

CITIZEN'S NETWORK FOR PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND HUMAN SECURITY



*Human security aspect of
youth living in “collective centers” or
“alternative accommodation centers”
in Bosnia and Herzegovina*

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RESEARCH FINDINGS

Introduction

The war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the 1990s resulted in an estimated 1.2 million people fleeing the country's borders and over a million people being rendered internally displaced. Today, two decades after the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement, over 100,000 people remain internally displaced, including some 8,600 especially vulnerable persons living in approximately 159 centers throughout the country. The enduring presence of these centers for the internally displaced – referred to within Bosnia and Herzegovina as either “collective centers” or “alternative accommodation centers” – poses a challenging set of issues that can be subject of this research: How many young people live in those centers? What are the living conditions in internal displacement for young people? What efforts can be undertaken to assure Human safety to the internally displaced youth in centers? When does internal displacement end and what are the “next steps” for young people?

Research will focus on people living in centers that were purposely created for displaced persons immediately after the war in BiH, in both entities and Brcko District.

Primary questions:

What dangers young people face in the “collective centers” or “alternative accommodation centers” in BiH?

What dangers young people are facing after they leave the “collective centers” or “alternative accommodation centers” in BiH?

Secondary questions:

- What kind of protection is available to young people living in centers?
- What is the role of relevant authorities in resolving the issues young people face in centers?
- Are Human security issues in the centers increased through lack of laws or their poor implementation?
- How are the living conditions in centers affecting equality and social inclusion of young people living there?

The core target groups for this research are young people from 3 “collective centers” or “alternative accommodation centers” in BiH:

- Tuzla (Mihatovici, collective center) in Federation of BiH;
- Bratunac (people that lived in Kravice collective center) in Republic of Srpska;
- Brcko District (Prutace, collective center);
- Key stakeholder institutions and parents.

Existing data

According to the BiH state Ministry for human rights and refugees report from 2005 there was total of 7311 people living in Collective centers in BiH, out of that 61,1% in centers located in FBiH and 38,9% in Centers located in RS.

**Number and percentage of residents of collective forms of accommodation in BiH
- per Entity of accommodation/current temporary residence**

Place of accommodation	F BiH	RS	Total
Families	1.677	863	2.540
Persons	4.467	2.844	7.311
% (Families/housing units)	61,1%	38,9%	100%

Structure of residents living in collective centers – per number of family members. The largest numbers of collective centers' residents are two-member families, then three-member families, and immediately thereafter singles.

Structure of residents of collective centers – per number of family members

Number of members	F BiH		RS		Total	
	Families	Persons	Families	Persons	Families	Persons
1	503	503	34	34	537	537
2	373	746	282	564	655	1.310
3	304	912	251	753	555	1.665
4	289	1.156	123	492	412	1.648
5	136	680	83	415	219	1095
6	49	294	57	342	106	636
7	13	91	23	161	36	252
8	5	40	7	56	12	96
9	5	45	3	27	8	72
TOTAL	1.677	4.467	863	2.844	2.540	7.311
average per family	2,7		3,3		2,9	

As it is clear from the table below, the highest percentage of persons living in BiH centers are Bosniaks; the number of Serbs is nearly half of that; the number of Croats accommodated in the collective centers is less than 5%.

As for their Entity distribution, it is obvious that 100% of the residents of collective accommodation in the RS are Serbs, and in the FBiH are Bosniaks and Croats.

Ethnic structure of residents of collective accommodation in BiH

Entity	B		C		S		Total	
	families	persons	families	persons	families	persons	families	persons
F BiH	1.560	4.203	113	257	4	7	1.677	4.467
RS					863	2.844	863	2.844
% (family/housing unit)	61,4%		4,4%		34,1%		2.540	7.311

This report recognizes some of the vulnerable groups: “Unfortunately, a considerable number of residents of collective accommodation in FBiH and RS belong to a specially vulnerable categories of population such as: mentally disordered persons, disabled persons, psychiatric sick persons, persons incapable of independent life, social cases etc. whose return cannot be ensured through reconstruction of their pre-war homes (if they had one at all)”, but it does not recognize youth as one of the specific vulnerable group.

This report doesn't include data from Brcko district BiH.

Information on “collective centers” or “alternative accommodation centers” in BiH we got from “Union for sustainable return and integrations”, the biggest NGO stakeholder in this field in BiH and their latest research from 2011 confirms that total of 1830 families or 7223 people are still living in centers.

This report doesn't include data from Brcko district BiH as well.

According to the “Union for sustainable return and integrations” annual report from 2014 there is a data were they have been working with more than 500 young people from displaced families, during 2013, trough program of capacity building of young people in terms of youth employment.

Brcko district BiH has total of 455 people living in centers according the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center and according to the school report from primarily school Prutace there are 90 children that are attending this school.

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Internal displacement as of November 14th 2014:



Key stakeholders

Ministry for human rights and refugees BiH, The scope of competence of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH has been set forth in Article 12 of the Law on Ministries and Other Administration Bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina to include the following: Monitoring and implementation of international conventions and other documents in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms; Promotion and protection of individual and collective human rights and freedoms; Co-ordination and preparation of reports on implementation of commitments defined by international conventions and international documents to be submitted to relevant local authorities and institutions and international institutions and organizations; Designing and carrying out activities on fulfillment of commitments of BiH toward Euro-Atlantic integration, particularly in terms of application of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and protocols thereof; Monitoring, development and dissemination of information on standards, achievements and activities in the field of human rights; Collaboration with religious communities; Collaboration with national minorities and their associations; Collaboration with institutions and organizations in charge of searching for missing persons in BiH; Collaboration with the Red Cross of BiH, International Committee of the Red Cross and humanitarian agencies; Issues regarding asylum and rights of refugees entering BiH; Implementation of Annex VII of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in BiH as well as monitoring and oversight thereof; Creating and implementing the policy of BiH in the field of return of refugees and displaced persons in BiH, reconstruction projects and ensuring other conditions for a sustainable return; Co-ordination, guidance and oversight, within the Committee for Refugees and Displaced Persons, of the activities of Entities and other institutions of BiH responsible for policy implementation in this field; All other activities prescribed by law and/or referring to the implementation of Annexes VI and VII of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in BiH; Collaboration with the non-governmental sector concerning issues which fall within the jurisdiction of the Ministry; Creation of the immigration and asylum policy of BiH; Creation of the BiH policy toward Diaspora.

Ministry for displaced persons and refugees in FBiH, Scope of work: Administrative, professional and other tasks as laid down by the legislation related to the competencies of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the areas of displaced persons, refugees and returnees, and particularly: gathering and processing data on refugees and displaced persons, coordination of reconstruction activities, together with registration and supervision of the NGOs; creation of conditions for return of displaced persons in their pre-war domiciles, including construction and reconstruction; recovery and repair of homes and other housing units for accommodation of the refugees and displaced persons, running of regional centers for assistance to those activities, as well as other tasks as laid down by the legislation governing this field.

