Conference and workshop

Post-Conflict Development and Civic Imagination (Divided Cities)

Saturday, May 25, 2013
Home for Cooperation, Nicosia Buffer Zone

mostar

mitrovica

nicosia
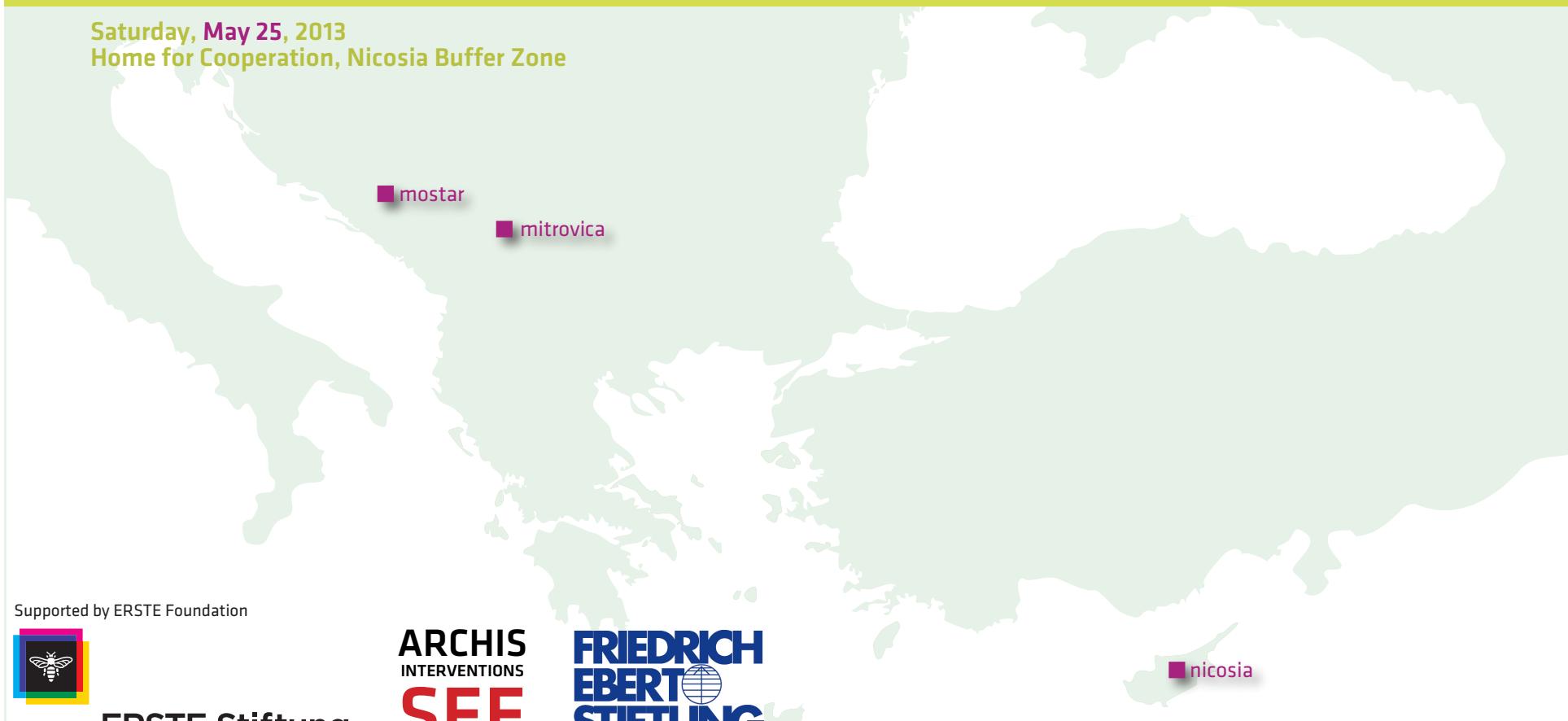
ERSTE Stiftung

ARCHIS INTERVENTIONS SEE

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG

Overview

Introduction

Post-Conflict Development and Civic Imagination (Divided Cities)

Kai Vöckler, Archis Interventions_SEE
with Esra Can Akbil, Giorgos Psaltis,
Sebnem Hoskara, Archis Interventions_Cy

Every city faces social and political problems, and this is evidently problematic. Yet the very ubiquity of such problems is perhaps also the first key to resolving them. One must not only seize every opportunity to actively inspire optimism among residents and thus empower them to shape the city on their own behalf, but also create the mechanisms and networks that allow them to share their experience with citizens in similar situations. As our interventions have shown to date, residents thereby regain some measure of control over their everyday lives and environment.

In post-conflict situations, the pivotal meaning of the city as an agent for political and social change becomes particularly obvious. Here, a city develops mostly in unsafe, unstable conditions, unable to defend itself from political and economic onslaughts. Conflict always leaves scars on a city, scars of the crises the city has undergone.

This is especially dramatic in cities that recently emerged from a period of war or violent conflict and whose communities continue to defend their interests by physically appropriating parts of the city or fighting for political control. Occupying urban spaces or erecting monuments and buildings that symbolize and edify a particular community are attempts to strengthen its members' sense of belonging and identity; simultaneously, they lay an exclusive claim to the city on behalf of the community.

Battles rage over the city and architecture. Can the codes governing such spaces be re-written? Can other spaces be created? Can a new spatial practice be established — one that caters for, and responds to ALL of the city's inhabitants? To answer such questions requires careful examination of the particular local conditions, for these vary from city to city. And the cities are influenced in turn by the overall political situation. So, however many parallels there may be in structural terms, spatial strategies developed for one city cannot be simply transferred to another. This is why local independent initiatives are actually in a much better position to develop spatial strategies for their own contexts. Supporting these initiatives' expanding regional networks, exchange of know-how, and development of concepts is therefore of crucial importance.

Community Centres in Divided Cities

In Mostar (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Mitrovica (Kosovo) and Nicosia (Cyprus), it was not governmental, but local organizations that came up with the idea of building a community centre or of transforming an existing building and the attendant collective memories into a neutral communications zone. Initiatives launched by civil organizations gain great importance, precisely, because of the latters' local roots and proven capacity to foster dialogue. Developing community centres as meeting points and spaces for communication seems to be a vital step towards overcoming division. But, as the examples below

....

Introduction

show, this is not enough. Strategies should be developed also in order to turn communications sites into more than just meeting places, by facilitating activities and networks that have the potential, in the long term, to be integrated in the everyday life of the entire city — activities and networks which in and of themselves create for their users a new experience of space.

See also Esra Can Akbil, Demet Mutman, Giorgos Psaltis, Kai Vöckler, "Divided Cities and Building Dialogue: Community Centers in Mostar, Mitrovica and Nicosia", in: Kai Vöckler (ed), SEE! Urban Transformation in Southeastern Europe. Vienna: Lit Verlag, 2013, p. 72-83.

