

Activity Report

2012

The Åland Islands Peace Institute



2012 - A genuine jubilee year

2012 has been a jubilee year for the Åland Islands Peace Institute. At the same time however, the situation in many parts of the world has not been peaceful at all. War, civil wars, increased security tensions and undemocratic tendencies are evident in Europe and the rest of the world, despite of the continued power that lies within the changes in Arab societies and certain positive steps for peace that have been taken, for example in Colombia.

The year 2012 has passed quickly but it has been so rich and intense for the Peace Institute to feel like a decade as regards the experiences, knowledge and contacts gained. There have been many highlights, big and small ones. The Institute's staff has been able to focus on their respective areas of expertise, develop their competences, spread information and build networks for the benefit of peace. This not least after the question of the Institute's premises had been solved with the donation of its current site by the Government of Åland to the Institute in time for the 20 years jubilee.

Knowledge about the Åland Example has been spread beyond Åland thanks to the research results published as a book in late 2011. Presentations, seminars and discussions have taken place in Helsinki, Brussels, Valencia and Flensburg in co-operation with a number of research institutions and other actors. The knowledge presented in the book has been developed further and towards new directions in the framework of a special edition for an international academic journal which will be published in the spring of 2013. Planning has commenced for different types of courses and information packages based on this new knowledge about the Åland Example.

The research done about minority languages and multilingualism in Europe (ELDIA) has been published

in a report series and has been presented on Åland at a conference in September 2012.

Its presence in Åland's society is important for the Åland Islands Peace Institute as its work is based on the premise to work on the international level as well as on Åland and that empowerment is needed both locally and globally. In this respect the project "Fair Sex" has been a big engagement in 2012. The project has comprised in-service training for teachers on dealing with and preventing sexual harassment and sexual violence in secondary and upper-secondary schools as well as workshops about relationships and sexual relations for all students enrolled in the second year of all upper secondary schools on Åland.

During its jubilee year the Åland Islands Peace Institute has felt more than ever like a meeting place and a place to network. The method symposium on gender equality in May brought together women and men from the whole Baltic area and Azerbaijan. The participants from the Baltic states constitute a great source of knowledge and inspiration and the long-term co-operation between Åland and the Baltic states shows the importance of continuity and competence development also in this area of work. The international peace meeting "Voices for Peace" provided musician, journalists and peace activists from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Great Britain, Åland, Sweden and Finland with the opportunity to meet and learn from each other. The meetings resulted in a fine theater performance and a joyful concert.

In short, 2012 has been marked by hard work, fantastic people and joyfulness.

Dr. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark
Director
Associated Professor

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The Board of Directors

In 2012 the Institute's Board of Directors formed a real estate company, adopted a policy for mediation in cases of domestic violence and wrote an op-ed about the Institute's political independence.

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

The ÅIPI Board of Directors gained one new member in 2012. During her time as board member Sunniva Hansson supported the ÅIPI with her advice, but had to terminate her commitment due to her professional obligations in London. Sunniva Hansson remains an informal adviser to the Institute. In her stead Lotta Angergård was elected as a new member of the board. Lotta constitutes a great asset for the ÅIPI especially in light of her professional capacity as a Government adviser on youth policy and her long experience in working in the third sector.

In 2012, the Board convened five times. Besides issues related to daily operations, the Board of Directors has, among other issues, worked with questions related to the real premises where the ÅIPI is located. In 2012 the Åland Parliament made a decision that the real estate Stora-gatan 23/Hamngata 4 in Mariehamn was to be donated to the ÅIPI. Following this decision, the ÅIPI founded the real estate company Fredsfast AB in order to administer the premises the Peace Institute now owned.

The Board has also held several thematic discussions and eventually adopted on a policy regarding how the issue of violence in domestic settings and close relationships is to be dealt with by the Mediation Office.

In view of an article in the local paper Ålandstidningen framing Åland's demilitarization as a left-wing project and in this context mentioning the ÅIPI, the Board decided to write a letter to the editor with clarifications regarding the political independence of the ÅIPI and the position of demilitarization and neutralization in international law (see news paper clippings to the right).



News paper clippings, Tidningen Åland, 17.1 (left), 27.1 (above) and 14.11.2012 (below).

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. Experiences in various international development co-operations.
- Ulla Backlund.** Active in the Norwegian Refugee Council, former director of the Norwegian Refugee Council offices in Georgia, Burundi and Lebanon.
- 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 mission of the ÅIPI

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

According to its Statute, the ÅIPI's mission 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", a motto that serves well to describe 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 to their full potential. In this sense peace should always be seen as an instrument of empowerment.

The fact that Åland and its unique status 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) and in the South Caucasus. The Peace Institute's longstanding involvement with issues of equality between men and women, and the prevention of violence, including gender-based violence and human trafficking, are examples of this work. 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 results, expertise and



experiences gained in its practical work on peace, through different forms of information distribution and lobbying, i.e. through international visits, networking, seminars, conferences, publications, research articles, op-eds, digital newsletters and its 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 axes in this concept of peace, that is, non-violence and empowerment, result in a critical approach which can be applied to all social phenomena and processes.

Jubilee 2012



The year of 2012 was a festive year since it marked the 20 years since the ÅIPI was founded. This was celebrated at different occasions during the year through public events. The ÅIPI also launched its own stamp, arranged a garden party and held a seminar launching a report which investigates and describes the process leading to the establishment of the Åland Islands Peace Institute.

The garden party ...

Despite the rainy weather the Institute's 20-years jubilee garden party on 9th of June attracted some 70 visitors that mingled, enjoyed the speeches, the music performed by the local band Berry High and exhibition of newspapers clippings documenting the history of the Peace Institute. The programme included also a ceremonial handover of the premises at Hamngatan 4 which were donated to the Institute by the Government of Åland. Minister of

the Åland Government Gun-Mari Lindholm presented a symbolic golden key to the Director of the Peace Institute, Dr. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark. The garden party was celebrated on the day of the 90-years jubilee of the autonomy of Åland. Dr. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark was awarded a jubilee medal as a recognition of her achievements to the benefit of Åland.