Ministry for refugees and displaced persons RS, Ministry for Refugees and Displaced Persons performs administrative and other professional duties regarding the provision of accommodation; cooperation with the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees of BiH; repatriation and re-socialization of refugees and displaced persons in the Republic of Srpska. Ministry is in charge of the allocation of funds related to the allocation of the building materials, as well as of the building, reconstruction, rehabilitation of the facilities aimed for the accommodation of the refugees and displaced persons in the territory of the Republic of Srpska. The Ministry operates in coordination with the Ministry for Refugees and Displaced Persons of

the Federation of BiH, international and other organizations which implement programs of re-socialization of refugees and displaced persons. Ministry is also in charge of the protection of human rights and property belonging to the refugees and displaced persons. Every year, the Ministry proposes and implements the Program of settling of problems of the refugees, returnees and displaced persons, which is adopted by the Government of the Republic of Srpska. Ministry operates through eight sectors which cover all municipalities in the Republic of Srpska.

Department for refugees, displaced persons and housing Brcko district BiH, the Department has the responsibilities of the Division of Displaced Persons, Refugees and Housing Issues.

Ministry of culture and sport in FBiH, Federal Ministry of Culture and Sport carries out the administrative, expert and other tasks as laid down by the legislation related to the competencies of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the areas of: researching-scientific activity in the field of safeguard and use of cultural-historical heritage; museums, archives, libraries, publishing, theatre, music, fine arts, film and show business activities, activity of organizations and associations of citizens in the field of arts, culture, sport and youth; improvement of sport and physical culture; establishes development strategies in area of culture, sport and youth, as well as other tasks laid down by the legislation governing this field.

Ministry of family, youth and sport RS (Department for Youth), Department for youth performs administrative and other professional tasks relating to the following: determination of National Action Plan and Youth Policy of the Republic and taking care of its application; creation of the assumptions for solution of youth issues – employment of the young, improvement of their social status, inclusion into society; realization of youth projects; encouraging an active participation of the young in society; establishment of youth centers; cooperation with youth organizations; international cooperation in the domain of organization and activity of the youth.

Sub-department for civil society and youth Brcko District, responsible for youth and civil society issues.

Tuzla town center for social work, Bratunac municipality center for social work, Brcko District center for social work: Key institutions for providing social protection services and for ensuring proper implementation of social welfare programs are Centers for Social Work / Departments for Social Welfare at the municipal level (including cantonal level in the FBiH). There are many services that Centers/Departments provide referring to the positive legislation in the sectors of social welfare, protection of children and families, protection of persons with disabilities, criminal legislation and others. The work within these areas includes numerous services for children and families from financial support to the provision of legal information, from representing the child in legal/court cases to counseling and educative work. Other social welfare institutions (institutions for daily care, rehabilitation centers, etc.) provide also the services of social protection and inclusion of children and have the obligation to cooperate with the Centers/Departments and other public and nongovernmental institutions.

Union for sustainable return and integrations BiH, Founded in 1993, the Union for Sustainable Return and Integrations in Bosnia and Herzegovina (USRIBH) is multi-ethnic and non-governmental organization that serves as an umbrella network linking associations of returnees, associations of women, farmers associations, agricultural and other return-related NGOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Under the former name “Association for refugees and

displaced persons of Bosnia and Herzegovina (ARDP)”, the Union was one of the largest multi-ethnic organizations that worked in all conflict areas of the country. Now, comprised of 98 local grassroots refugees return - related NGOs, the main task of the Union is protection of refugees, displaced persons and returnees in their basic human rights – return to their pre-war homes, right to their property, right for education and insurance, fight against ethnic discrimination in areas where refugees return and other crimes against humanity. The Union promotes civil society initiatives and strengthens civil society status in the areas where refugees return, through cooperation with local authorities and government institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Local NGOs:

Tuzla refugee/displaced persons or youth NGO, IPAK Youth NGO: <http://www.ipak-mgb.ba/index.php/en/>

Bratunac refugee/displaced persons or youth NGO, Youth NGO Odisej Bratunac: <https://hr-hr.facebook.com/pages/Omladinska-organizacija-Odisej-Bratunac/56368409968>

Brcko District refugee/displaced persons or youth NGO, Youth NGO PRONI Center for youth development, www.pronibrcko.ba

Methodology

This research was conducted through qualitative methods of study in three cities in Bosnia: Tuzla, Bratunac, and Brcko district BiH. The qualitative method included literature research, evidencing available studies and data on the topic and existing legal and sub-legal acts that deal with the issue of internal displaced persons (IDPs), focus group discussions (FGD) and interviews. The primary target groups for focus group discussions were young people living in collective centers and their parents, whereas in-depth interviews were conducted with key informants – school directors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) representatives, municipal and governmental representatives.

Focus group structures

A total of five focus groups were organized in three cities: three focus groups with young people living in collective centers and two focus groups with their parents, resulting in the participation of 26 young people (4 female and 22 male participants aged 15-20) and 12 parents (10 female and 2 male participants). Selection of respondents was randomly chosen, in coordination with local non-governmental organizations.

Focus groups in Tuzla were held in the school premises in the Mihatovici collective center, in Brcko focus groups was organized in the premises of Mosque in Prutace collective center - used by young people there and in Bratunac we had focus groups in premises of Odisej youth NGO.

Discussions were audio recorded and transcripts were prepared for each focus group. Each group lasted on average between 40 and 70 minutes.

During focus group discussions, attention was paid to determine what does Human security means for participants, identifying sources of insecurity as well as participant's attitude towards the dealing with identified insecurity issues. Specific attention was given also to participant's opinion on legal framework, work of responsible institutions, social inclusion/exclusion and their opinions on what could be done in order to feel safer in collective centers and after they leave collective centers.

Interviews were held with 8 representatives of governmental and non-governmental representatives coming from Tuzla, Bratunac and Brcko.

Stakeholder meeting

Stakeholder meeting was organized in Tuzla and almost all relevant key stakeholders were present at this meeting. Research methodology and findings were presented and discussed. Some new recommendations were given by this group that can really help to design a quality advocacy campaign. The participant's haven't had any comments on research methodology and, in principal, agreed to all research findings and supported recommendations by focus groups and interview participants. Stakeholders present on this meeting also compliment the project team for choosing young people from "collective centers" or "alternative accommodation centers" in BiH and research on their human security aspect since that kind of research has not been done before.

Data analysis

The research findings presented here are based upon qualitative research conducted with the different groups: high school pupils, school managers and professors and parents. The findings will be structured in accordance with the three groups of responds to main research questions:

- I. Human Security challenges
- II. People responds and coping mechanisms
- III. Needed changes and possible perspective for future

All these aspects will be viewed through the perspective of the different groups involved.

