles for the Prevention of Trafficking". Lovisa holds a Masters Degree in Behavioral Sciences from Uppsala University, with Psychology as her major.

During Fall of 2011, Vincent Okeyo started his internship at the ÅIPI , working two days a week with the project Integration.ax at the Åland Adult Education Program.



Financing

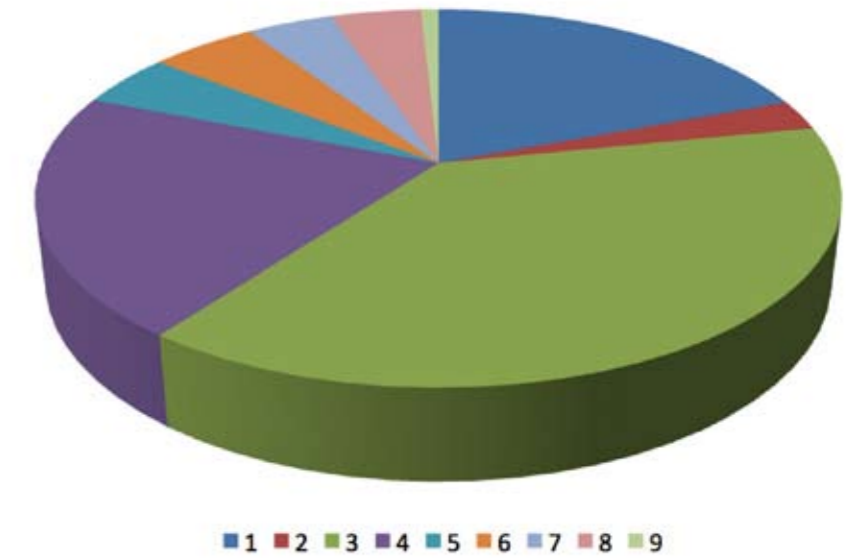
The budget of the Åland Islands Peace Institute increased from 578.113 euro in 2010 to 591.136 euro in 2011, a 2 % increase.

In 2011, the ÅIPI received EU funding for two large scale projects. As these projects have placed high demands on the basic functions, 2011 has proved challenging for the necessary administrative functions.

The basic functions of ÅIPI, such as office and facilities , personnel administration, the work of the Board, budgeting, accounting and organizational planning, plus project planning and coordination form the basis for all other work and create the prerequisite for attracting external funding for various projects.

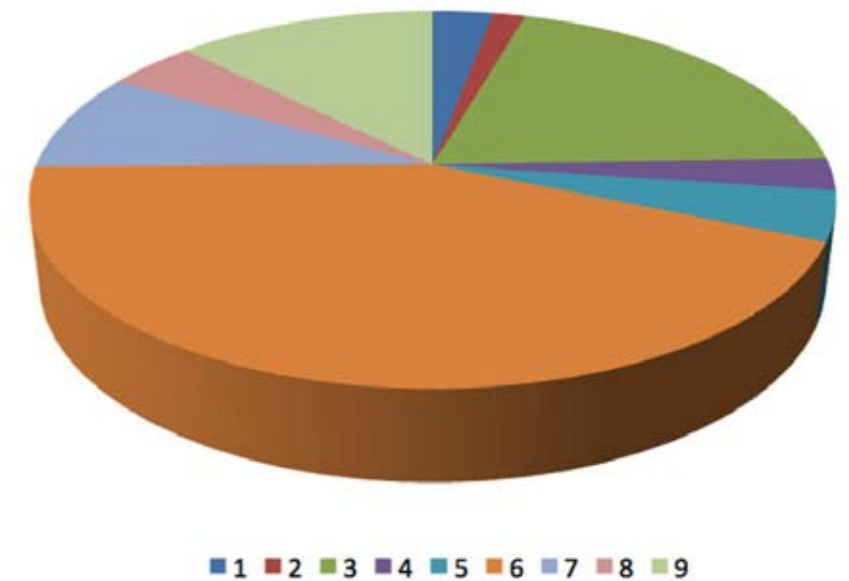
The ÅIPI achievements reached in all areas of work have been accompanied by liquidity challenges. This demonstrates the vulnerability of a small organization, which depends on quick repayments of expenditures for various projects, plus a stable base funding. The ÅIPI Board decided that securing a line of credit could provide liquidity during periods of lag in payments of approved project funds. This opportunity was used during the latter part of 2011. The ÅIPI Board and the Executive Director have commenced discussions with the Government of Åland regarding the structure of the Interreg Program's negative effects on smaller organizations. Suggestions were offered on ways to improve the program and thus make it possible for organizations on Åland to participate. The EU 7e program for research has also been late in paying for approved expenditures during 2011.

Expences 2011



Category	Amount	Percentage
1. Basic functions	113 774	19%
2. Seminars and youth exchanges	15 145	3%
3. International empowerment projects	226 899	38%
4. Research	122 976	21%
5. Education	26 988	5%
6. Mediation	30 331	5%
7. Information and publications	24 513	4%
8. Volunteers	25 571	4%
9. Library	4 939	1%
Total	591 136	100%

Revenue 2011



Category	Amount	Percentage
1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs	16 872	3%
2. Ministry of Education	9 000	2%
3. PAF (Åland government)	117 000	20%
4. City of Mariehamn	16 000	3%
5. CIMO (youth exchanges)	24 740	4%
6. EU funding	253 011	43%
7. Nordic Council of Ministers	49 522	8%
8. County Administrative Board (mediation)	24 943	4%
9. Other contributions, consultancies, rentals	72 711	12%
Total	583 779	100%



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 sufficiently 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. The purpose of the peace fund is to support work for peace.

Payments can be made to:

Andelsbanken 557804-57 52 48
IBAN: FI45 5578 0450 0752 48
BIC: OKOYFIHH

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

Peace addresses are available in all banks and at funeral homes on Åland.

Newsletter

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



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The authors are solely responsible for the information in this publication.