The history ...

On October 25th 1992, the Åland Peace Association established the foundation "The Åland Islands Peace Institute". Precisely 20 years later, on the 25th of October 2012 the ÅIPI invited the public to an open seminar to launch a new report written by Martha Hannus, who made an investigation into the process that led to the establishment of the Institute. The report describes how the process was characterized by different visions of what civil society should do, of what peace actually is and could be, and on the specific relationship between Åland and mainland Finland. The process is also an example of the successful civil society advocacy, and an example of how a minority's perception of itself can change over time.

The report can be downloaded from the homepage of the ÅIPI in Swedish and English.



The stamp ...

On 30th of March, the Åland Demilitarisation Day, an ÅIPI-stamp designed by artist Amanda Chanfreau was launched at the Post Office in Mariehamn, along with an original first day collector's stamp.

The stamp was designed by Amanda Chanfreau, a Swedish-Finnish artist grown up on Åland. She devotes most of her time to painting but has also created costumes for dancing and performance, textile painting, sculptures in clay and concrete as well as photography, videos and drawings. The picture for the ÅIPI jubilee and stamp was designed in a humouristic tune, depicting tired peace doves returning home after a great jubilee celebration.



The Åland Example on tour

A core task of the ÅIPI is to analyse and spread knowledge about the Åland Example and its relevance in international conflict resolution. In 2012 the ÅIPI contributed to discussions on the Åland Example and territorial autonomy from a broader perspective at several seminars arranged outside of Åland.



Seminar in Helsinki. Erkki Tuomioja, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland; Johannes Koskinen, Chair of the Constitutional Law Committee, Parliament of Finland; Britt Lundberg, Speaker of the Åland Parliament; Roger Jansson, member of the Åland Parliament and Member of the Board of Directors of the ÅIPI; Camilla Gunell, Head of the Åland Government and Arne Selander, Head of Administration of the Åland Government.

Helsinki

About 120 persons, many of them diplomats, politicians and civil servants, attended the seminar "The Prospects of the Åland Example as a tool of Nordic Peace Mediation - Tackling Identity Conflicts, Autonomy and Minority Rights", held in Helsinki the 10th of April 2012. The seminar was arranged by the Finnish Institute of International Affairs and the Åland Islands Peace Institute with the support of the Constitutional Law Committee of the Parliament of Finland, and the Contact Group for Åland and the MFA of Finland.

The keynote speaker was Mr Erkki Tuomioja, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Moderator was Dr. Teija Tiilikainen, Director of the Finnish Institute of International Affairs.

The Director of the Åland Islands Peace Institute Dr. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Ass. Prof in International Law, was one of the speakers.

Geneva

On the 19th of June 2012 the Permanent Mission of Finland and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) arranged the International Symposium: "Ninety years after the Åland Islands Settlement - Challenges and Prospects for Peace Mediation" in Geneva.

The symposium aimed to offer an opportunity to explore whether some of the elements of Åland Island Settlement may still serve as a source of inspiration for other conflicts, and the more general question how the United Nations can develop new approaches to respond to, and help settle, contemporary disputes and conflicts.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Mr. Erkki Tuomioja was the keynote speaker. Dr. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Director of the ÅIPI, participated in the panel discussion.



Brussels

On the 2nd of October 2012 the seminar "90 Years of Autonomy: The Åland Example as a Tool for Resolving Conflicts" was held in the European Parliament in Brussels. The seminar focused on the ways in which the Åland Example and its components can be used in mediation and conflict situations and under which circumstances its use within the EU can be increased.

The keynote Speaker was Mr. Paavo Lipponen, former Prime Minister of Finland. The director of the ÅIPI, Dr. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, functioned as the moderator. The panel included Ms. Elisabeth Naucleur, Member of the Parliament of Finland, representing the Åland Islands, Mr. Nils Torvalds, Member of the European Parliament, Finland and Ms. Kinga Gál, Member of the European Parliament, Hungary. The seminar was arranged by the Åland Government in co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland and the Permanent Representation of Finland to the European Union.

Research on the Åland Example

The International Journal for Minority and Group Rights has published a special issue on territorial arrangements in conflict resolution. A number of researchers associated with the Åland Islands Peace Institute have contributed to the special edition, which has been initiated and edited by the Peace Institute's director Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark. The journal is available electronically and in hard copy at many libraries and through academic databases.

As the first issue of the series Report from the Åland Islands Peace Institute in 2012, a Swedish summary written by researcher Heidi Östof of the conclusions from the research project and publication "The Åland Example and Its Components – Relevance for International Conflict Resolution" has been published. The report and the conclusions was presented to the members of the Åland Parliament on the Demilitarization Day on March 30th. The report in pdf (in Swedish) can be downloaded from www.peace.ax.



ÅIPI Director appointed President of Council of Europe committee



Dr. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark has been elected as the new President of the Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities within the Council of Europe. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark was elected as expert in respect of Sweden for two mandate periods, first 2002-2006 and then also for 2010-2014. The President shall be chairing in the coming two years the comprehensive monitoring work in issues pertaining to persons belonging to national minorities around Europe, i.e. in the 39 States that have ratified the Framework Convention as well as with regard to the international administration of UNMIK in Kosovo.

Territorial autonomy and international law

Why does international law show so limited interest in matters concerning the institutional options and the successes and failures of territorial autonomies? This is the core question discussed by Dr. Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, in her presentation at the biennial conference of the European Society of International Law that took place in Valencia 13-15 September 2012. The presentation made by Dr Spiliopoulou Åkermark can be found at www.peace.ax.

Presentations on the Åland Example

13-15.9.2012 Researcher Sarah Stephan held a lecture on continuity and change in autonomy arrangements at the summer school "National minorities and border regions" at the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) in Flensburg, Germany.

28.5.2012 Presentation for participants in the International Training Programme on Peace and Security in Africa (PASA). The course is financed by Swedish SIDA, and organized by the Institute for Peace and Conflict Research at Uppsala University, in co-operation with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) and the Swedish company Indvelop.