I. Human Security challenges

As it is to be expected, the different forms and types of human security challenges were identified during this research. After the initial discussions with the participants they all tend to easily understand Human security concept and their responds were connected with lots of personal experience of different types of security challenges whilst living in the centers or after the life in the centers: psychological violence, infrastructural challenges, environmental

hazards, bad economic situation, social differences, religious based violence, sexual violence, physical attacks, gender based and cultural forms of violence.

The three most common forms of security challenges for youth living in collective centers in Bosnia and Herzegovina are related to the bad **economic** situation, lack of protection and lack of understanding of relevant **institutions** and the **cultural** differences gap created amongst young people living in collective centers and people from surrounding local communities. Those human security challenges prevail other forms in all three cities.

Bratunac

Jasmin: If you experience any health issue, do you have an ambulance in the center?

Participant: No, we would have to go here. Here we have a health center. After you turn 15 years of old you have to pay for the exam. We have a monthly income of 250 KM, now after you deduct that sum since I have turned 15; we will have considerably less, since I no longer receive the child allowance. From that sum you have to pay electricity, water and other utilities. All was good when all that was paid by government of RS, now we don't have that.

**Participant from Bratunac talking about the lack of institutional support related to health protection whilst living in collective center.*

Jasmin: You got here some kind of permanent solution. Who owns now those condos?

Participant: Government. We pay for everything, all utilities. In the collective center, we didn't pay for anything.

Jasmin: You pay it from what?

Participant: Honestly, we don't know...From monthly income, social help, and that is it.

2nd Participant: In the center they were paying for everything, even food for school and bus tickets.

Jasmin: And over there you had school?

1st Participant: But we didn't pay for anything, now we have to pay everything.

2nd Participant: Yes, next to the center. It was from first to fifth grade.

**Participants talking about economic challenges.*

Tuzla

Participant: Well, there is nobody to put "speed bumps", no speed limit, nothing.

Jasmin: So there is no speed limit sign or "speed bump"?

Participant: No. And we can't do it ourselves.

Jasmin: Have you tried to ask somebody to help you regarding those issues?

Participant: We have, we tried with this manager over here, but nobody is taking any actions.



Claim!

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„Regarding social department, they bring to Mihatovici all trouble makers, as well as children, so they have problems with drug addicts and alcoholics. They think that there are no rules here. Two years ago, there was a fierce fight, in it participated almost whole lower settlement. It was regarding two roommates, one was suspicious, so the other one did not let him in the house, the other one got drunk and fight broke out. Other residents heard that and they come to help, general chaos broke out. Police reacted when we called the since we saw that there is no other way”.

Female participant, Tuzla

Brcko

Jasmin: OK, how have you defend the Roma population as the cause of some problems, is this happening on a daily basis?

1st Participant: Everyday, most of them have gone to the asylum and I would like to say that we are not just experiencing physical aggression. Here we experience all kind of aggressions. One of the examples is music, I need to study, but I can't since music is too loud at night.

1st Participant: I really don't want any problem, but I was too tired. I will let it go on till 23:00 hours, no big deal, but after 23:00 hours I called police and I told them that this person was previously reported. The police came, they have turned the music off and I was at ease, when suddenly they have continued to sing. All kinds of torture, environment pollution, personally for me it is the biggest problem. Every so often we have a disease outbreak, and all the garbage from surrounding cities comes here.

Jasmin: OK. Others?

2nd Participant: Well, you will pass through there, you will see, all kinds of furniture on the streets, makes you wonder where we live. You can see the furniture beside trash dumpers.

3rd Participant: Problem is not just here, we have trash coming from Maoca and Rahic here. They saw that they can't do it, there are no sanctions for it, and that trash keeps piling up and we have huge problems. That is a problem for us now; in a few years, it is going to be a problem for whole Brcko District.

Jasmin: That is what you were saying; you have made some action to clean as much as you can as young people. You have tried to do something, but that is not a solution.

2nd Participant: We have tried, we even found some old records there and records player, so much trash piled up there. We have cleaned it in some three or four hours, since there was a lot of us, in three days situation was even worse. So we are talking about collective conscience.

**Participants talking about problems with the the Roma majority in Prutace collective center, health issues regarding wild garbage dumps and relations with people from neighbor local communities. It is interesting that the Roma population is forming majority of population in this settlement and Bosniaks are actually a minority facing almost the same discriminations as the Roma population are facing in rest of the country.*



Jasmin: OK, so is there any place where you can go and ask for help?

Participant: No. There was a police station and they have closed it, office only.

Participant: And when you report something, they can only terrorize you, they don't do anything. No fire fighters either.

Jasmin: That was my question, so you don't have that either, I heard you have fires here. So you don't even have fire truck, nothing? And what about ambulance or a health center?

Participants: Nothing.

Participant: Those are the problems, stereotypes I have already mentioned. When something happens, I will tell you my case, a thing where I have witnessed. There was a fight, and one person called police and told the there was a problem in Prutace, lady on the other side of the phone told them if they call again they will revoke their child allowance. This is the truth, total absurd. We others have watched it. Ambulance is special case at that. Everything goes as it should be, but as soon as you mention key word Prutace everything stops. People don't have any protocols, there is no coordination, it is sad but it reflects this situation here.

Tardiness of institutions, first of all from Brcko District government, the police, and in general educational sector in Prutace are has failed, in educational and pedagogue way.

Jasmin: So do you know who is responsible, who should be present there, and who is not?

Participant: There are no actions, no implementation. This organization is the only one in Prutace. There is nobody else here not even the police. Police is not polite at all. Personally I had problems because I am from Prutace. Whenever I am in town everybody is polite as soon as I mention that I am from Prutace I have problems, police searches me for no reason. So I have stopped telling people that I am from Prutace, I tell them I am from Maoca. Since then nobody gives me any hard time, so you see it was my fault, but that name tag Prutace

**Participant talking about lack of support from relevant institutions and discrimination based on place of living.*

“Generally speaking, concerning those locations, we have a problem, at the playground we don’t have any reason to be for some time now, due to lack of security. For example, we wish to play football; at the playground are only hops for basketball. Concerning safe locations, we can’t say we have secure location not even here in the mosque. We are often disturbed; they are throwing bottles, rocks, etc. Road to the mosque is also risky, not for us since we are young but for elderly people. These elderly people are facing problems, all kinds of unpleasantness. As we said it before we have to go to Cande in order to play football. One day we should have it all here, but the problem is that those lights will again be smashed and then we will be at the beginning. In general, there is a certain stereotype regarding Prutace. Regardless if you are Roma person or not, if you are coming from Prutace you fall under that stereotype, concerning all mentioned in Brcko District are we don’t have a safe location”.

Male participant, Brcko

Jasmin: So you think this is some kind of politics?

Participant: Of course it is, they say he is from Prutace, he is a low life, poor, lives some kind of miserable life. Who will in his right mind raise his children here? First, nobody wants to stay in this country, it is our biggest problem, but even if we do, who will send his child in school here, when somebody could smash his head on the way to school. I mean really only an idiot can do it.

