

**all different  
all equal**



**PEACE**  
2001-2010 INTERNATIONAL DECADE  
FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE  
FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD



**IS IN OUR HANDS**

## Building Peace Skills VI 2007 European Training Seminar



June 8 – 15 2007, Schoorl, The Netherlands

The United Network of Young Peacebuilders held the Building Peace Skills VI Training Seminar from June 8-15 in Schoorl, The Netherlands.

We invited 29 youth leaders, already active in peacebuilding and conflict transformation from 18 countries to meet for a week in order to further explore different elements of this field.

In all the activities the main focus was on non-formal and inclusive educational methods, enhancing intercultural learning among the participants and encouraging their active participation.

It was a combination of presentations, group work, simulation exercises, concrete actions, individual reflection as well as visits to other organisations.



The team facilitated the flow of information in the sessions that were more knowledge based, such as common terminology of peace and conflict, a detailed workshop on advocacy with the focus on youth participation especially in lobby work and sessions on project management and team work.

These rather informative sessions were reinforced by practical applications of what the participants had learned: In a simulation game on lobbying, an application of certain models of project management to the situation of NGOs and a self assessment of

one's own role in a team with the Belbin test.



Furthermore we tried to stimulate the individual development in sessions that focussed on their personal experience: introducing models of non-violent communication and experimenting with it in role plays on conflict situations helped them to understand their role in conflicts as either party or negotiator.

In all aspects of the training, we put great emphasis on the intercultural learning process, which was very fruitful since this group was very diverse in culture language, heritage, thoughts and mindsets, coming from The Netherlands, Moldova, Macedonia, Belarus, Ukraine, Russia, Croatia, Serbia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, UK, Italy, Poland, Cyprus, Hungary, Germany and Romania.

They were given space to exchange and share their experiences from their own environment, community or origin in a world café using the open space technique, in an intercultural evening showing this variety of cultures and in an organisation fare, reflecting their countries reality and showing their organisations' work.



During the week the group grew together as a community, inspired each other and left with new insights, concrete ideas and plans for the future.



The group and with this, the training seminar met the organizer's expectations and aims of having a successful seminar, generating lots of new ideas and approaches and spreading the core values in peacebuilding and conflict transformation using frameworks such as the Earth Charter and the All different – All equal Campaign as a basis.

Once again we would like to thank everyone involved, donors, UNOY Peacebuilders' staff, the trainers and of course our participants, who made this event so unique, fruitful and inspiring.

Some comments from the participants:

"The team was really great - thanks also for being always not only for us, but with us, you are very inspiring and encouraging! What I also appreciated very much in our seminar that we as a group also created some kind of team, where everybody tried to be supportive and understanding, and I think it was one of the best things I have experienced, so special thanks to everyone for such a great time and experience!"

"The most wonderful thing for me was the free time we got to speak to each other as young people. The selection of participants was really the best I have ever experienced and I felt such a constant buzz in all our conversations, desperate to soak up each others experiences and perspectives like smiling sponges."

"You are really doing a great job. I wish you good luck in this and also patience. And I think that your team may become a good example for us and many other young people and organizations. Thank you!"