26.10.2012 Full day course for the SIDA international training programme in "Human Rights, Peace and Security" with participants from Liberia, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste, Colombia and Cambodia.

Research Council

The ÅIPI Research Council is a body that safeguards the quality of the Institute's research work and reports to the Board of Directors. In 2012, the Research Council was comprised of 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, researcher at The Finnish Institute of International Affairs in Helsinki.



Wigell, Nordquist, Eriksson

Building public opinion for peaceful development of society

By asking what it is that creates peace in society and by engaging in a broad dialogue on the local, regional and international level, the ÅIPI aims to influence the development of society in a peaceful direction. In 2012 the ÅIPI has been active in the debates concerning, among others, Åland's demilitarization, international peace mediation and Nordic peace.

In 2012 the Peace Institute has participated in the national coordination group for peace mediation, which has been initiated by the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a forum for information exchange between civil servants and civil society actors. Within this forum the Peace Institute has emphasized the possibility to make use of the Åland Example in international peace mediation. This possibility has also been discussed by the contact group for the Government of Åland and the Foreign Ministry, including also the Peace Institute's Director. International peace mediation has in addition been the subject of two blog articles, published as part of the "Åland Peace Blog" and available online on the homepage of the Peace Institute www.peace.ax.

On the Nordic level the Peace Institute, together with Åland's representatives to the Nordic Council, has promoted Åland as the meeting space for a possible regular Nordic peace forum. Some of the questions the Peace Institute wants to raise in a Nordic context are: how can the Nordic countries and Nordic co-operation develop in a peaceful direction internally?; how does the increased Nordic co-operation in defense and security policy relate to a peace perspective?; how can peaceful approaches gain approval in the Nordic countries? and; How can Nordic experiences contribute to the peaceful resolution of conflicts around the world?

In December Huvudstadsbladet as well as Åland's two local daily papers published the op-ed "The Nordic peace profile calls for discussion" written by the Peace Institute's Director Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark and Information Officer Susann Simolin. In December Susann Simolin was one of the speakers at the seminar "Security policy in the Nordic countries present and future", which was arranged in Helsinki by the Centre for Nordic Studies CENS, by looking at Nordic co-operation from a peace perspective.

Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark participated as invited expert in a European Parliament workshop concerning a possible European peace institute. She has summarized her points of view in the blog article entitled "What directions for the EU role in peace processes?" published on the Åland Peace Blog. The memorandum she presented at the workshop is also available on the Peace Institute's homepage.

On the local level the Peace Institute has participated actively in the debate about the importance of Åland's demilitarisation and neutralisation, among others at a seminar arranged by the Bomarsund Society, through blog articles as well as through to op-ed in local media.

In 2012 planning commenced for the Peace Institute's participation at the UN Commission for Women's 2013 session in New York within the framework of the Institute's consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council.



During 2012 three electronic newsletters in Swedish and English were distributed electronically. At the homepage www.peace.ax and on the Facebook page of the ÅIPI news were published once or twice a week. Four debate articles were published in local newspapers, or as to the right above in the national Swedish speaking paper Hufvudstadsbladet.



Researcher Sarah Stephan presenting her results at the conference held on Åland in September.

Minority language vitality in the focus of international conference

On the occasion of the European Day of Languages on 26 September 2012, the Åland Islands Peace Institute hosted an academic conference entitled "Changing Linguistic Landscapes – Languages, Law and Multilingualism in Context".

The conference was part of the interdisciplinary research project European Language Diversity for All (ELDIA) in which the ÅIPI cooperates with researchers and universities all over Europe with financial support of the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme for Research.

At the conference three keynote speakers, Fernand de Varennes (Peking University), Reetta Toivanen (Helsinki University) and the ÅIPI Director Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, as well as 16 other researchers presented and discussed their research results.

The European linguistic landscape is experiencing a profound transformation. The acknowledgement of the position of minorities, migration and a general increase of mobility within Europe and beyond demand for the development of language legislation, public services and education as well as other sectors of society.

A decisive outcome of the conference is the importance of the given context and broader socio-economic and historic circumstances in the respective home countries of the language minorities studied.

The conference was also an occasion for a broader presentation of

the European Language Vitality Barometer (EuLaViBar) which has been developed within ELDIA and which aims to visualize the speakers' understanding of the existing degree of capacity, opportunity, desire and the language products available for the use of a minority language, in the educational sphere, with regard to media use and with regard to language legislation. The barometers are based on extensive quantitative research and accompanied by qualitative research reports.

Within ELDIA 14 Finno-Ugric language groups across eight European countries have been studied and compared. The aim is to acquire knowledge as to how minority languages can be strengthened in Europe and globally. The project runs from March 2010 until June 2012 under the guiding role of the University of Mainz. The ÅIPI focuses on the legal and institutional dimension of the project.

ELDIA-reports

Results from the ELDIA-project have been published electronically within the publication series Working Papers in European Language Diversity and can be found and downloaded at the webpage of the ELDIA project at www.eldia-project.org.

The Legal and Institutional Framework Analyses that the ÅIPI has been responsible for are the following:

- STEPHAN, Sarah: Estonian in Germany
- GRANS, Lisa: Karelian and Estonian in Finland
- GRANHOLM, Petra: North Sámi and Kven
- ZWITTER, Deva. 2012. Hungarian in Austria
- ÖST, Heidi. 2012. Sweden Finnish and Meänkieli in Sweden
- MEIORG, Marianne. 2012: Seto and Võro languages
- ROTER, Petra. 2012: Hungarian in Slovenia.





Music and theater on the agenda at international peace camp

The combined peace training and a music workshop activity "Voices for Peace" took place in Mariehamn on 6-11 August 2012 and brought together musicians, journalists and university students from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Sweden and Åland/Finland.

The project was arranged in co-operation with the Public Journalism Club in Armenia, Internews in Azerbaijan and the Foreign Policy Association in Uppsala in connection with the celebration of the ÅIPI's 20th jubilee.