Participant: Mostly because of the public safety and security. I mean, there are laws but they are not implemented here. Police will come, they will make an official statement and they will leave. So the problem is in some kind of anarchist stance in Prutace.

Jasmin: So nobody respects anything here?

Participant: Nothing. I can’t only blame those who don’t respect the law, but also those who don’t do anything so those laws would be respected. Personally I saw some members of law enforcement from Brcko District who have done all kind of things, they would come here and pick up some girls and have done all kinds of things with them, and it was in plain sight. It is very bad here. The biggest issue is that we are aware that we can’t do anything about it, we can’t achieve our rights, we can’t complain to anybody, and nobody gets us and does not want to help us. This black hole is expanding by the day and I think soon it will collapse.

Participant: When I had an incident here with the imam, police saw the whole thing, but later they said they did not see anything. Police could have intervned and those people would never

again come in front of the mosque, or would think to throw an object on it, because they would be sanctioned by the police.



2nd Participant: We have organized an event, one police patrol was supposed to come, we from NGO have taken care of security, and we had good organization. One police officer was there and still there were problems, other police officers were far away, then one policeman came up and he cursed god in front of religious institution. What I want to say is that they feel superior when they are in Prutace. It is no strange occurrence when they hit people here. I know some people who have told me that they have been beaten by the police. They consider themselves as sheriffs here, but they don't act that way in let's say Maoca or Rahic, we here are not protected.

**Participants complaining on police actions in Prutace.*

As it is visible from some of the examples, the human security is challenged in many ways and young people are faced with huge danger situations that their peers don't have in the rest of the country. Even it's recognized that future life and decisions on relatively simple things such as attending high school or faculty (or the ones that are complex anyhow such as falling in love and getting married) are subject of label that comes from family living in collective center. The best example is in following discussion with participants in Prutace:



Jasmin: I will visit them. When you say you are from Prutace do you come up to any form of discrimination or any kind of some negative behavior?

Participant: Absolutely. I have already mentioned problems with police. However, we have problems in finding employment, problems with neighboring settlements, villages. Generalization is the biggest problem in our country. I can't say I understand those people, but when all those people see situation in Prutace they can't have good impression of us. It does not matter if you are member of Roma population or not, or if you go to college or not, term Prutace is connected to a person who is prone to deviant behavior, who is ready to make some kind of problem. What is most important is that it does not represent well-established personality.

Jasmin: Do you have any more examples of discrimination?

Participant: I attend school in Maoca, and when I first started there, kids from Maoca would call me all kinds of names, they would tell me that we are Roma people, cursed me, etc. When a problem or an incident would happen, they would first blame kids from Prutace.

Participant: In Orasje, out of 100 people, 90 of them are from Prutace, and that is why everybody is avoiding us.

Participant: We have to delineate violence here, we have very nice part of Prutace were Bosniaks live, with nice backyards, roads, street lights etc, but this stereotype covers whole Prutace. What I notice the most is that people avoid saying they are from Prutace.

Jasmin: And when you try to achieve some rights, in particular it is social welfare, but what about scholarships, employment, grants?

Participant: Nothing of mentioned.

Participant: I will mention an example, Eronet mobile company had an offer of phones, and my friend went there to acquire a phone, when he said that he is from Prutace, clerk told him that this offer is not for people from Prutace.

Jasmin: That is very concrete; you can't get what everybody else can.

Participant: Prutace, Alcatraz, Guantanamo it is the same.

Participant: Our love life here is also endangered, as soon as we say to a girl that we are from Prutace they run away, they don't want to live here. It is terrible. Name Prutace kills every kind of communication and self-esteem.

Jasmin: Now we are making jokes.

Participant: No, it is serious, I only go out with my friend, how am I supposed to get married, where can I bring my future wife?

Jasmin: Those things have happened?

Participant: Yes, to me. Not in first moment, but when name Prutace came up, we had problem. Whole this time I am pointing out negative things, but in general I live this place. I will try to solve some problems and will stay here, but problems are big.

“Situation is horrible; we don't have any rights here. My child has tried to defend the imam here from some hooligans, five of them have beaten him up, police came to make an official statement and they were off, they didn't do anything”.

Mother, Brcko

Parents groups participated in this research were deeply concerned for their childrens safety and all forms of human security issues that are occurring during the lifetime for their children. Parents also complained on current bad economic and social situation and awareness on different levels of human security threats, getting in line with discussions from focus groups with pupils.

“While we lived in Bjelavac (collective center in Bratunac) it was very hard for us and the children. Cold, moist, buildings, hygiene and people – everything was a problem. Now we are here in Bratunac and the situation is not better. We wait, we wait for everything and we don't have any progress. We can't earn any money, and what we get we spend on utilities. Children don't have any possibilities for life”.

Mother, Bratunac

In the research, the social networks online and internet has been seen as a positive way out of the reality that young people are facing. They see social networks as a place where they can be safe and secure, more than in real life. This was unexpected since most of the young people that are not living in collective centers are recognizing the cyber bullying and violence as one of the biggest human security challengs. For young people living in collective centers internet is “the most secure place”.

Jasmin: Do you have any problems on the internet?

1st Participant: We feel most safe on the internet. We have or friends there, we hang out, play games...

Jasmin: You feel safe there, but do you experience any provocations?

2nd Participant: No, people are nicer to us on the internet, since there are a lot of refugees there.

Jasmin: So for you the internet is like a safe zone?

1st Participants: Yes, nobody makes us any problems on the internet.

Even that situation is difficult for young boys living in collective centers the situation for girls living there is far more challenging. Parents are not allowing them to go out in the evening or to join any extracurricular school activities or to join some NGOs. Fear of sexual violence, the life threat situation in a place where most of the population is composed of socially excluded individuals on the edge of crime and often with alcoholic and drug behavior prevents girls themselves to be more active in society.

Jasmin: Now tell me, how does security affects little girls, women?

Participant: Well I can tell you they have certain inconveniences, Bosniaks girls are those who have problems. Parents are picking them up from school; they are walking them to school. They don't feel free or secure. We hear rumors that there were some accusations of sex crimes, we have a lot of accusations of domestic violence and similar stuff. In general, when it comes to security in Prutace situations is very bad.

Jasmin: Maybe that is the reason that there are no girls here.

Participant: Exactly. We had two female members, Sadik had to go and pick them up every time we had a meeting. But because of all these problems we don't have female members anymore. The thing is to arrive to the mosque safely.

II. People respond and coping mechanisms

Young people developed a number of coping strategies for security challenges highlighted in this research. The main difference is in personal coping strategy and possibility/will to involve different institutions in resolving the security situations. The most dominant personal coping strategy among youth is avoiding conflicts, stay in home, walk in groups, behave as they are not from collective center, and finally face the problems through active engagement. Family and friends are the first one to be noticed in cases of security challenges for young people and from institutions they mostly relate to police, center for social work and schools.

