

# ConSim\_Balkan\_2010

## Principal Organizer:



**CRISP e.V.**  
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## Project-coordinator:

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## Partner Organisations:

**Serbia**

**FRACTAL** – Vuk Trajkovic  
**Web:** <http://www.ngofractal.org/>

**Macedonia**

**CIVIL** – Xhabir Memedi Deralla  
**Web:** <http://www.civil.org.mk>

**Kosovo**

**ProPeace** – Valdete Idrizi  
**Web:** <http://conflictprevention-ks.org/>

**Bosnia**

**KULT** – Jasmin Besic  
**Web:** <http://consim.mladi.org/>

## Funded by:



**zivik** - Civil-Conflict-Resolution  
**Web:** <http://www.ifa.de/en/foerderprogramme/zivik/>

## Location and date of activities:

**Workshops**

Belgrade, Skopje, Prishtina and Sarajevo  
*From 14<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2010*

**Seminar**

Skopje, Macedonia  
*From 23<sup>th</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2010*

## Further Data:

**Participants:** 24  
**Project Duration:** 1<sup>st</sup> of May to 31<sup>th</sup> of December 2010  
**Language:** English

## 1. Description:

This project is the continuation of our previous activities in the Balkan region. Together with our partners from Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia we will conduct a seminar that aims to be of additional value to the local conflict-transformation processes. For seven days, we invite six participants from each country from the 23th October to 2nd November 2010 in Skopje [Macedonia] in order to get together and to identify difficulties and hindrances the participants are facing in their workaday life. This fundamental task will be followed by an alignment of the particular defiances and a subsequent detection of overlapping challenges. In order to attain these operating processes during the seminar we use the method of simulation-gaming that stimulates an interactive change of perspective and thus is helpful to discover new angles of view. In the end of the seminar we want to have accomplished an agile interchange of ways of looking at problems and a description of possible intersections and interfaces. After the seminar we want to sustain this fruitful exchange and use it as a starting point for conjointly problem-solving strategies between the participants.

We come from the perception that civil societies play the most important role in a sustainable transformation of social conflicts and therefore has to be encouraged and supported. In order to strengthen the particular civil societies systematically, it is necessary to analyse their situation and position within their respective social contexts, due to the goal of working out their strengths and weaknesses and to attend them specifically. This project makes a contribution on this, by reflecting and analysing the position of civil society in the respective conflicts and countries.

Through the seminar in Skopje in 2010 the basis for the second phase of the project will be established, when the participants start to work out concrete approaches for collective methods of resolution. Subsequently to this project, in a long term perspective, we want get together civil-society-actors from the Balkans and the Caucasus region.

## 2. Target-Group:

The target-group for this project are staff-members from civil-society-organizations from Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia, that already have experience in the field of conflict-transformation and in intercultural seminars as well. The content of the seminar is dedicated to activists of civil-society, that want to deepen their cross-linked thinking and are ready and willing to tackle shared problems across borders. For them the seminar offers the chance to enlarge their contacts to partners in the region and thus to develop further options for actions. The selection of adequate participants for this project is of great importance in order to provide a surplus profit for the regional civil-conflict-transformation. Therefore the project includes a workshop in each of the participating countries. For these workshops we invite 15 actors from the national civil society sector to get to know each other better and to do a first analysis of the national situation of civil society. During these workshops we will also conduct a short simulation, that allows us to find out how confident the participants are with the method and to what degree they will be able to benefit from the project. Afterwards we chose along with our local partner six participants that we invite to participate in the seminar in Skopje.

## 3. Method:

The method of simulation-gaming is on a par with a social-constructivist form of learning. By this we mean that knowledge is not only converting of cognitive allurements, but an active construction within a group. Through the simulation-game and its reflection the social construction of knowledge depicts, perspectives

interchanged and participants open themselves for diversification. The core element of the method is to learn in and at complex problems. Thereby simulation-games support a self-organized and at practice orientated culture of learning. With a learning method that is oriented on practical experience the simulation game uncovers the underlying factors and dynamics which are at work in real political conflicts. Cooperative behaviour together with the coordination of individual decisions results in the success of collective action. Especially while developing capabilities in solving problems collectively it is necessary to have the freedom for making mistakes. Exactly this kind of testing is offered by simulation-games: planning of reasonable strategies for action, their implementation and improvement and the following experimentation with different alternatives of problem-solving. The experience of collective action will be helpful for creating a sustainable network beyond the Seminar.

#### 4. Goals:

The main goal of this project is to bring actors of civil society from Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia together in order to provide a common and shared analysis of the current situation and accompanying problems of civil society concerning their relations towards the population and the state as well. Herefrom the participants develop a first common problem-solving strategy that allows them to combine their capabilities and resources so as to act with collective strength. With the aid of the method of simulation-gaming the participants get the chance to experience arising conflicts from a different perspective, to try out collectively gathered problem-solving-strategies and to recognize mutual dilemmas as well as synergetic effects. In the ensuing wrap-up-phase the participants evaluate the experiences from the simulation and transfer them into strategies of action. Herein we see the additional value for the participants' working routine. In the end of the project the participants possess a further readiness and willingness for collective cooperation, through the reciprocal exchange, the new approaches gained via the simulation, as well as through the shared concept of a possible realization of these.

#### 5. Who we are:

CRISP is a platform open to other young activists. During the processes of organizing, networking and realizing their projects we provide our competence and our capacities. By this fruitful permanent exchange of ideas and experience we avoid an isolation of our work. Through our activities we want to make a contribution to peaceful conflict-transformation. Therefore it is particularly necessary to assist mutual understanding and comprehension of differing positions and interests. In this spirit we encourage international understanding and want to afford a more tolerant social interaction.

We are specialized in designing and organizing simulation-games and together with our international partners we incorporate them into seminars concerning a certain political or social topic. In the last two years we were actively engaged in the field of civil conflict transformation in the Balkans and in the Caucasus region. This year we want to continue this work together with our conversant partners in these regions. In the long run we want to support a closer cooperation between the particular civil society activists and foster a mutual exchange of ideas, approaches and strategic courses of action.