The main objective of the project was to bring together peace activists, journalists, musicians and students from the Nordic countries and South Caucasus and to provide them with an opportunity for a broader discussion on what peace, non-violence and empowerment mean for different people in different parts of the world.

The programme included musical and theatre work-

shops, panel discussions, seminars, media work and study visits. The project participants also had an opportunity to share experiences, to learn more about the Åland Example and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict as well as to reflect on peace and tolerance as a societal imperative. As a direct outcome of the project, a theater performance and a final peace concert were organized in Mariehamn, which were both free to the public.

A total of 32 persons were involved in the project as participants, experts and support staff.

"Open Doors" for girls in Azerbaijan

In 2012 a non-formal learning center for teenage girls was opened in one of Baku's most disadvantaged neighborhoods, Girl Group leaders were trained and the first Girl Groups established

The project "Open Doors" centers on the Nordic Girl Group Method, which is for the first time applied in Azerbaijan. The project is a co-operation between the Åland Islands Peace Institute and the women's organization Yuva in Azerbaijan, it started in the autumn of 2011 and will continue until the autumn of 2014. Yuva is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that promotes the rights of women and the participation of women in decision-making process on all levels of society. The Peace Institute has supported Yuva in establishing the girl club "Open Doors" which

was opened in the neighborhood of Ahmedli in May 2012.

The Center is a meeting place for young women between the ages of 16 and 25, where Yuva offers meaningful after-school activities with a feminist perspective as well as IT and English courses.

In April 2012 ten Girl Group leaders, the girl club's staff, the project manager as well as Yuva's chairwomen participated in a basic training on the Girl Group Method held by Girl Group expert Mia Hanström and gender expert Ulrika Navier. The basic training was followed up by Ulrika Navier later in 2012 in Baku.

Mia Hanström's handbook on the Girl Group Method, which thus far has been available in Swedish, Lithuanian, Russian and Latvian, has been published in a revised Azerbaijani version at the end of 2012. The handbook shall support the Girl Group leaders in their work and contribute to the dissemination of the method in Azerbaijan.

The first Girl Group was established in the autumn of 2012 and the goal for 2013 remains to establish further groups.



Bilateral project against gender based violence completed

From October 2009 to December 2011 the ÅIPI together with the Latvian organization Resource Center for Women, Marta, administered the preventive project "Challenging Gender Roles for the Prevention of Trafficking". The project was financed by the Central Baltic Interreg IVA-Programme 2007-2013, while the Government of Åland contributed with the national co-funding. Girl and Boy Groups were started in both countries and the effects of the method was studied by researchers. In the beginning of 2012 conclusions from the project were compiled and published. The research report, summaries from the project and a method manual can be downloaded from www.peace.ax.



Historic meeting for partner organizations from six countries

In the spring of 2012 representatives from partner organizations in all of the countries that the ÅIPI has been cooperating with on issues of empowerment and gender equality since the foundation in 1992 gathered on Åland to discuss gender issues in general and empowerment work through the Girl and Boy group method in particular.

The participants came from Lithuania, Latvia, Russia (Karelia and the Kaliningrad region), Belarus and Azerbaijan. All the partner organizations have in co-operation with the Peace Institute adopted the so called Girl and Boy Group Method that aims to strengthen individuals' self-esteem and to promote their abilities to question prevailing gender norms, to solve conflicts peacefully and to take an active part in society.

Since 2003, when the method was introduced in Lithuania, it has become a highly appreciated activity

both among the leaders and the group members. In total 43 foreign participants together with the representatives from Åland had the opportunity to develop their knowledge in the field of gender theory, exchange experiences of group work and discuss the challenges and visions for the future. This was done through lectures, discussions, exercises and practical workshops.

The seminar was financed by the EU Youth in Action Programme and

co-ordinated with local partners Emmaus Åland and Save the Children Åland.

In connection with the meeting an open discussion held in Russian and Swedish, on the theme of gender equality, progress and challenges, was arranged at the city library of Mariehamn.



Project for Gender equality in Russia and Lithuania completed

The NGO co-operation project "Overcoming Gender Disparities as a Tool for Social Change" came to an end in September 2012.

The project has been carried out since autumn 2010 in the partnership between the ÅIPI in Finland, the non-governmental kindergarten "Nendre" in Lithuania and the non-commercial partnership "The Star of Hope" in the Kaliningrad region, Russia. Financial support for the project was provided by the Nordic Council of Ministers and Emmaus Åland.

During the project 30 group leaders from Lithuania and the Kaliningrad region have received training in discussion group method with gender perspective that is based on the Nordic Girl and Boy Group Method. The main aim of the project has been to increase the participants' awareness of gender (in)equality and gender norms in the society and to promote their empowerment and self-esteem. In total around 200 teenagers and 80 adults in Lithuania and the Kaliningrad region have participated. Group meetings were organized weekly for teenagers and monthly for adults.

An assessment of the project, carried out in co-operation between the Karelian Center for Gender Studies (Russia) and the ÅIPI, has come to the following conclusions:

- Overall, gender awareness among the teenagers and adults who have participated in the project has increased, but they still lack a more comprehensive understanding of gender equality as a structural problem and the ability to link (in)equality issues on the family/individual level and the society level.

- Although the beneficiaries' attitudes still tend to conform with the prevailing societal perceptions of femininity and masculinity, there has been a certain reassessment of gender norms among the project participants towards less gendered expectations of a woman's and a man's role in the family and society.

- Enhanced ambition to build gender-equal relationships among the teenagers while a number of adult participants have improved their life quality in connection with an increased level of respect and mutual support between the spouses.

- Adults, in particular men, have been less inclined to adopt non-stereotypical view of gender roles, compared to teenagers. The main achievement among adult men is an increased ability to listen and to accept opinions differing from their own.

- A number of adult female participants have set up personal and professional goals and improved their capacity to take charge of their life.