Front page of Mapping Karpas Project Website as a Knowledge Tool: mappingkarpas.org

Mapping Karpas, Dipkarpaz/Rizokarpaso, Cyprus

Esra Can Akbil, Giorgos Psaltis, Sebnem Hoskara, Archis Interventions_Cy (Cyprus)

The settlement of Dipkarpaz/Rizokarpaso is the main village in the northern part of Cyprus, where the Greek Cypriots who stayed in the village after the events of 1974 and Turkish citizens who moved to the north of the island from the southeast and northern regions of Turkey have been living together in a rather unique situation. Political uncertainty, dramatic demographic shifts, economic decline and unsettled ownership issues have created a fragile socio-political case and a youth drain in both communities. Demographic data up to 1974 indicates no actual shared life, as the village was predominantly, inhabited then by Greek Cypriots. Today, the village population is about 3,000 and less than 1/10th of it are Greek Cypriots.

The 'Mapping Karpas' project consists of an alternative knowledge tool that serves to trace (map) conditions in the rural settlement and the outermost reaches of the Karpas Peninsula and the activities of local inhabitants. This secluded strip of land is today one the most unique and unspoilt examples of beautiful Mediterranean landscape. Unique geological phenomena, endangered fauna and flora, and scattered ancient monuments compose an enchanting landscape. Despite the widely shared values, the area is under threat and it has thus been designated a potential site of the Natura 2000 Network. The project has been undertaken in awareness of the particularities of this specific area and has no political aims.

The idea of a map dates back to the results of the 2011 Hands-On Workshop conducted within the 2011 Archis Interventions_Cy activities. The idea evolved into an
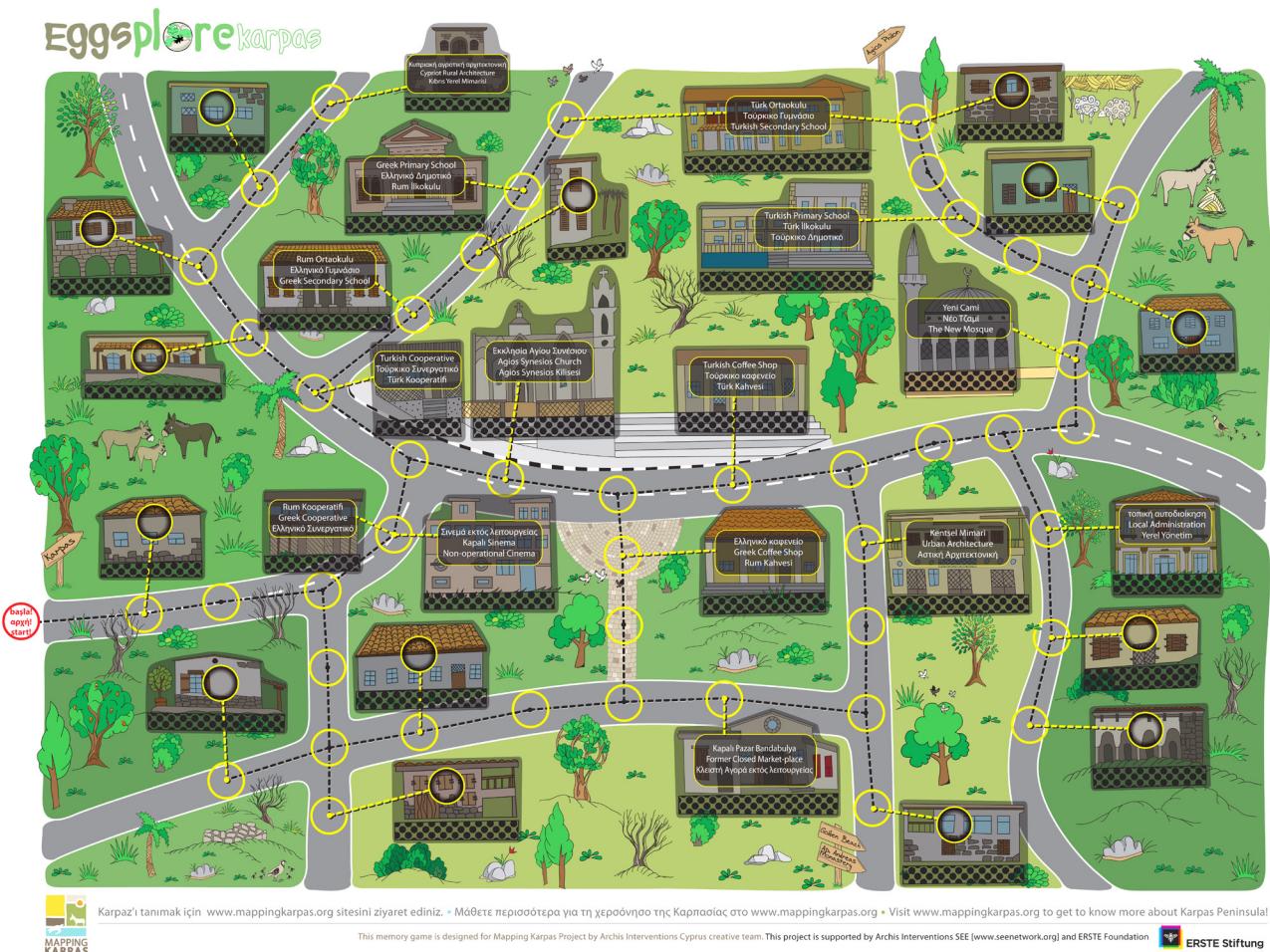
Eggsplore trilingual game board.

interactive website and a printed mapgame. The two tools complement each other and aim to create awareness at both the local and international level of the preciousness and fragility of the region's environmental and socio-cultural assets, and to promote respect and protection in line with the UNESCO Diversity of Cultural Expressions Convention, the European Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society and the European Landscape Convention. The web site (mappingkarpas.org) is envisioned as a growing interactive space where exploring, learning and gaming can foster a better understanding and appreciation of the village's unique character. Besides offering opportunities to explore information interactively and to download the mapgame, the website hosts a blog that is updated weekly with invitations for competitions and polls designed to promote the website in relation to the village. To keep the connection with its local and international users, the website also offers social media buttons. Hence, the tool aims to empower local civil society, promote multi-perspectivity and foster understanding and mutual respect within possible models of sustainable and peaceful coexistence.

The Home for Cooperation (H4C), Nicosia UN buffer zone, Cyprus

Kyriakos Pachoulides

Located in the Nicosia, Cyprus, UN Buffer Zone, the H4C provides a shared space for intercommunal cooperation and dialogue. Hosting a library and archive, conference and exhibition spaces, and offices, the H4C is the first centre in Cyprus to promote the collective efforts of civil society by engaging in historical inquiry, contemporary understanding and peace building. As a landmark building located within the Ledra Palace crossing, the H4C aims to foster, with its programs and partners, intercultural dialogue and improve mutual understanding in Cyprus and globally.

The H4C is not just the Home for Cooperation, but also the child of cooperation. The driving force behind this ground breaking initiate is the intercommunal Cyprus based Association for Historical Dialogue and Research.

