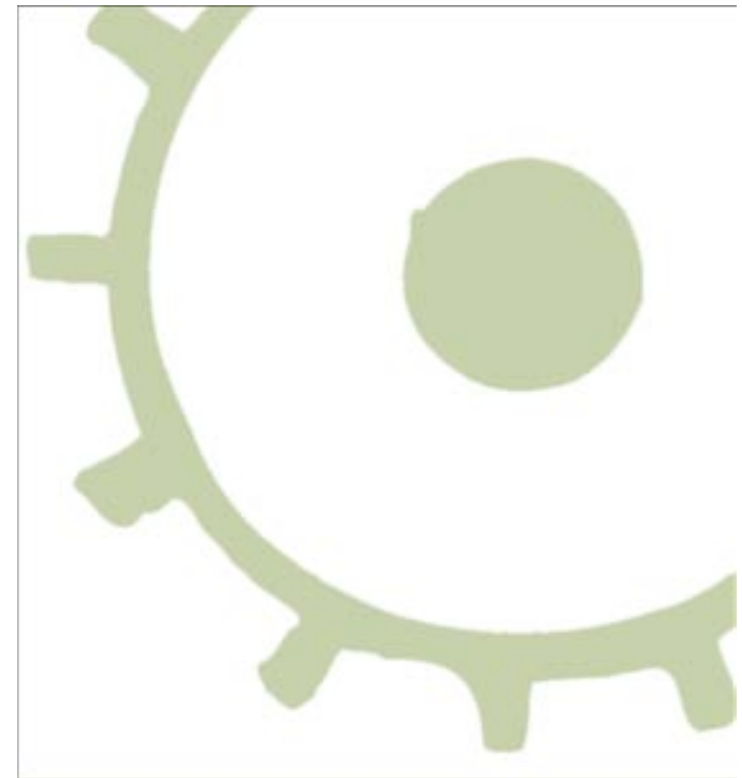


Peace issues from the vantage point of a periphery of Europe

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On threats and violence

- Violence presented as the 'natural' and unavoidable response to present-day threats
- Militarisation as a trend (post European Security Strategy 2003)
- The fusion of military and civilian activities and spheres
- The problem of the absence of non-violent alternatives in every day life as well as in international politics



The importance of autonomous regions as 'good practices' in Europe and around the world

- Managing diversity within state borders, both in terms of regional identities as well as for more recent migrants
- Enhancing multi-level governance at European level
- Autonomy as enhanced contacts rather than isolation



Some conclusions from a recent report

Regional voices in the European Union

- regions with legislative
power and multi-level
governance**

Perspectives for the Åland Islands

By Sarah Stephan

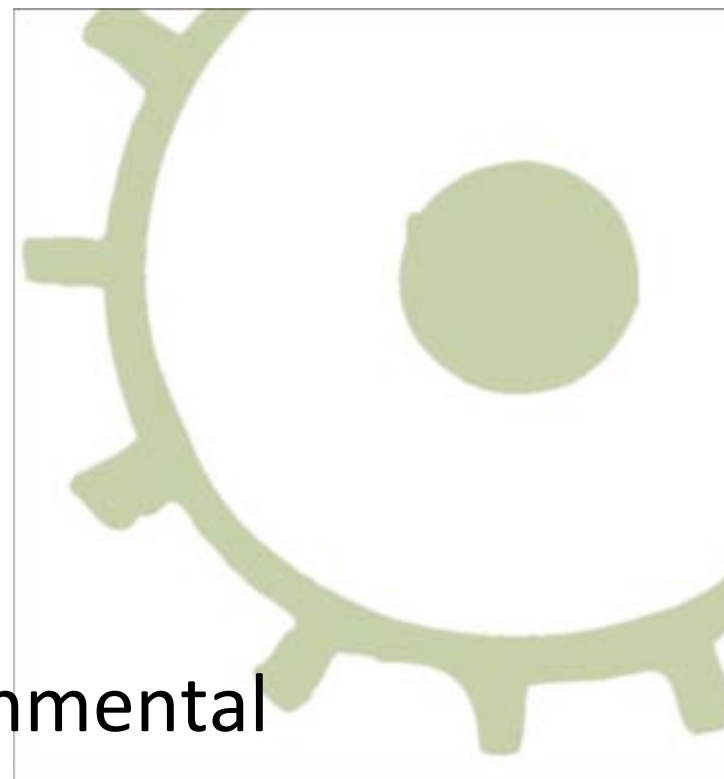
Report from The Åland
Islands Peace Institute