- The project resulted in increased personal responsibility and independent decision-making among the teenager participants, which makes them better equipped for avoiding different social risks in the long term perspective.

- Teenage group members have become more comfortable in expressing their opinions more openly not only in the group, but also in their family or community, which can be interpreted as a sign of empowerment.

- The project has contributed to the personal and professional development of the group leaders and increased their own awareness of gender issues.



Discussion group for men in Kaliningrad



Above: Articles from local media related to the Fair Sex project.
Below from the left: Closing seminar for Fair Sex 2012. Workshop leaders Liselott Lindén and Katja Söderbäck.

Project promoting fair sex and combating sexual harassment

The project Fair Sex 2012 has included workshops with students and in-service training for teachers, with the purpose to prevent sexual violence and support healthy sexual relations among young people in the Åland Islands.

During 2011 and 2012, the Åland Islands Peace Institute has managed the Fair Sex project targeting Ålandic secondary schools with financing from the Åland Government. Since 2011, all students enrolled for their second year at upper secondary schools have participated in interactive workshops discussing Fair Sex.

In 2011, a national Finnish report on well-being of students showed that a big part of the Ålandic students had experiences of sexual violence and sexual harassments. In response to this the Fair Sex project was expanded to also include further education for school staff on how to prevent sexual violence in schools.

The aim of the Fair Sex workshop is to encourage conversations about sex and relationships, respect and gender equality in order to prevent sexual violence and support healthy sexual

relations. The workshop focuses on questions about mutuality, limits, good feelings, listening for a yes, rumors, gray zones, sexual assaults and the different expectations there are towards men and women when it comes to sex.

The workshops are interactive and give young people a chance to discuss these issues together with educated workshop leaders, who question prejudices and gender norms.

The experiences and evaluations from the workshops show that the students appreciate these discussions and that there is a need to talk about sex, relationships, expectations and sexual assaults with young people.

Staff in upper secondary and secondary schools on Åland have been provided in-service training on how to work towards a school free from sexual violence and sexual harass-

ments. The training was divided in to three lectures and was an important first step. The training showed that the teachers' awareness of these issues were limited, there seemed to be a lack of initiatives from the schools' managements to prioritize this work and engaged staff is asking for further training and help from experts to continue the work against sexual violence. To make this a long-term engagement, the work against sexual harassment and sexual violence must be an integrated part of the schools' routines.

The project has been acknowledged also outside of the Åland Islands, and has among others been presented to the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Social Affairs and Health in Finland.

Survey of preventive work among youth in the Åland Islands

During 2012, the Åland Island Peace Institute began to survey and document the preventive and encouraging work that is being done for children and youth in the Åland Islands.

The Åland Island Peace Institute is working with preventive and empowering activities for youth, in school as well as in their spare time. The Peace Institute's priority is to work against different kinds of violence, including gender based violence, and to promote the peaceful resolutions of conflicts. This work is put into practice through the so called "School Peace-co-operation" in elementary schools, the Fair Sex workshops in upper secondary schools and through method development and support to Girl and Boy Group leaders.

In 2011, challenges and possibilities within those activities were discussed including questions of organization, prioritization, coordination and financing as well as sustainability. In 2012 The ÅIPI was granted financial support from the Åland Government (Paf-funds) to map roles, responsibilities, challenges and possibilities related to preventive and empowering youth work in the Åland Islands.

In 2012, the Åland Islands Peace

Institute has presented two working papers on this topic. Petra Berg has written a working paper on preventive work in Ålandic schools, based on interviews with staff from some selected schools. The author is a psycho therapist who has formerly been working with youth issues at the NGO "Folkhälsan på Åland" and at the Upper Secondary Vocational School "Ålands yrkesskola".



The second working paper, written by the Åland Islands Peace Institute's method developer Jenny Jonstoj, analyses challenges and possibilities for Girl Group and Boy Group activities in the Åland Islands.

In the end of 2012, the conclusions from the two working papers and the Fair Sex project were presented at two open meetings. Liselott Lindén, who has been working as a workshop leader within the Fair Sex project, has written a summarizing working paper comparing the three

projects' conclusions, where also the discussions and comments from the open meetings have been included.

The working papers indicate that even though there are a lot of preventive and empowering activities in the Åland Islands, there is no comprehensive picture over the actors or methods used. As a logical consequence of this, there is a risk of a mismatch between need and supply. There is also a risk that several activities are competing in one thematic field or sector, while they are lacking or missing in others. Accordingly, there is a need for a comprehensive picture and for co-operation between different sectors (school, home, youth work), levels (children, teachers, managers) and thematic fields (like anti-violence, addiction, equality). Other recurrent comments were that there is no system for co-operation between schools and external actors, and that it is important that programmes and methods used are evaluated regularly.



Within the project Fair Sex an information folder was printed and distributed to students.

Volunteers at the ÅIPI

The Åland Island Peace Institute both sends and hosts volunteers in the framework of the EU's youth programme Youth in Action, administered by the Finnish national agency CIMO.

In 2012 Philip Sjöwall did his 6-month voluntary service at ARCHELON, the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece outside of Athens.

The Peace Institute hosted volunteer Gunel Isakova from Azerbaijan from October 2011 to July 2012. In

October 2012 two new volunteers, Gulnar Mammadova from Azerbaijan and Gohar Mamikonyan from Armenia arrived.