Brcko

Jasmin: When you say you are from Prutace do you come up to any form of discrimination or any kind of some negative behavior?

Participant: Absolutely. I have already mentioned problems with police. However, we have problems in finding employment, problems with neighboring settlements, villages. Generalization is the biggest problem in our country. I can't say I understand those people, but when all those people see situation in Prutace they can't have good impression of us. It does not matter if you are Roma or not, or if you go to college or not, term Prutace is connected to a person who is prone to deviant behavior, who is ready to make some kind of problem. What is most important is that it does not represent well-established personality.

Jasmin: Do you have any more examples of discrimination?

Participant: I attend school in Maoca, and when I first started there, kids from Maoca would call me all kinds of names, they would tell me that we are the Roma people, cursed me, etc. When a problem or an incident would happen, they would first blame kids from Prutace.

Participant: In Orasje, out of 100 people, 90 of them are from Prutace, and that is why everybody is avoiding us.

Participant: We have to delineate violence here, we have very nice part of Prutace were Bosniaks live, with nice backyards, roads, street lights etc, but this stereotype covers whole Prutace. What I notice the most is that people avoid saying they are from Prutace.

Tuzla

Participant: We (girls) never walk alone in the evening. We always are in company with boys on our way back from school to home.



Bratunac

Participant: I don't speak to nobody, I just reject it

Participant: For parents if the problem is too big we call the police.

Jasmin: Does police handles it?

Participant: I don't know, they have talked, don't know what happened.

Participant: We talk with each other, after we see that we can't speak with other parents.

Brcko

Jasmin: And now, how do you young people respond to all those misfortunes and problems? What are your defense mechanisms, we have already heard that you are willing to do something. What else do you have, what are your self-defense methods or defense methods?

Participant: We can only call the police, organize cleaning actions, youth activism.

Participant: Don't leave the house by yourself, always be in a group.

Jasmin: How are you dealing with these misfortunes, have you adjusted as minority, and what are you doing regarding that issue?

Participant: I haven't gone out for five years here to just go out and have a walk.

Jasmin: So you don't go out. You don't leave your house, so that is strategy?

Participant: Only in Rahic, and here if you must. If you have to go to a supermarket and you have to bring somebody with you.

Participant: I see this through activism; I think it is humane to point out to problems. I am a column writer for on internet portal, I often try to warn the public on problems and damages they have not only on this community but on others as well. This damage is constantly going forward and nobody is doing anything to prevent it.

Bratunac

Participant: We only have social welfare every three months.

Jasmin: Is there any other institution or organization?

Participant: While we stayed in collective center there was a lot of foreigners and it was easier. We would get all kind of aid from abroad. It was mostly from our people living abroad.

Jasmin: You do realize that there are certain laws and policies designed to help you. What is your opinion on those laws or policies? Here I think on health care, educational system or social welfare.

Participant: Well that we should have some financial aid while we are going to school, some kind of scholarship or child allowance, to have the right to a health care which we wouldn't pay.

Participant: With what we receive now, it is not payable for us to pay event the utilities.

Participant: Government of the RS is paying us social welfare, they are abolishing child allowance.

Jasmin: Is highs school education mandatory or not?

Participants: No, it is not.

It is an interesting observation that most of the pupils agreed on that one of the coping strategy is stay at home and feel safe and protected whilst on the internet and social media groups where they feel much more accepted and appreciated. Another interesting observation is that young people are willing to do something and mention activism as coping strategy where they actively contribute to the improvement of human security issues in the fields where they see themselves most useful such as environmental and cleaning activities, humanitarian aid collecting and cultural and sport activism.

Even that most of the participants in focus groups discussions don't have trust in institutions such are police and a center for social work or governmental institutions in general still the first institution that is mentioned is police. Young people and their parents believe that the police could do much more in terms of improving human security aspects in collective centers.

Centers for social work are seen as "double player" in one case they are helpful while providing monthly family support money, but on the other side centers for social work are seen as a source of problems due the decisions to move ex. criminals, minority families (like Roma) and other socially excluded groups to collective centers.

Young people and their parents were very positive about the role of schools that are in centers and they are thankful for the opportunity to attend school (primary school) that is basically in their neighborhood.

NGOs are mainly not present and their work is seen as important in providing additional education and possibilities for young people to travel, meet other young people and socialize with their peers. Mainly youth NGOs are ones that young people were in touch with but also they have cultural and sport associations where they are active. They also mentioned support coming from different international organizations and the diaspora.

III. Needed changes and possible perspective for future

Participant's opinion on possible changes and perspective for the future are slightly different across the different groups. This depends on the current situation; some people are still living in centers while some people are not living in centers anymore so their proposals for the future are different. For young people and their parents that are living in centers the perspective lives in continuation of school and moving to some other cities. For people that lived in centers they have been facing real life situations like paying rent, electricity bills, etc. And for them future perspectives are still closely related to their past life in centers. The reality and surrounding environment, in terms of socioeconomic and political situation, is not positive and they have been living on margins for last 20 years. Somehow it looks like that leaving the organized life in centers, no matter how difficult that may have been; makes new problems for people after people have been moved.

For young people living in centers some practical activities have been recognized as priorities: setting up police station or permanent patrols in centers (Tuzla and Brcko), improve implementation of laws and regulations (speed limit signs in Tuzla and environmental police for wild dumps in Brcko), opening of community/youth center where they can have the possibility to spend their free time (Tuzla and Brcko) and for both of those centers, they believe that some sort of control of people that are coming to their center should take place as well as some sort of security camera surveillance.

In Bratunac most of the priorities are related to resolving security issues in economic empowerment of young people and their families as well as continuation of school and integration in local society through some sort of youth activism and engagement.

From the perspective of other stakeholders they all recognized the difficult situation for young people living in collective centers, they see the need of more active involvements of other institutions in resolving the security challenges in collective centers and propose that more cross sectorial cooperation with other relevant institutions responsible for Human security, are needed. Stakeholders offered following recommendations:

- Opening or new reconstruction of existing facilities that would be used for working with young people in their free time;
- Ask the relevant authorities, especially the Ministry for human rights and refugees BiH, to involve more BiH NGOs in programs implemented by this ministry;
- Increase the cooperation of the police and other institutions with young people through the establishment of clear mechanisms for communication and cooperation;
- More active involvement of local NGOs with youth from collective centers.

Conclusion

According to the available reports there are not so much positive movement yet in terms of numbers of people still living in the Centers.

The number of youth living in Centers is not determined as it was difficult to determine “youth” that are ages 15-30 in FBiH and RS (according to the laws on youth) and to divide that term from children that are up to 18 years (determined by UN convention). In Brcko there is no Law on youth that would define this target group. For this research, we shall use FBiH and RS laws on youth and define them as 15-30 years old.