The H4C aims to break down common perceptions of the buffer zone, by contributing to its transformation from a dead zone into a zone of cooperation, by:
• Enabling young people, educators, historians, researchers and activists and other agents of change, to develop knowledge and critical thinking by hosting programmes on education, training and research;
• Providing opportunities for Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and individuals to design and implement innovative projects for the empowerment of civil society and the enhancement of intercultural dialogue;
• Encouraging Cypriots to demonstrate the benefits of cooperation across the existing divide;
• Enhancing awareness of the complexity and diversity of history and support the conservation of the cultural heritage of Cyprus.

Home for Cooperation Building in the Buffer Zone Nicosia. Before and after the renovation works.

www.home4cooperation.info
http://www.ahdr.info

8

CiviKos Platform, Kosovo

Valdete Idrisi

Country Situation

Kosovo has approximately 1.8 million inhabitants (based on the recent population census of 2011). It covers a surface of 10 887 km2. Kosovo declared its independence on 17 February 2008. To date, Kosovo has been recognised by 100 countries, including 22 EU Member States. Kosovo has adopted a Constitution, which is based on the Comprehensive Proposal for the Kosovo Status Settlement (Ahtisaari Plan). In July 2010, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued an advisory opinion, which concluded that Kosovo's declaration of independence did not violate general international law. In September 2012, the International Civilian Office, established in 2008, concluded its work of supervising implementation of the Ahtisaari Plan.

KFOR, the NATO-led military presence, continues to provide security throughout Kosovo. However, most competencies have been transferred to the Kosovo Police Force. Kosovo institutions are supported by EULEX, which is comprised of EU police and a judicial workforce and is the largest EU mission operating in non-EU territory. The situation in northern Kosovo remains tense, but stable. The Kosovo authorities opened an administrative office in Mitrovica North, which provides services to citizens and is doing the groundwork for the establishment of the municipality of Mitrovica North, in accordance with the provisions of the Ahtisaari Plan.

Kosovo has implemented some initial essential reforms as part of its moves to establish a fully functioning market economy. However, Kosovo's economy faces many important challenges. Unemployment is very high and the private sector remains weak. Informal activities constitute a large share of the economy. Significant further efforts are needed to improve target economic policies, to address fiscal consolidation, job creation and competitiveness issues, to promote private investment and to achieve more sustainable and inclusive growth.

The international economic and financial crisis had a limited impact on Kosovo's economy, which was affected mainly through lower remittances inflows and reduced external demand and prices for Kosovo's main exports. According to IMF estimates, GDP per capita in 2009 reached EUR 1,766, which corresponded to 7.5% of the EU-27 average compared with 7.1% in 2008.

CiviKos Platform

CiviKos Platform was officially registered on 2 September 2007, with the aim of creating an enabling environment for formal cooperation between civil society and government sectors.
CiviKos Platform, after a long consultation process involving over 130 civil society organizations, signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the Government and Civil Society (represented by CiviKos Platform) on 9 November 2007. This MoC is the first formal document ever to provide for the Government's and Civil Society's mutual commitment and institutional cooperation in a genuine partnership.

During 2010 and 2011, CiviKos Platform focused on strengthening its internal operations by consolidating its membership and internal structures and documents. Following this, the dialogue fostered between CiviKos Platform and the Government of Kosovo by the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of 2007 resulted in the launch of the official process of

drafting the Governmental Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society.

This process, which started in November 2011, was expected to be finalized and approved by the end of June 2013, but the process was delayed. It has thus made possible the implementation of this Strategy and opened the dialogue also to other public institutions in the Republic of Kosovo.

Background information on relations between civil society and the government

In modern democracies, good depends considerably on the existence of good relations between civil society and the government. In situations characterized by constant democratic changes and developments, as well as by the promotion of innovative governance models, drafting sustainable public policies and providing social services cannot remain exclusively in the domain of state institutions. They need competent partners outside of the government, in order to help them draft public policies and implement effective action for their citizens. In this process, civil society has a unique role to play in initiating, organizing and leading comprehensive debates that address priority issues for citizens, as well as in providing and complementing social services for citizens.

In Kosovo, more than fourteen years after the end of the conflict, and more than five years after the declaration of independence, cooperation between CSOs and the government is still sporadic. When such cooperation does take place, it is tends to ensue from personal contact between politicians and civil society representatives than from structured and institutional cooperation.

In order to start a more genuine cooperation process, both sectors need to acknowledge their common values and accept common responsibilities on specific issues, as well as to share their human and financial resources. This cooperation will mitigate deficiencies on both sides without harming their stronger features. This bilateral acknowledgement was formalized with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Kosovo Government and civil society, signed on 9th of November 2007 by the Prime Minister of Kosovo and the Chair of the Board of the CiviKos Platform, as representative of the civil society in Kosovo. This agreement is the formal basis for the institutionalization of cooperation between these sectors, and it needs to be followed by concrete action from both sides, in order to translate the formal commitment into real-life results.

For this action to happen, it is necessary to consolidate civil society activities within the framework of a representative platform whose aim is to address and fulfil the different requirements of this sector towards the Kosovo Government. A strong and representative platform of civil society in Kosovo would foster formal dialogue with the governmental sector and result in the Strategy of Cooperation between the Kosovo Government and civil society. This Strategy would foresee concrete steps and mechanisms for all parties involved, in order to create and enable a healthy environment for civil society in Kosovo, and thus contribute to the democratization of governance in particular and society in general.

CiviKos Platform has been going through a process of reorganization over the last two years. It focused in this period on two main areas: firstly, on reconfirming the CSO members and their common aim of structuring cooperation with state institutions; and secondly, on initiating dialogue with the government in order to acknowledge the role of civil society and design a strategy for cooperation between the sectors. Due to lack of previous experience in structured cooperation, lack of mutual trust between the sectors and, in particular, to sensitive aspects of cooperation that may influence the independence of the sector, the reorganization period was undertaken carefully and took a relatively long time to accomplish. However, after more than two years, CiviKos Platform is now a network of 120 CSOs from different sectors — including also non-majority CSOs such as Serb, Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian, Bosniac and Turkish CSOs — while the Governmental Strategy for

Cooperation with the civil will, for favourable legislation, clear procedures, long-term support and resources for a sustainable civil society and shared society is in the final stages of drafting, before being approved by the government.

Cooperation between civil society and government requires an enabling environment with a number of preconditions such as the rule of law, adherence to fundamental democratic principles, and political spaces for dialogue and cooperation. Being aware that creating all of these preconditions is a very long and demanding process in which all sectors of society must participate, CiviKos acknowledges its role in fostering the environment for such a dialogue, at different stages of the entire process. Serving as a platform where its members and other interested parties can coordinate and complement their actions, CiviKos Platform focuses its short-term intervention on a number of key aspects that are crucial to initiating a systematic process of cooperation between civil society and state institutions in Kosovo. Given that the Kosovo political system is still highly centralized and that the decisions of the central government have a major impact on the everyday life of ordinary citizens, CiviKos will focus its efforts initially on issues of central government. A positive experience at this level will directly contribute to extending civil involvement and cooperation in both directions: up to the level of the Assembly of Kosovo and down to the level of 'grassroots' local governance.

www.civikos.net

Community Building Mitrovica (CBM)

Aferdite Syla

Mitrovica is situated approximately forty kilometres north of Pristina and covers an area of 454 square kilometres. Up-to-date, accurate population figures are unfortunately, not available for the north, as this part of the country did not take part in the census of 2011. However, it is estimated that before the conflict over 30% of the population in the north of the town was K-Albanian, but today less than a quarter of them remain.