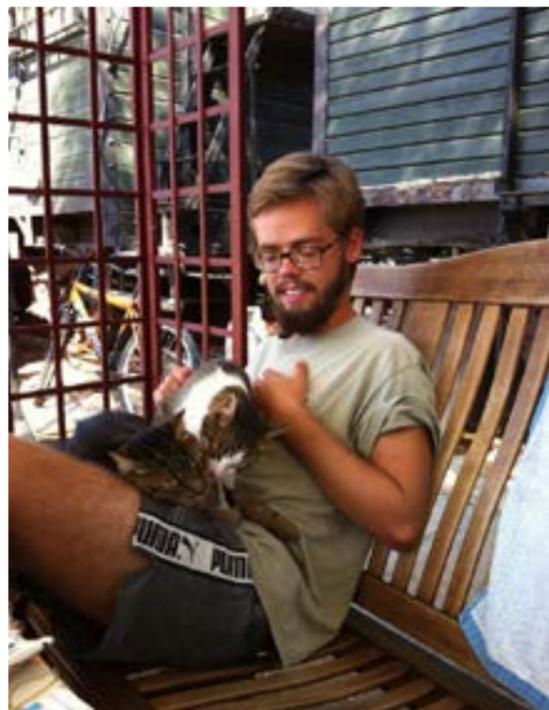
We also try to encourage and support other organizations on Åland to get active within the EVS programme. In 2012 Save the Children on Åland has shown interest for EVS-activities and has with the support of the Åland Island Peace Institute been accredited as a hosting organization.

Philip Sjöwall:

” I have worked as a volunteer for the Greek organization Archelon - the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece at their rescue center in Glyfada.

My work duties have mostly been cleaning the tank, wash turtles, giving injections and drips, cleaning different kinds of wounds (head, skin, fins), transporting tortoises and various repair works etc. Much of the work was also to take care of the center's visitors, tourists, schools and other groups. This work involved working in our shop, presentations and to give guided tours.

I also visited and worked on Archelon's beach project in Crete and traveled around the inland and to some islands on my free time. ”



Philip Sjöwall

Gulnar Mammadova:

” I am pretty excited about my volunteer position at the ÅIPI. Here I am involved in international co-operation projects with a focus on gender equality, empowerment of young women, and youth exchanges with conflict regions. As a woman myself, I have concerns about the rights of the women all over the world where women are vulnerable to oppression and exclusion from decision-making on the private and the public level. I see the rights of women as a main essential part of human rights and development of any society is not possible without involvement of women in decision-making processes in all spheres of life. The ÅIPI Open Doors Project that is directed to empowerment of young women in Azerbaijan is an opportunity for me to gain experience in this field and add my personal contribution to the empowerment of young women in my home country.

Furthermore, the ÅIPI is a suitable place to do some research. With a view to the Baltic Sea from my desk at the office, it is inspiring to meditate over new and fresh ideas for a research work. The Åland Islands' experience of conflict resolution and autonomy add a valuable perspective to research on the Armenia-Azerbaijan, Nagorny Karabakh conflict. Despite the fact that the experiences of conflict of the Åland Islands and Nagorny Karabakh are different, since the later was a bloody violent conflict, the overall satisfaction of the Åland people, from ordinary citizens to the officials of the government and parliament, with being a part of Finland is clearly visible and fascinating. The fact that the autonomy and the protection of the minority rights on Åland were gradually improved and this process that is continuing indicates that the peace processes are gradual and that the success comes first with time. ”



Gunel Isakova:

” I come from Zagatala, Azerbaijan and I did my EVS in ÅIPI, Mariehamn, Åland, Finland from 1st of October 2011 for 10 months.

The main theme of my service was gender equality and I have mainly assisted in Open Doors, a project establishing and promoting gender equality in Azerbaijan through the Nordic Girl Group Method in co-operation with my sending organization YUVA. My tasks included assisting in adapting the Scandinavian Girl Group Manual to the Azerbaijani context.

I was assisting in planning and carrying out a big symposium for further training in the Girl Group Boy Group



Gunel Isakova



Gulnar Mammadova and Gohar Mamikonyan

Method in the Baltic and Caucasus region. I also assisted in a cultural exchange, Voices for Peace, a meeting between Armenian and Azeri musicians and journalists. I have also been involved in everyday tasks working with information, research, communication and translation.

EVS has given me a chance to interact with my European peers, become active in youth work and make a non-formal learning experience.

From the first day, I have felt support from each of the staff members in every step. I received huge support in all my tasks. I even improved my writing skills by the help of my supervisor. Thanks to the staff members, I now understand Swedish much better than the first couple of weeks. Also, I very much appreciated big support for my thesis writing about the Åland example.

This project has taught me a lot! I had an amazing experience during these 10 months. ”

Gohar Mamikonyan:

” I am Gohar Mamikonyan, an EVS volunteer at the ÅIPI from 01.10.2012 to 01.10.2013. I've lived all my life in Armenia and before coming to the Åland, I worked as a laboratory assistant and lecturer in the Yerevan State University and I enjoyed being a volunteer and trainer of non-formal education in different NGOs. I hold my Masters degree in Political Science and Public Administration from Yerevan State University.

I found EVS volunteering opportunity at the ÅIPI extremely interesting as it is in the sphere of my occupation: gender equality, conflict resolution, peace building, etc. At the ÅIPI I mainly work in the framework of a Gender Equality project, help to develop further projects in co-operation with Armenian organizations and also involved in the whole scale of the ÅIPI's activities.

EVS is not only about a one-year volunteering on Åland but it is also about building my future path in life. So, it is a very important page in my life to be written enthusiastically with lots of experiences, travels and absorption of the new.

I am happy to be here and to have the chance to explore this totally unfamiliar place, to get to know the history of Åland and to understand the values and standards of the community. I am doing my research on conflict resolutions and on the Åland Example.

I feel that I have been given a great chance to explore Scandinavian culture, Swedish language and the unique lifestyle on Åland. I am very excited about the Swedish language and I am working hard to start speaking Swedish!

Besides everything I would like to have chances to work with the local youth, to share ideas and experiences with them and to try to highlight the needs and expectations of local youth and to compare it with my own community.

Although I have found out a lot of interesting things and I have met many wonderful people who help me to adopt to the new place I have also faced some challenges and difficulties which seem to be unavoidable: intercultural differences, different viewpoints, people, food, shopping, environment, etc.

However, the life is getting richer with new experiences, people, explorations; this helps you to develop your own ideas and always keep you up looking for new destinations to reach in the future. ”



Move and staff changes at the Åland Mediation Office

In 2012 the Mediation Office moved offices and experienced several staff changes. Some 20 voluntary mediators have mediated in 20 cases of which 18 resulted in an agreement.