No youth program was ever initiated or implemented for youth population living in Centers by any of the governmental programs and only a few programs for youth from Centers were implemented by local and international NGOs.

Youth from Centers were not part of any youth policy or strategy in entity or District level and not even part of the revised strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the Implementation of Annex VII of the Dayton Peace Agreement 2009/2014.¹

Youth from Bosnia and Herzegovina, in general, suffers from lack of employment, bad education system, lack of opportunities and recognition, but those facts are even worse for displaced youth or youth living in the Centers. As Fridrih Erbert Stiftug research from 2015 concludes: “On the whole, it is estimated that every second person in Bosnia and Herzegovina was displaced, either internally displaced, or forced into exile abroad. Many households were decimated, or even totally destroyed. Family members became invalids, and numerous households were torn by their members moving out to third countries. Especially alarming is present discouragement from entering into marriage, and, particularly, from childbearing. “Erosion” of certain essential functions of the family is evident, such as socialization function, education and economic function, as well as protection, emotional support and identification. It should also be emphasized that present-day BiH society is still not ready to take over the “family role in caring”, including the aspect of socialization of individuals, that is, shaping personality values, as well as taking over economic and social child care. In such a way, a “gap” has been formed, to be filled by some other entity, such as street, peers, media, including different types of internet content, infrequently exerting fatal influence over development of the mental characteristics of youth.”

Since there is a hope, such is the newly established “Joint Regional Program on Durable Solutions for Refugees and Displaced Persons” known as the “Regional Housing Program” (RHP) is a joint initiative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia (“the Partner Countries”).

The aim of this regional initiative, which is an integral part of the “Sarajevo Process on refugees and displaced persons” initiated in 2005, re-launched in March 2010 at the Belgrade conference, and to which the Partner Countries have re-committed themselves with the

¹ The Strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the Implementation of Annex VII of the Dayton Peace Agreement, made in the end of 2002, was the first joint framework State document defining goals and planning required actions and reforms towards a final implementation of the provisions of Annex VII of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in BiH (Agreement on Return of Refugees and Displaced Persons).

November 2011 Belgrade Declaration, is to contribute towards resolving the protracted displacement situation of the most vulnerable refugees and displaced persons (DPs) following the 1991-1995 conflicts on the territory of former Yugoslavia, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Montenegro from 1999, by, inter alia, providing them with durable housing solutions.

The RHP aims to benefit close to 74,000 people or 27,000 households and its cost is estimated to be approximately €584 million over a five-year period. It will comprise four country housing projects, one in each Partner Country each of which will be implemented by the relevant Partner Country in several sub-projects and in several phases.

The regional initiative, as part of the overall Sarajevo process, is endorsed by the international community, including the European Union represented by the European Commission, the United States of America, the Council of Europe Development Bank ("CEB"), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ("UNHCR") and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe ("OSCE"¹).

RHP implementation in BiH progressing

Minister Borovac also reflected on the CEB-funded project for closure of the collective centers "CEB2", saying that beside the RHP, it is one of the priority projects for the Ministry represents a major effort to create housing solutions for the most vulnerable. With a total cost of EUR 104 million, this project is one of the main building blocks for the Implementation of Annex VII of the Dayton Peace Agreement. Through the project, the majority of the collective centers in BiH will be closed and at least 2 600 families will receive permanent housing solutions.

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- UNHCR working environment in BiH, fact sheet 2012;
- Situation and development in field of access to human rights of Refugees and Displaced persons BiH by Ministry of human rights and refugees in BiH, 2005;
- Union for sustainable development report on situation in collective centers from 2011;
- Latest facts on youth by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), 2015;
- Information on youth, collective centers and key stakeholders in BiH by ORC Tuzla 2015;

Focus group composition

Type	Location	Specifics
Young people	Tuzla	Ages 15 to 18, gender balanced
Young people	Bratunac	Ages 15 to 18, all males
Young people	Brcko	Ages 15 to 20, all males
Parents	Brcko	Mostly females, predominantly housewives
Parents	Bratunac	Mostly females, predominantly housewives

In-depth interviews

Institution	Location	Position
Youth association Prutace	Brcko district BiH	Director
Center for social work	Brcko	Social worker
Youth NGO PRONI	Brcko	Youth worker
Local community Maoca	Brcko	President
School	Mihatovici	Teacher
Tuzla community foundation	Tuzla	Community worker
Youth organization Odisej	Bratunac	President
Center for social work	Bratunac	Social worker

Stakeholder meeting composition

Name	Institution
Vedrana Becarevic	Elementary school „Podrinje“ Mihatovici
Jasmin Jasarevic	PRONI Brcko
Senada Susic	PRONI Brcko
Amra Kapidzic	Ministry of internal affairs Tuzla canton
Adnan Kurtalic	Elementary school VII „Gornji Rahic“, department for education
Alma Kovcic	Center for social work Tuzla
Irma Taindjic	Center for social work Tuzla
Mirhunisa Zukic	Union for sustainable return and integration BiH, Sarajevo
Amra Somun	Union for sustainable return and integration BiH, Sarajevo
Safet Imamovic	Culture community „Prutace“
Dragan Arsenovic	Brcko District Police
Dusan Lazic	Brcko District Police
Emir Hujdurovic	Ministry for work, social politics and return, Tuzla canton
Cedomir Pavlovic	Center for social work Bratunac
Anita Simic-Kasumovic	Foundation of Tuzla community
Renata Kuzlic	RTV 7
Fatima Mehmedovic	FENA, Federal news agency
Miralem Tursinovic	ORC Tuzla
Bosko Vlajic	ORC Tuzla

POLICY BRIEF

Introduction

Youth Resource Center Tuzla as part of the project “Cross - Border Citizen's Network for Peace, Reconciliation and Human Security in Balkans” has conducted research during 2015-2016. Research was regarding human security of young people living in three collective/alternative centres in order to obtain answers to questions of dangers which young people face living in these centres and after leaving centres.

Problem

War in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1990s resulted in 1.2 million people who have left the country and over one million internally displaced persons in BiH.

Today, two decades after Dayton peace agreement, over 100,000 people is still internally displaced inside BiH, including 8,600 people especially vulnerable population in around 159 centers around country.

Constant presence of these centers for displaced persons inside BiH – which in Bosnia and Herzegovina are called “collective centers” or “alternative housing centers” – represents series of challenges for all people living in them.

One of the most endangered group from this population are younger generations. They are facing series of security challenges which are not part of the everyday lives of their peers in BiH.

Methodology

Basic target groups of this research were young people from three collective/centres in BiH: Tuzla (Mihatovici), Bratunac (Bjelavac), Brcko District (Prutace), their parents as well as organizations and institutions which work directly with young people in these centers or have an impact on their lives.

Key Questions

- What kind of protection is available to young people in centers?
- What is the role of relevant authorities in solving challenges with which young people face in these centers?
- Are challenges of Human security increased because there are no laws or because they are poorly implemented?
- How do life conditions in centers influence on quality and social inclusion of young people living there?