The Mitrovica region is ethnically diverse, with approximately 80% Albanians, 10% Serbs and 10% other minorities.

Since 1999, the town has been divided along the Ibar River. The municipality of Mitrovica comprises 1 town and 49 villages belonging to the Mitrovica region: the municipalities of Zveçan, Zubin Potok, Vushtrri, Skenderaj, and Leposaviq. The population of the northern part of the region is mainly Serb, whereas that of the south is mostly Albanian. The region was hard hit during the war, with massive Albanian displacement and human losses, followed by similar Serbian suffering during and after the NATO intervention.

The human losses and suffering were further aggravated by massive material losses on both sides, primarily of real estate and goods, which prove hard to regain in an environment dominated by a harsh unemployment rate of approximately 77% on both sides. Despite these enormous challenges, however, inspiring reconciliation efforts – seeking to create a peaceful environment in this troubled region – are evident on both sides. According to UN, OSCE, UNHCR and NGO databases, approximately 200 local and around 18 international NGOs are operative in the Mitrovica municipality and are officially registered, first with UNMIK and later with the Ministry of Public services.

In line with the Ahtisaari plan, the 'division' of the Mitrovica municipality has become more prominent since the declaration of independence in 2008, with the municipality of Mitrovica being split into the new municipalities of North Mitrovica and Mitrovica South within the current municipal boundaries. Given that cooperation and dialogue between these new municipalities is vastly underdeveloped or non-existent – as civil initiatives and local administrations are too – it is essential to bridge this divide in order to create a peaceful, multi-ethnic and prosperous future for this long-suffering region and people, and thereby for the whole of Kosovo and the wider region.

CBM Background

Community Building Mitrovica (CBM) has been active as a local grassroots organization since March 2001 in the Northern part of Kosovo. The overall aim of CBM is to facilitate contact and dialogue between citizens in the whole of the Mitrovica region. The staff consists of devoted citizens – both Serbs and Albanians – who grew up in this region and want to restore the confidence and friendship that previously existed. CBM as an organization has been gradually growing throughout the years, and has gained a highly respected reputation on both sides of the river thanks to its active involvement in the fields of peace- and community building. CBM's reputation as an example of ground-breaking, frontline, inter-ethnic cooperation is not confined to Mitrovica or Kosovo but extends beyond the Balkan region.

By supporting many concrete projects that address the direct needs of local communities, CBM contributes

to this aim. With its mission in identifying and advancing the common concerns of Mitrovica's citizens, CBM tries to empower communities to work together and establish the means for peaceful co-existence and provides facilitation and mediation for interethnic dialogue, as well as advocacy with and for those promoting peace and social integration. CBM as an organization with a long history in the region has gained respect and credibility among communities of Mitrovica. CBM works throughout the entire Mitrovica region and has initiated numerous links between people, has strengthened the position of youth and women, has been supportive of freedom of speech, and in the past has also facilitated many small "IDP return projects." Among its many other efforts, CBM has sought to guarantee the transparency and accountability of Kosovo's Institutions by establishing the advocacy group MMT (Mitrovica Monitoring Team), works with youth in addressing their concerns and problems such as violence in schools, and advocates reforms and human rights. CBM also takes an active part in mediating between Government Institutions from both sides of Mitrovica (the North of the city is under the administration of the Serbian government while the South is controlled by the Kosovo government) and thereby serves as a bridge/mediator, in order to attain objectives that meet the needs of citizens. As part of its outreach program (to reach a wider community) CBM has also established different bodies that share its overall aims but that each deal with specific needs within the diverse communities of Mitrovica.

Mitrovica Rock School

The original idea for the Mitrovica Rock School project was to establish one rock music school attended by youth from north and south Mitrovica in the basement of the Cultural Center, on the south foot of the main bridge in Mitrovica. This idea arose out of a series of visits by MwB scouts (rock musicians) to CBM and local musicians between 2001 and 2004. When the security situation did not improve sufficiently to allow youth to cross the bridge safely and comfortably, the project was redesigned to operate from both sides of Mitrovica and to connect youth

during mixed training weeks outside Kosovo and via social media. Activities began in earnest in 2008, with the first mixed Skopje Summer School (August) and the opening of two Rock School locations on each side of Mitrovica (October). And, in December 2012, the Mitrovica Rock School was registered as an independent organization.

The Mitrovica Rock School provides music lessons to approximately 100 students per week. It organizes regular concerts and events in its own facilities and in other venues. In addition, it organizes various international events aimed at interconnecting its students, teachers and their wider circles. These activities include mixed rock Summer Schools in Skopje, Macedonia, mixed teacher/student training weeks in the Netherlands and mixed band tours. The aim of all this is to build connections at all layers and among all generations involved in the project, to combat stereotyping and to increase the acceptance of content-based inter-ethnic work.

Mitrovica Women's Association for Human Rights

The Women's Center in Miners Hill was established in order to reduce the conflicts between Albanians and Serbs in this mixed neighborhood. The Center was established in 2004 and continued its work until 2011. The Center was taken as a role model and other women's groups have since been established in four other mixed neighborhoods. In 2010 CBM started a two-year process, during which women elected their leaders, then these leaders received basic and advanced training in Human Rights issues. As a result, the Mitrovica Women's Association for Human Rights was officially registered in January 2012, and now works in partnership with CBM on various issues and activities.

Center for Resources Youth and Media – CRYM

The vision of CRYM is to serve as a leading and recognized coalition that advocates for the youth of the Mitrovica region and contributes to their active participation in a democratic civil

society. CRYM's mission is to create favorable conditions and open space for supporting & empowering youth of the Mitrovica region by fostering creativity, self-organization, initiative and activism and by encouraging civil society actors to join forces in the pursuit of common goals.

The following are the first and founding members of CRYM: Community Building Mitrovica (CBM), Association for Peace Kosovo (AFPK), Centre for Civil Society Development (CCSD), M-M@G, Mitrovica Rock School, Radio Contact Plus and Youth of JAZAS. CRYM was officially registered as a Coalition at the end of December 2012.

http://www.cbmitrovica.org/

Abrasevic Center, Mostar

Tina Coric

"Every country has its own mafia, only our mafia has its own country" – contemporary BiH proverb

The divided city of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Before the 1992–1995 war, Mostar was one of the most beautiful cities in former Yugoslavia, with a harmonious urban look, a large proportion of green areas and a high level of ecological awareness. Apart from being a very pleasant place to live and a tourist destination with a mild Mediterranean climate and a plethora of natural and historic sites of interest, among which the Old Bridge is especially significant, this calm Herzegovinian city was home to the largest percentage of mixed marriages and a high percentage of citizens with Yugoslav identity (some 12% of the total population in the 1991 census).