No. 1 – 2010



Indicators of degree of influence of regions

- Constitutional guarantees
- Interregional and intergovernmental contacts: density and intensity
- Regional entrepreneurship: finding areas of expertise and input



Åland as a meeting place and source of knowledge



- Knowledge, expertise and source of inspiration
- Meeting place for own and others' initiatives



The Åland example illustrates



- Self-government modes
- Demilitarisation & neutralisation
- Minority protection

Combined with

- The Nordic "model" (Human rights, gender equality, a culture of dialogue and consensus, belief in rule of law & minimum general welfare)



Crucial aspects of peace work



Knowledge (think) \leftrightarrow Action (act)

Bottom/up \leftrightarrow Top/down

Long term initiatives \leftrightarrow Short term action



The Åland Islands Peace Institute



The Åland Islands Peace Institute

- Founded in 1992
- Religiously and politically independent
- Basic functions financed by Åland, Education ministry of Finland and the city of Mariehamn (20%)
- Project-based financing for other activities (Nordic, EU, foundations, 80%)
- Total budget 570.000 (2010)
- 6,75 fulltime positions (11 persons)



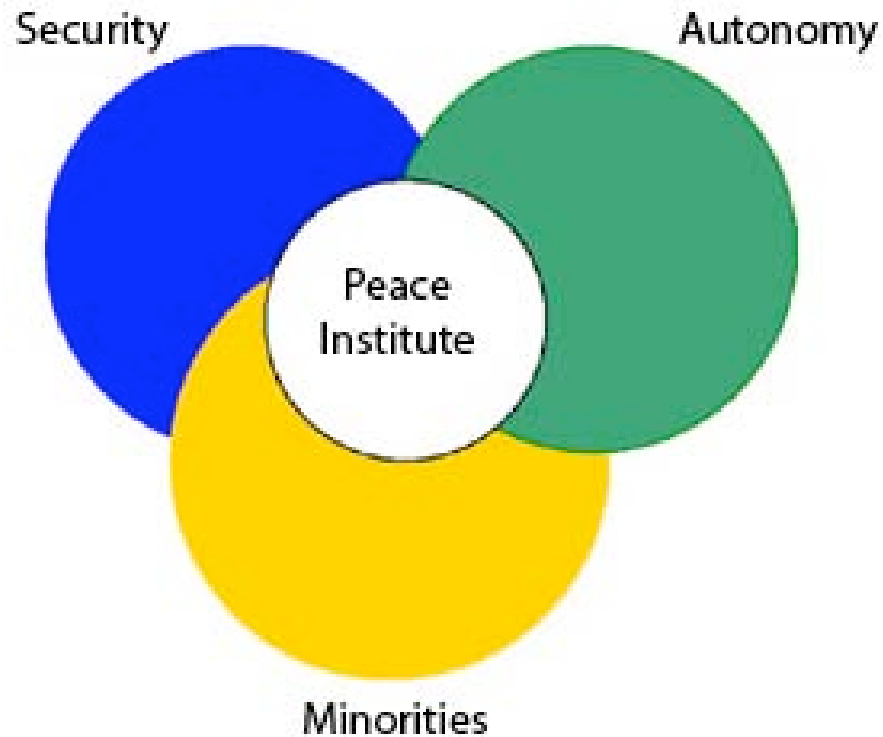
Core activities

- Research and activities related to peace and conflict resolution using the Åland example as a starting point
- Information about Åland to the outside world
- Meet the need of the Åland population for international contacts and knowledge about security, minorities and autonomy



Research

Statutes (1992):



Peace work from a
theoretical as well as a
practical perspective

Core task: finding alternatives to violence and disempowerment



My question to you:



What can regions in Europe do to enhance peaceful conditions locally, regionally and globally?

For more information

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