„Regarding social centers, they send all problematic persons here, as well as children, so they have problems with drug users and alcoholics. They think there are no rules here.

Female participant, Tuzla

Problem analysis

As it was to be expected, different forms and types of human security challenges have been identified during the research. After initial discussions with participants everybody had easily understood concept of Human security and their answers were connected with a lot of personal experiences and different types of security challenges during their lives in centers and afterwards. Some of them are: psychological violence, infrastructural challenges, ecological dangers, bad economic situation, social differences, religious violence, sexual violence, physical attacks, gender violence as well as cultural violence.

Economic insecurity of young people

„We pay for everything, electricity, water and garbage. In the collective centre we haven't paid for anything”

Focus group participant, Bratunac

Three most common forms of security challenges for young people living in collective centers in Bosnia and Herzegovina are tied to **economic situation, lack of protection and lack of understanding from relevant institutions** as well as **cultural differences** created among young people living in collective centers and people living in surrounding communities. These Human security challenges prevail over all other forms in all three cities.

Lack of protection and understanding from relevant institutions

„We girls never walk alone at night. We are always in the company of boys when we are returning home from school.”

Focus group participant, Tuzla

Young people from centers are not part of any youth policies or strategies in entities or Brcko District BiH. In addition they are not part of revised strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the implementation of Annex VII of Dayton peace agreement 2009/2014.²

Young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina in general suffer because of unemployment, poor educational system and lack of opportunities, and these facts are even worse by displaced or young people living in collective centers.

Cultural differences

„Whenever there is some incident in school, they blame us from Prutace.“

Focus group participant, Brcko.

Recommendations for problem solution

Participant opinions regarding possible changes and perspectives for future are slightly different throughout different focus groups. This currently depends on situation, some of them currently are living in centers and some are not, so their recommendations for future are different. For young people and their parents who still live in centers **perspective is in the continuation of education and relocation to some other city.**

For people who have lived in centers situation is somewhat different since they now encounter life situations such as paying rent, utility bills, etc. For them as well future perspectives are tied to their previous life when they were living in centers. Reality and economic surroundings in the terms of socio, economic and political situation is not positive, and they have been living on the margins for the past 20 years. Somehow it would seem that after they leave organized life in centers, no matter how difficult it was, it creates new problems for people after they move out.

For young people living in centers some of practical activities have been recognized as priorities, as setting up police station or constant police patrol in centers (Brcko and Tuzla), better implementation of the law and regulations (speed sign limitations in Tuzla and eco police for wild garbage dump sites in Brcko). In addition for both centers establishing some sort of control for the people coming to centers as well as setting up surveillance cameras.

In Bratunac priorities regarding human security challenges are **economic strengthening of young people and their families** as well as continuation of education and **integration in local society** through some form of **youth activism and engagement.**

² Strategy of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the implementation of Annex VII of the Dayton peace agreement, made in 2002, was the first joined framework of the state document for defining aims, as well as needed planning of necessary actions and reforms toward final implementation of the Annex VII of general Peace agreement in BiH (agreement on return of refugees and displaced persons).

From the **perspective of stakeholders** all of them recognize difficult situation of young people living in collective centers, they recognize the need for **active involvement of other institutions** in the solution of security challenges in collective centers. Their opinion is that **larger inter sectoral cooperation is needed** with all other institutions relevant for Human security, opening or rebuilding existing **facilities which would be places for working with young people** in their free time. To seek from the relevant institutions - Ministry for human rights and refugees BiH to **include on higher level NGOs from BiH** in programs conducted by this ministry. In addition increase of the cooperation between police and other institutions with young people **through establishing mechanisms for communication and cooperation**, more **active work of NGOs with young people** from collective/alternative centers.

RECOMANDATIONS

1. INCREASE PRESENCE OF THE POLICE IN COLLECTIVE/ALTERNATIVE CENTERS
2. BETTER IMPLEMENTATION OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS
3. OPENING PLACES FOR YOUTH ACTIVISM AS A PART OF COLLECTIVE/ALTERNATIVE CENTERS
4. INCREASE CONTROL OF PEOPLE BEING HOUSED IN COLLECTIVE CENTERS
5. SETTING UP SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS IN CENTERS
6. WORKING ON ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE CENTERS
7. BETTER AND HIGHER INTER SECTORAL COOPERATION
8. HIGHER INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL NGOS IN THE PROGRAMS LEAD BY MINISTRY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND REFUGEES BIH
9. ESTABLISHING MECHANISMS FOR COOPERATION WITH NGO'S

Conclusion

Young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina in general suffer from the lack of employment opportunities, poor educational system, lack of opportunities and those facts are even worse by young people living in Collective centers. Because of this all relevant institutions and actors need to undertake maximum efforts in order to resolve recognized security challenges of young people living in collective/alternative centers.

WHO ARE WE?

We are a joint initiative with partner organizations from Bosnia Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. Each member organization brings with itself its own perspective with focuses on different themes, levels (local, national to regional) and forms (research-based advocacy, grassroots mobilization) of activities. The common denominator, however, is that each member of the network strives for a change in the security oriented political culture and structure in their respective environments, towards a human centered approach.

Project is directed to establishing “Civil network for Peace, Reconciliation and Human security of people” and is supported by the European Commission.

Our goal

Project aim is strengthening advocacy in domain of human security at the state level, region and Europe based on a program of systematic research at the state and region level. At the moment network conducts research in regards to forms and sources of insecurity in everyday life of citizens with special attention to **schools, work place and local community, under the topic of the form and place of violence at Western Balkans and Turkey.**

Main project ambitions are directed toward development of methodology for monitoring of human security and later on, identification of relevant indicators which can be used by the project network. In order to realize system monitoring of the development when it comes to security of people in the region.

The network strives as well to become a model of cooperation between civil society organizations and research institutions. Which will strengthening partner capacities focused on advocacy actions and at the same time contributes to overcoming the gap between parts of the community engaged in research/advocacy and decision making process, in order to improve the decision making process.

Why Balkan and Turkey?

There are two clear lines of separation between countries involved in this partnership. First is recent history between two countries of Western Balkan in the terms of arm conflict at their

territories (BiH and Kosovo), which has included surrounding countries and had deep, specific and direct political, administrative, demographic, economic and social consequences for wider region. Second difference concerns formal relations in European Union, with Bulgaria as an EU member, Turkey as candidate country and Western Balkan countries within different stages of the EU approach.

On the other hand, some of the usual characteristics of these countries share mutual problems in regards of economic and political changes, as well as intensive migrations, with a range of ancillary consequences whose combined influence shape the lives of some groups and individuals in ways that are oppressive, discriminatory and insecure.