The recent war resulted in the division of the city in 1993: it was divided into the East/Bosniak Muslim zone and the West/Croat zone, after withdrawal of the Serb population and arm. These two zones became de facto two towns able to satisfy all the needs of their different populations. The City saw great demographic changes: the large influx of refugees and displaced peoples from other territories, and the exodus of large mostly Bosniak and Serb members of the population, to other territories or third countries.

Once the city had been divided between the Bosniak Muslim and Croat populations, there was no longer a place left for Mostar's mixed population, for minorities, for the remaining or returning Serbs; and this is still reflected in all spheres of public life. During the war and also in the post-war era, the politicians (of the nationalist parties in power for the last 22 years) have tried to destroy all signs of coexistence, and their success is most clearly reflected in social, cultural and educational facilities. The city today comprise two parallel worlds, each of which offers the same public services deep within its own territory: electric companies, a water company, communal services, post offices, sports clubs, schools and universities, cultural institutions, markets etc.

Following intervention by the international community, the City was officially reunited in 2005 under a common Statute imposed by the High Representative. However, unification of the city structures mostly took place only on paper. The overcrowded city administration (the public administration eats up to 70% of the entire nation's public funds) is inefficient and unable to resolve the daily problems of its citizens, while the legislative body, the City Council, is usually unable to reach decisions because most issues cause quarrels over so-called 'vital national interests' (a category reserved for the higher level of Parliaments and the House of Peoples, but also a specific feature of Mostar municipality). Since reunification, the City, has had several deep crises, including the problematic and late adoption of the Budget; the non-election of the Mayor for 14 months (which effectively stopped the City functioning, for Mostar is the only municipality where the Mayor is not elected by direct mandate but is appointed by the political parties); and, most recently, by adoption of the new Statute, following a ruling of the BiH Constitutional court, which alters the rules of the election process in Mostar. Mostar is the only municipality that did not hold local elections in 2012, owing to this problem, which neither the local, Federal nor State Parliaments were able to solve, while the High Representative refused to get involved, thus leaving the City in an uncertain situation until the next elections in 2014. (Our councillors de facto have no mandate and the city therefore has no effective legislative power).

Abrašević Youth Cultural Center 2003
Defence of public space – Defence of our future

In such a context, founding "Abrasevic", the Youth Cultural Center, fulfilled a current need and represented an organic movement for overcoming ethnic divisions and providing a safe haven for dialogue and exchange. It is situated on the former front/demarcation line, and has inherited the property, archive and history of the pre-war "Abrasevic," a workers' cultural center in existence since 1926. Abrasevic is thus not only one of the oldest but also one of the most influential places for cultural and civic activities in Mostar.

Youth Cultural Center "Abrasevic" Mostar (2003–2013)

The Youth Cultural Center "Abrasevic", the only youth center in Mostar, is a grassroots, non-government, non-partisan, independent youth organization that celebrates its 10 years of work this year. Founded as a house for all Mostar youth, with the intention of counteracting existing divisions in the city and the consequences of nationalist rhetoric and political discourse, it encourages creative expression, education and activism as part of its strategy to empower youth to participate in decision-making processes and thus improve their future prospects.

The initiative for YCC Abrasevic dates back to 2001, when Mostar youth, gathered in various associations and non-formal collectives, felt the need to have a space where they could meet, exchange and work, since all segments of the city were divided at the time, most especially in education and culture, where a campaign for reclaiming the youth space was organized in March 2003 under the slogan "Abrasevic mladima" (Abrasevic for the youth). The campaign exerted all kinds of pressure on the local government, and ended successfully in June 2003, when the ruined space of Abrasevic in Alekse Santica Street was allocated to Mostar youth, united in a new association the "Youth Cultural Center Abrasevic".

The core values of Abrasevic since 1926 are solidarity, equality, and support for progressive socio-political ideas and creative expression. Since 2003, YCC Abrasevic has managed to reconstruct the performance hall and the club of the ruined Abrasevic building on Alekse Santica Street – the former front/demarcation line – and to organize over 150 events each year, with annual total attendance of over 20,000 visitors/beneficiaries. Apart from events, Abrasevic successfully implemented several dozens of socio-political campaigns, street actions, round tables and conferences, study visits and youth exchanges.

Alone in 2012, Abrasevic organized and supported over 220 events, the majority of which were launched as local initiatives on behalf of Mostar secondary and university students, non-formal youth groups and citizen initiatives, and which welcomed over 22,000 visitors and/or participants. The events included festivals, concerts, literature presentations, exhibitions, artistic interventions in public space, humanitarian actions, theater productions, study visits, conferences and round tables. In addition, several workshops (creative writing, graffiti, advocacy, mapping, video activism, social media) were successfully implemented in support of non-formal youth education

The in-house media project Abrasmedia.info successfully runs video and portal platforms, where youth and other concerned citizens are welcome to contribute and broadcast interesting stories and information, or to propose issues of concern which are later investigated by our media team. We recently launched a web radio platform based on the community radio model, which invites all interested parties in civil society to broadcast their shows and information where it is difficult or impossible to get air-time on existing media outlets. Alone in 2012, abrasmedia.info portal recorded a readership of nearly 95,000 individual visitors, including local, national, regional and international readers (mostly in 10 countries, worldwide, with the highest number in the BiH diaspora), which confirms that abrasmedia is still the most relevant independent online media outlet in Herzegovina.

Apart from its regular program, workshops, media project and community networking, both nationally and regionally, Abrasevic also implements the projects of Abart (contemporary

art production with the focus on public spaces) and the project Info Center for Sexual and Reproductive Health of Youth – Peer Education, which is based in Mostar's educational institutions.

The main concern of Abrasevic for the future period remains the reconstruction of the remaining building in its possession, which will host all the facilities it requires, such as classrooms, offices, workshops spaces, conference room, studios, etc. and – most importantly for the sustainability of the center – a hostel with min. 50 beds, which opens up possibilities for social enterpreneurial projects.

Given the current lack of space for implementation of all the desired activities to their full potential, reconstruction of the remaining building will allow us to respond to the needs of the local community in full, to provide a healthier and content-oriented environment for the growth and development of Mostar youth, and to thus strengthen civil society.

www.okcabrasevic.org; www.abrasmedia.info

EE-LAB – A mobile platform for the construction of visions of urbanity in Eastern Europe

Stefan Ghenciulescu, Kai Vöckler

What is the EE-LAB?

> A mobile platform for the construction visions of urbanity in Eastern Europe.

> The EE-LAB is going to establish new dimensions in collaborative partnership. EE-LAB is fostering a network of people and projects which deals with strategic thinking for the city in transformation.