Heidi Öst has been on leave of absence since the beginning of the year and has been substituted by voluntary mediator Ulf-Peter Westmark from January until May. Since June Linda Johansson is working as the Mediation Manager. The office of the Mediation Office has significantly improved by the relocation in the house and an extension of its premises to now include a separate office and conference/mediation room, which previously were squeezed into one room.

During the past year, the Mediation Office has received 29 cases from the police, the prosecutors and civilians, 26 criminal cases and 3 disputes. Of these cases, 20 resulted in conciliation meetings mediated by about 20 active mediators. Agreements have been made in 18 of these 20 mediation sessions.

The Mediation Office has been working to inform about its activities to other organizations and agencies on Åland. In addition to our main partners the police and prosecutor, we have also informed the alcohol and drug clinic, the youth workers "Fältarna", the work inspector, social and societal education at Åland vocational high school and the discrimination ombudsman.

Two Swedish language courses in mediation in domestic violence has taken place in 2012, the first one in Åland and Turku where three Ålandic mediators participated and the other in Ekenäs where two voluntary mediators and the Mediation Officer attended. These courses are planned as the first part of three in a longer training on mediation in these special cases.

Four participants from the Åland Islands also participated in the Swedish-language mediation day, which this year took place in Turku. There lectures on the topics the Act of freedom of information, secrecy and confidentiality in mediation, forgiveness as an element of mediation, joint liability concerning mediation agree-

ements, reimbursement to mediators, the right to Swedish service under The law on languages, and alcohol, genes and aggression where held.

Two lecturers, Genovaite Rosiene and Iveta Vitkute-Zvezdiniene from Kaunas University, Faculty of Economics and Law, in Lithuania stayed for a three day study visit in the Mediation Office and the Åland Island Peace Institute in November 2012. The lecturers were specializing in criminal law and interested in studying

practical and legal aspects of mediation. They were interested in starting a similar service in Kaunas. The visit was done through the European Social Fund, under the Operational Programme for the Development of Human Resources 2007-2013 administered by UNDP Lithuania.



Mediation Officer Linda Johansson and her predecessor Heidi Öst



Study Visit from Lithuania

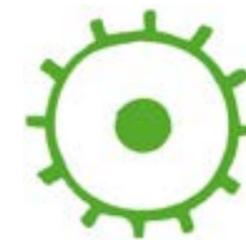


From the left: Project Manager Justina Donielaite, Information Officer Susann Simolin, Intern Liselott Lindén and Mediation Officer Linda Johansson.

Staff

The Board of Directors appoints staff members, proposed by the institutes director. In 2012 the ÅIPI had in total 7,9 full time positions, compared to 7,45 in 2011, distributed among the following employees, with different terms of employment.

Sia Spiliopoulou Åkermark, Director, 80 %
 Susann Simolin, Information Officer, 75 – 100 %
 Bror Myllykoski, Head of Administration, 100 %
 Sarah Stephan, Researcher, Project Manager, 80 – 100 %
 Jenny Jonstoj, Project Manager, 70 – 100 %
 Ulrika Navier, Project Manager, Project Assistant, 75 %
 Justina Donielaite, Project Manager, 45 %
 John Knight, Librarian, 13,5 %
 Fredrik Karlsson, bookkeeper, on hourly basis
 Ann-Louise Idman, Financial Manager, 01.01 – 29.02
 Heidi Öst, Researcher, Mediation Officer, 30 – 60 %, on leave 01.09 – 31.12
 Ulf-Peter Westmark, Substitute Mediation Officer, 50 %, 01.01 – 31.05
 Linda Johansson, Substitute Mediation Officer, 60 – 70 %, 26.05 – 31.12, Project Assistant, 70 %, 23.04 – 25.05
 Martha Hannus, Project Assistant, 40 %, 11.06 – 31.08
 Linus Strandberg, Project Assistant, on hourly basis, 01.07 – 12.08
 Katja Söderbäck-Hoffman, workshopleader, on hourly basis, 18.09 – 31.12
 Signe Jansson, Cleaner, on hourly basis, - 10.06
 Linda Myllykoski, Cleaner, on hourly basis, 11.06 – 19.08
 Kristina Tingström, Cleaner, on hourly basis, 26.08 –



Internship

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

Hanna Salmén has been an intern for two months during the summer. Hanna holds a Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice Administration with a focus on Homeland Security from the Campbell University in North Carolina, USA. During her internship, she was mainly working on a report on the status and the functions of the police of Åland.



Hanna Salmén

Liselott Lindén was an intern during the fall of 2012. She has been working with administration and information within the Fair Sex project, as well as leading Fair Sex workshops in schools. Liselott holds a Bachelor's degree in sociology from Stockholm University.



Liselott Lindén

Vincent Okeyo completed a part-time internship from 14.9.2011 to 30.3.2012, as a part of his enrolment in the project "Integration.ax" at the Mariehamn Community College "Medborgarinstitutet". He has been working with translations and proof reading, helping out with information and communication tasks and assisting in the work with the library and publications of the ÅIPI.



Vincent Okeyo

Financing

The budget of the ÅIPI increased by 11% from 591.196 euro in 2011 to 660.147 euro in 2012.

The funding from the Åland Government - consisting mainly of revenues from the government owned gambling company PAF - constitutes 26 % of the total funding of 2012 which makes the Government of Åland one of the most important donors, together with the EU (in certain cases administered by the Center for International Mobility, CIMO, in Finland) and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

The Director and Board of the ÅIPI have initiated discussions with the Department of Finance at the Government of Åland and the City of Mariehamn in order to secure the financing of activities not funded within the two large-scale EU-funded projects. The lag in payments in the EU-funded projects renders small organizations vulnerable to challenges in relation to liquidity.

During 2012 accumulated vacation salaries have been activated, why the transitional year shows a temporary increase in costs.