From the standpoint of policy, all of these countries strive to institutionalization of the liberal/democratic state, but in reality each of them should overcome specific non liberal elements in regards how the authority is conducted. The outcome is manifested in democratic deficit which citizens of these countries feel in form of “differentiated citizenship”, which does not exist in existing policies, but it does in practice. These societies have to come long way before the start applying correct and just rule, and protection form and security which is present in steady democratic countries. Behind the facade of formal equality and law, citizen’s participation is severely limited, while there are also forms of hierarchy of citizens where some groups and individuals “are more equal than others”. Prevalence of social exclusion in these societies which is different from the West Europe standards in regards of scope and certain forms, often excludes usage of political rights which are formally given to the citizens of Western Balkan, Bulgaria and Turkey. These are still serious problems when it comes to democratic engagement of the government in regards of human rights, minorities, reconciliation issues, media, transparency and responsibility.

Economically speaking, these countries are engaged in process of neoliberal model modernization, which is being pursued under the influence of global market, competition and universal standards of economic rule, and which in addition comes with multiple challenges for the state, society and its cohesion. The increase in income disparity has contributed to the increase of poverty, while government policies for poverty reduction have failed. Lack of productive employment and social security remains biggest concern of their citizens.

Migration represents special aspect of socio-economic context in this region with significant implications for the wellbeing and citizens safety. This region has experienced massive internal migrations, which have included ethnical migrations due to open or latent conflicts, which have contributed to the creation of other forms of pressures on social policies (education, social housing, and securing social welfare) and social cohesion. Therefore connection and rationalization dedicated to the creation of this civil society network becomes obvious when things are observed on individual level of ordinary people and their daily experiences. In each of these countries, relations inside the communities, social exclusion and managing becomes source of threats for peaceful co existence and social justice – aims which are at the mission focus of all our partners from the civil society in this network.

Project research agenda is focused on questioning different questions which can improve our understanding of causes of insecurity and threats in everyday life of individuals and communities in these countries. By collecting credible evidence, network will establish good base for proposing and advocating effective approaches during reconciliation at individual level as well on the community level in these societies, in a manner by which different types of actors can be recruited on local, national, regional, international and especial European level.

PARTNERS

Turkey - Helsinki Citizens' Assembly – hCa

The experience of the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly in transnational peace building efforts across Europe, Balkans and Turkey started with the second half of the 1980s, as parts of the West European peace movement developed a strategy of 'detente from below', making links with opposition groups in Central and Eastern Europe. Many of the techniques of transnational networking – providing transnational support to groups in difficult and dangerous situations, and simultaneously lobbying different governments and international institutions – were developed during this period. Helsinki Citizens' Assembly was established in 1990 to formalize this network. The goal was to integrate Europe from below, to establish a pan-European civil society. Helsinki Citizens' Assembly in Turkey was established formally in 1993 as part of this network. It has since been operating as an open space for interaction and dialogue between the conflicting parties throughout in Turkey. This role has earned it the reputation of a nation-wide umbrella NGO on human rights in Turkey.

Serbia | SeConS - Development Initiative Group

SeConS is the leading organization in the field of social inclusion in Serbia. First set of nationally specific indicators for monitoring social inclusion in line with EU methodology was developed in 2008 by SeConS experts. This task was done for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of RS. SeConS has been one of the leading organizations promoting social inclusion concept among policy-makers, officials from relevant institutions and CSOs in Serbia since that time. This was done through research, capacity building, and mobilization of actors, people to people actions and through media promotion. Main results from these activities are numerous studies and policy briefs available at www.secons.net. SeConS is strongly profiled towards social and economic aspects of human security.

Bosnia & Herzegovina - Youth Resource Center | Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Tuzla

Helsinki Citizens' Assembly (hCa) Tuzla / Youth Resource Centre (ORC) Tuzla is a recognized leader in the field youth in BiH, founder and partner to a number of youth and other civic networks in BiH and across the Western Balkans. It has started its activities in 1995 on the initiative and co-ordination of Helsinki Citizen's Assembly (hCa) organizations from Banja Luka and Tuzla, and was officially founded in 2004. The organization works to connect youth's initiatives (independent organizations, informal groups and individuals) from the whole territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to promote their capacities, activities and ideas, with a special focus on young people living in small communities and cities in B&H. ORC Tuzla are active participants and partners in many regional and international projects, initiatives, campaigns; concerning the minorities, gender equality, demilitarization, etc. Since 1997 to this day, thousands of young people has "passed" through the Youth Network B&H, and many of

them now have important and responsible functions in the public and political life in B&H. Currently Youth Network of B&H gathers around 120 members /youth organizations, informal youth groups, individuals.

Montenegro - Association for Democratic Prosperity – ZID

ZID is member of the HCA Network since 1997; one of the leading members of Montenegro civil society in providing advocacy, training and tools on issues of social inclusion, youth policies, volunteering and citizenship. It is extensively engaged in regional networks dealing with cross-cutting issues of peace-building and youth. The Citizens' Pact for South Eastern Europe – ongoing Following the Kosovo crisis the international community created the Stability Pact for the SEE region which aimed to create an international mechanism for building peace and democracy in the Balkans. Civic activists within the close region realized that civil societies must equally be in co-operation with one another.

Bulgaria - The Institute for Regional and International Studies – IRIS

IRIS is an independent, non-partisan and non-profit think tank, based in Sofia, Bulgaria. IRIS is dedicated to developing regional strategies for democratic policy making and increasing international understanding of current and emerging issues in Bulgaria, the Balkans and the Black Sea area. IRIS's programs include producing analyses on current public policy issues and issues in the spheres of international relations and security; lobbying among decision-makers for the endorsement of adequate and efficient policy lines; networking with fellow research and activist non-governmental organizations in Bulgaria, the Balkans and the Black Sea region; and organizing conferences where politicians, academia and professionals find a forum to exchange ideas and policy perspectives. In the course of more than fifteen years of existence, IRIS has accumulated a considerable knowledge base and experience in the fields of democracy building, Balkan and Black Sea security and cooperation, advocacy and networking.

Kosovo - Centre for Research, Documentation and Publication – CRDP

CRDP was established in 2010 with a mission to promote the mechanisms of transitional justice that can normalize local and regional relationships and aid Kosovo in addressing its history of human rights violations. The strategy used for advocating transitional justice is based on a conceptual model for Dealing with the Past (DWP) that is concerned with a societies' right to know, right to justice, right to reparations and guarantee of non-recurrence. All activities that are pursued at the Center fit within this transitional justice framework. Through these efforts CRDP endeavors to be the focal point for transitional justice in Kosovo, representing the needs of ethnic minorities and the victims of conflict. It has focused mainly on consultations with disadvantaged groups in Kosovo, including ethnic minorities, victims of conflict, former prisoners and war veterans. In a region where cooperation between ethnic minorities has proven extremely difficult, CRDP was one of the first organizations to reach out to ethnic Serbs, Albanians and RAE communities to discuss a wide array of issues, including truth commissions, accountability, reparations and reforms.



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