> The EE-LAB will be developed together with our partners all over Eastern Europe. It starts as a discursive platform, which moves to different locations in Eastern Europe to create a discussion about urban futures, with regard to cultural as well as to socio-political needs and perspectives.

Which themes do we focus on?

- social justice and urban governance
- urban culture / urbanity
- public space
- post-socialist transformation
- post-conflict development
- minority rights / integration
- financing, resourcing the city
- self-organization, cooperation,
- reactions to social and political systems
- multi-europe, pluralism, tolerance

How do we work?

• *Locally:* With local partner organisations from the fields of the arts, architecture and social activism, we identify the relevant themes, problems and prospects of our urban societies, and put them up for public discussion in local forums.
• *Regionally:* The EE-LAB provides its local partners with expertise generated through the regional network by developing research projects, initiating public debates, and intervening in the public realm in order to positively influence urban developments.
• *Internationally:* The EE lab invites international experts and artists to work with our local partners and thereby generates with them a new discourse on our societies' urban futures, which will be communicated internationally through different media channels. We seek to draw attention to Eastern Europe and heighten the public profile//visibility of projects there.

WE NEED YOU!

To discuss with us relevant topics for our upcoming programme. To identify themes and collaborative strategies. To design a strategic concept for future partnership.

Achievements to date

The EE-LAB program started in 2012 with lectures and presentations in Eastern Europe (Chisinau, Bucharest, Belgrade); with the publication of Urban Reports as part of Zeppelin magazine, and with a focus on topics ranging from public space refurbishment to community action in extremely poor neighborhoods, from independent art centers to alternative

proposals for destructive urban operations, from first aid to abandoned architectural heritage to design for sustainable tourism, from post-industrial regeneration to cool architecture and the clever use of market forces.

The organizations presented are usually NGOs involved in architecture and the city, community urbanism, etc., or architecture offices with a social focus, etc. Increasingly however, EE-LAB sees a need to concentrate on organizations that are not usually associated with urban phenomena, but which actually contribute very strongly to creating more balanced and culturally and socially relevant forms of urban development.

The concept behind EE-LAB activities in 2013/2014 rests on on-going research into the theme of urban sustainability — research underpinned by the smart use of resources, community building, tactical urbanism, social entrepreneurship, e-governance, etc. — as well as on the promotion of the best model practices (publishing, exhibition, lectures, community radio, etc.) which can offer different social actors a platform and heightened visibility, and create networking opportunities for all kind of independent action and initiatives within the region.

URBAN REPORT in the frame of EE-Lab:

Dossier in Zeppelin magazine:
Zeppelin no. 103 / April 2012
- Volunteering and alternatives. A repair project for Bucharest
- Bus Stops
Zeppelin no. 104 / May 2012
- Domografia. A vehicle for urban involvement
- Beyond a construction site
- Green Square
Zeppelin no. 105 / June 2012
- Scrap iron or places for a city
Zeppelin no. 106 / July - August 2012
- Back to basics: Street Delivery 2012
- Hustadt: Politics in space
Zeppelin no. 107 / September 2012

- Urban micro-interventions with ready-mades
Zeppelin no. 108 / October 2012
- Pulska Grupa
Zeppelin no. 109 / November 2012
- Wood as a Social Bond. Hellowood 2012 - an Experiment Under Progress
- SOMARO - A social initiative and its urban implications
Zeppelin no. 110 / December 2012
- Performing the common
Zeppelin no. 111 / January – February 2013
- Fattinger Orso Architektur: Catalysts for Community
        > Festival Center Regionale 12, Murau, Austria
        > Bellevue: the yellow house (an experimental structure in public space, Linz, Austria)
        > Déjà-vu (a modular installation for artistic events, Linz, Austria)
- Gap Filler: Summer Pallet Pavilion – a Community Venue
Zeppelin no. 112 / March 2013
- Habitat for Humanity Romania: Above and Beyond Money – Building Social Housings as a Cooperation and Education Strategy
Zeppelin no. 113 / April 2013
- Susanne Hofmann Architekten & die Baupiloten
        > Kindergarten Lichtenbergweg
        > Nido Piccolo Day Care Centre
        > Summer School for Learning, Moving and Playing
Zeppelin no. 114 / May 2013
- Oberliht, Chişinău: Art, civic action and reflection over the post-totalitarian city
- Concordia Bakery, Romania: Social Responsibility and Savvy Business
Zeppelin no. 115 / June 2013
- Arhipera: Architecture on the edge
- La Terenuri. A Shared Space in Mănăştur neighborhood, Cluj: or how to reclaim the space between blocks of flats

>> Digital platform
- http://www.urbanreport.ro
- http://issuu.com/zeppelin.magazine/docs/urban-report-2012
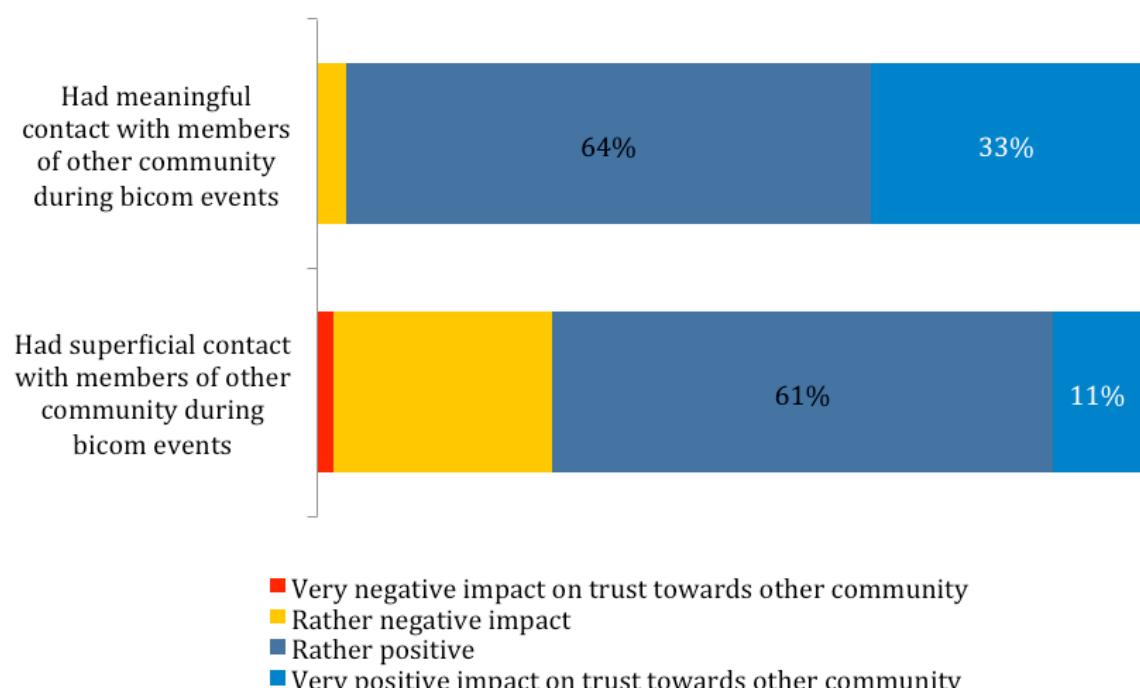
## Participatory Approaches to Reclaiming Divided Spaces