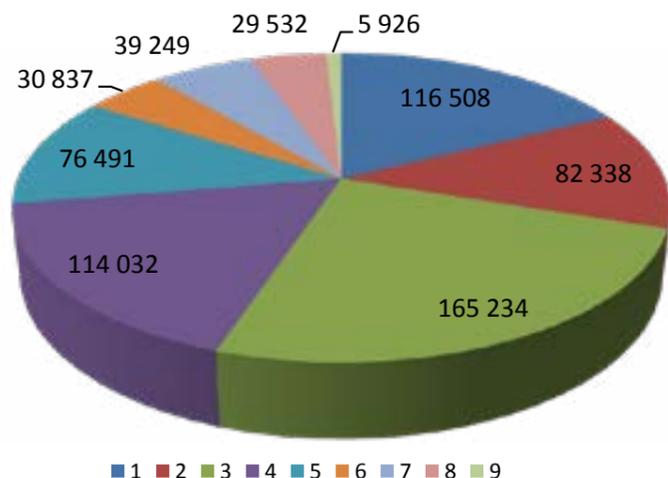
In total, however, the liquidity has been more balanced than in 2011, and the total result for 2012 shows a surplus of 6.916,87 euros.

The activities have been characterized by the jubilee of the ÅIPI, which gained additional publicity with the donation of the real estate of Hamngatan 4 from the Government of Åland to the ÅIPI. As a consequence the ÅIPI now is guaranteed to continue working in the current localities. The ÅIPI has created a wholly-owned subsidiary company, Fredsfast AB, that attends to the management of the real-estate.

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

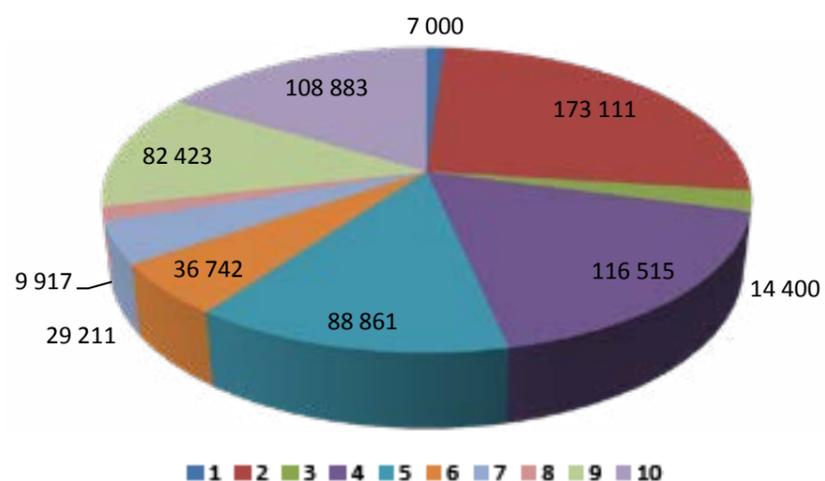
The budget of the ÅIPI has been consolidated in 2012 due to a number of positive funding decisions, slightly increased sale of publications and services as well as due to strengthened routines for budget administration with regular follow-ups of the liquidity.

Expenses 2012



| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. Basic functions | 116 508 | 19 % |
| 2. Seminars and youth exchanges | 82 338 | 3 % |
| 3. International empowerment projects | 165 234 | 38 % |
| 4. Research | 114 032 | 21 % |
| 5. Education | 76 491 | 5 % |
| 6. Mediation Office | 30 837 | 5 % |
| 7. Information and publications | 39 249 | 4 % |
| 8. Volunteers | 29 532 | 4 % |
| 9. Library | 5 926 | 1 % |
| Total: | 660 147 | 100 % |

Funding 2012



| | | |
|---|----------------|--------------|
| 1. Ministry of Education Finland | 7 000 | 1,1 % |
| 2. Åland Government/PAF | 173 111 | 26,0 % |
| 3. City of Mariehamn | 14 400 | 2,2 % |
| 4. CIMO, Swedish Cultural Foundation | 116 515 | 17,5 % |
| 5. EU - 7th framework, Central Baltic | 88 861 | 13,3 % |
| 6. Nordic Council of Ministers | 36 742 | 5,5 % |
| 7. County Administrative Board (Mediation) | 29 211 | 4,4 % |
| 8. Other funds, donations, travel reimbursement | 9 917 | 1,5 % |
| 9. Other contributions, consultancies, rentals | 82 423 | 12,2 % |
| 10. Ministry for Foreign Affairs | 108 883 | 16,3 % |
| Total: | 667 063 | 100 % |



”Pää Mies - Vää Pöytä” - Antti Oksanen - 1982
Käsitöskeskus

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.

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

Donations can also be made through www.peace.ax.
Peace addresses are available in banks and at undertakers on Åland.

Pavel Toropov, leader of discussion groups for men in Kaliningrad, Russia.



- The ÅIPI – it is new friends, new ideas, new opinions, new perception of yourself and your place in the world. As a group leader I am constantly confronted with my own values and my position as a man - at the top of the hierarchy. In group discussions participants' attitudes to violence are clearly affected. Aggression, ignorance and fear is gradually replaced by understanding, which promotes more peaceful behaviour.



The Åland Islands Peace Institute - thinking and acting for peace

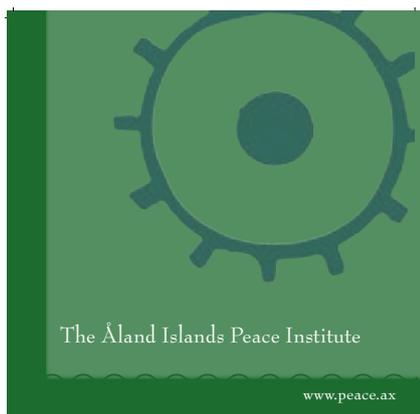
During its jubilee year the Åland Islands Peace Institute has collected quotes about its activities and co-operations during the years from partner organizations and other associates in different parts of the world. The quotes can be found at the Facebook page of the Åland Islands Peace Institute.

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

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

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



The Åland Islands Peace Institute

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