Christopher Louise

The UNDP managed programme, Action for Cooperation and Trust, which ran between 2005-2013 supported civil society's efforts in Cyprus to promote cooperation, peacebuilding and reconciliation. The programme helped to demonstrate the value of co-operation by creating opportunities to work on areas of common interest and mutual benefit such as economic development, cultural heritage and youth. Between 2005 and 2008, the programme funded 120 projects, involving 70,000 Cypriots in bi-communal activities, while developing the skills and knowledge of 370 CSOs. In 2009 the ACT programme responded to the resumption of peace negotiations between the island's leaders by working with key civil society partners to design projects which would bring Cypriots closer to the process of making peace. (http://www.undpact.org/default.aspx?tabid= 95&it=0&mid=0&itemid=0&langid=1)

UNDP-ACT often used the convergent spaces along the Green Line in Nicosia to bring the two communities together around a variety of people-to-people contact events including workshops, art exhibitions, sports fixtures, film festivals and performances. Over time ACT demonstrated that people-to-people contact did have a tangible affect on reversing negative images of people across the Green Line. Surveys conducted by the ACT programme showed a positive correlation between inter-communal contact and the level of trust towards the other community, irrespective of whether the contact was meaningful or superficial. However, meaningful contact has a stronger positive impact on trust levels.

Such a theory of change encouraged the ACT programme to support efforts which encouraged meaningful contact by finding ways to reclaiming the geographical spaces which had historically defined the island's division. For years, the only venues

Had meaningful contact with members of other community during bicom events — 64% / 33%

Had superficial contact with members of other community during bicom events — 61% / 11%

- Very negative impact on trust towards other community
- Rather negative impact
- Rather positive
- Very positive impact on trust towards other community

"The Target beneficiaries become the interventionists by intervening into their own lives in an environment that enables them to live the life they choose".

CITIZENSHIP
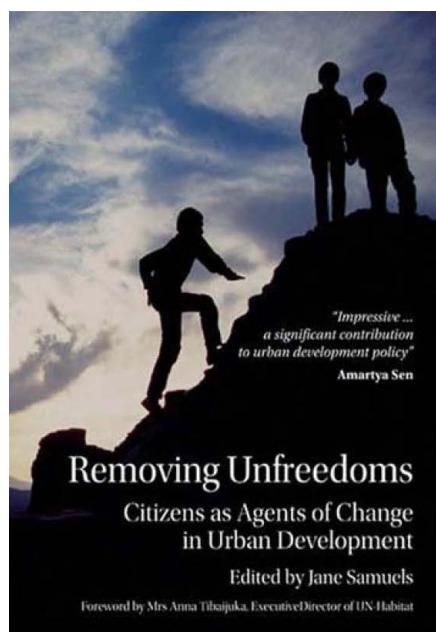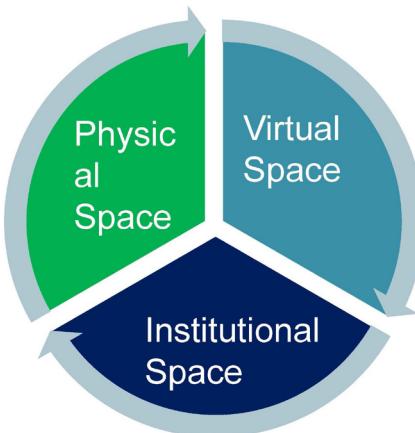
for bi-communal collaboration and dialogue had been the UNFICYP-controlled Ledra Palace Hotel along with the Goethe and Fulbright Centres in Markou Drakou Street. But after 2009 this area began to open up, transforming the crossing point into a hive of peace-building activity. Today, the Home for Cooperation[1], the Cyprus Community Media Centre[2] (CCMC), and the EU Meeting Point[3] offer Cypriots from all walks of life physical shared spaces where the communities can meet and collaborate. The ACT programme played its part in changing the buffer zone's geography by establishing the CCMC facility and entering into an agreement with the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research[4] (AHDR) and the Norwegian government to support projects which would be managed from the rehabilitated Home for Cooperation. Providing Cypriots with the chance to reclaim the divided space of Nicosia's buffer zone became a key driver in the development of a cohesive civil society movement. Another testament to this transformation was the emergence of a number of organizations which became grounded in a Cypriot rather than a Greek Cypriot or a Turkish Cypriot identity. Organizations such as CCMC, AHDR, Youth Power[5] and the Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development[6] (SeeD), played a valuable part in the creation of the foundations for an inter-communal civil society peace-building sector on the island.

UNDP worked at various levels to help Cypriots reclaim the physical, the virtual and the institutional space, and through these channels of work Cypriots began to establish a local civil society network which could challenge the psychology of division. The objective was to help citizens become the drivers of change and the authors of a new vision for the island.

[1]H4C: http://www.home4cooperation.info/
[2]CCMC: http://www.cypruscommunitymedia.org/
[3]More information about the EU meeting point at: https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Meeting-Point/224405661032686?hc_location=stream
[4]AHDR: http://ahdr.info/home.php
[5]Youth Power: http://youthpowercyprus.org/
[6]SeeD grew out of the Cyprus 2015 project (www.cyprus2015.org) and more information about it can be found at: http://seedsofpeace.eu/

Another venue for spatial reconciliation was cultural heritage. UNDP-ACT supported the desire of local communities to restore physical spaces of shared importance, allowing Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots to take pride in the rich and diverse cultural heritage around them while gaining first-hand experience of how co-operation across communal lines can build interpersonal trust. The tangibility of restoration projects helped local communities to re-imagine the physical spaces around them and gave a meaningful context in which participants could pursue contact with members of the other communities, often setting participants on journeys of personal discovery. The departure points for these journeys were often professional – with architects, engineers and planners working together – but through the process of collaborating on the design and implementation of projects, individuals came to trust their counterparts in the other community, first as fellow professionals and later as friends. Close interaction with the other community often compelled people to revisit their own prejudices and in many cases individual attitudes were changed.

The ACT programme was courageous enough to experiment with cultural heritage initiatives and adopted various approaches to their application in peace-building activities. The most successful projects were those which embraced the participation of local people and allowed community-based organizations to take the lead in project design and implementation. The effort to restore and protect sites in the village of Kontea[7] is one of the best examples of how this worked in practice. The lessons learned from participatory cultural heritage projects such as Kontea,[8] were used to develop other similar initiatives seeking to reconnect Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots around shared spaces.

[7]More about the work of the Kontea Heritage Foundation is available at: http://konteaheritage.com/

[8]The report "Participatory development models – the Cypriot experience", is available at: http://issuu.com/undp_in_europe_cis/docs/future_together_research

The Kontea Heritage Preservation

Charalambos Pericleous and Fevzi Ozersay

When the crossing points on the divide were opened in 2004, some of the displaced inhabitants visited their former village Kontea/Turkmenkoy, where friendships developed because of the shared experiences of the old, Greek Cypriot and the new, Turkish Cypriot inhabitants. One area of mutual concern was the endangered situation of their shared cultural heritage.

To the south of the village within a 180m radius there is a Lusignan mansion, a system of medieval cisterns and aqueducts, a Catholic chapel, a Greek Orthodox church, the original village primary school and a modern mosque. Several of those buildings have suffered from the effects of time, and are in danger of being lost forever, and the new-found friends felt that their preservation would be an example to the rest of the island. Together, they set up the first known bi-communal collaboration project to be launched by the residents themselves. The Kontea Heritage Foundation is a non-profit, non-governmental organization, which was established in 2006 for the purpose of rescuing, preserving, and promoting all aspects of Kontea's heritage — be this tangible buildings and artefacts, intangible cultural assets (local songs and customs, etc.) or natural and landscape features — for the benefit of present and future generations.

On August 1st 2007, the UNDP-ACT announced approval of the Cultural Heritage Circle Project proposed by the Kontea Heritage Foundation, with regard to Kontea's restoration work. All the relevant UNDP-ACT Programme steering committees in both the Greek- Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities approved it.

Kontea Heritage Organizational Scheme
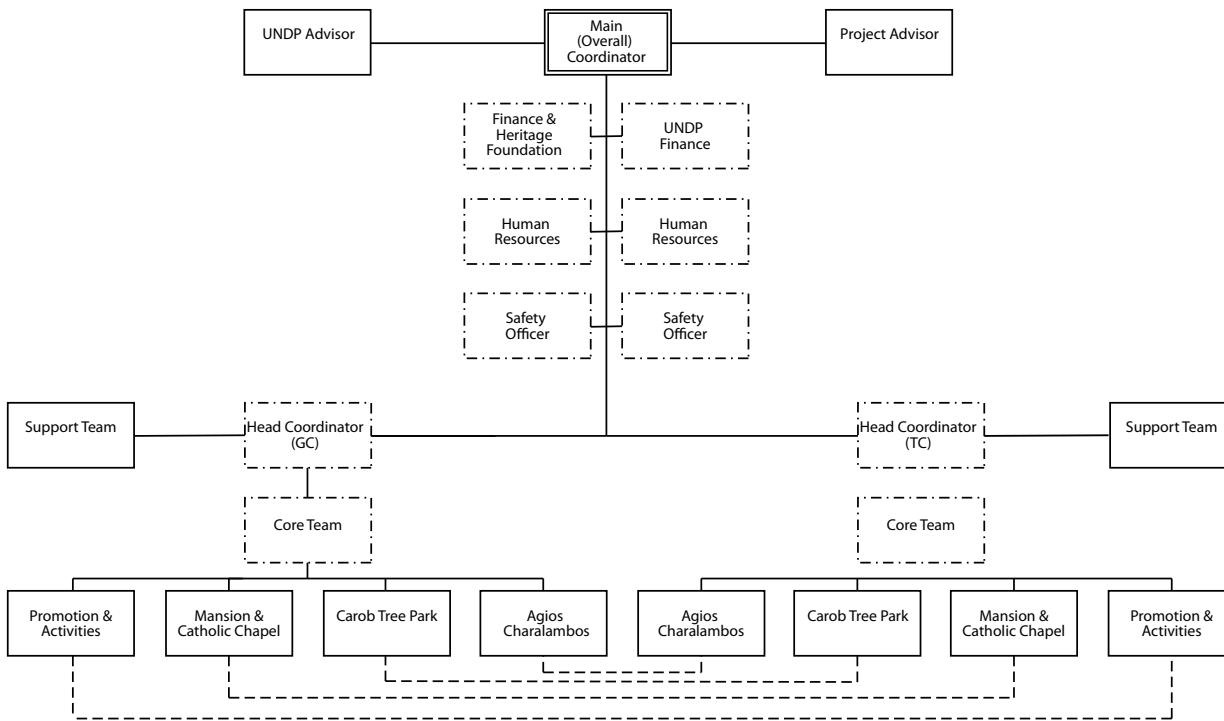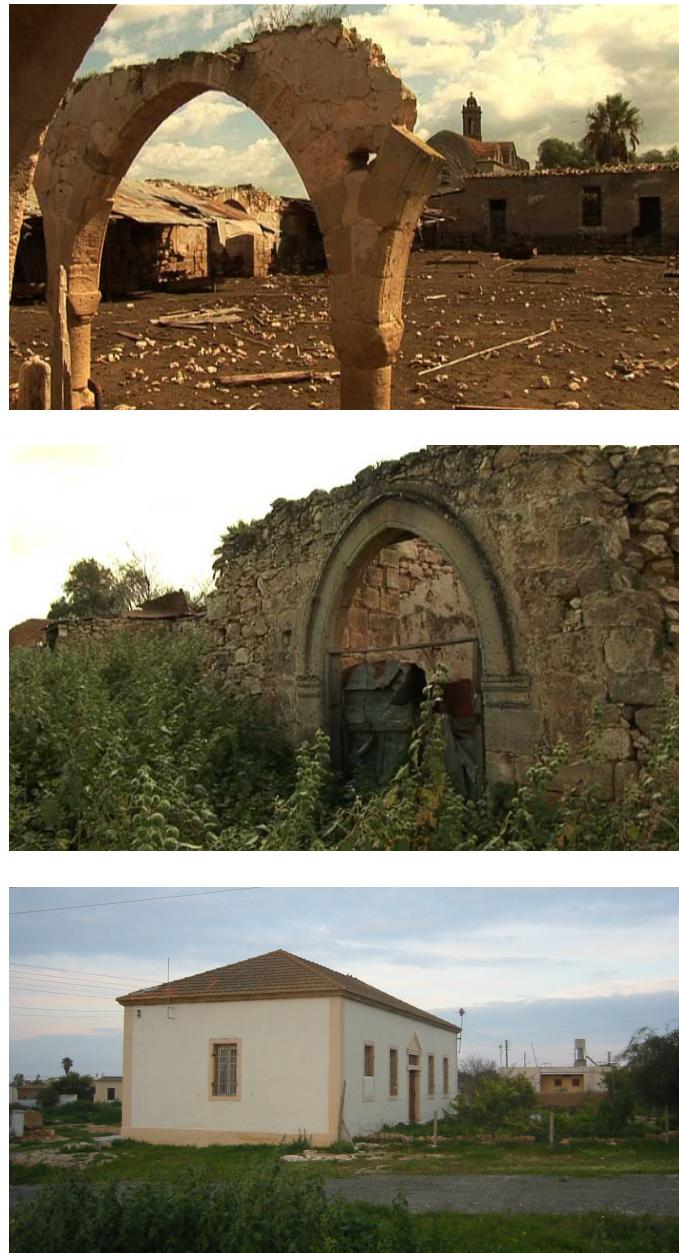
The Kontea Heritage Preservation Proposal

In early 2006, the United Nations, through the United Nations Development Programme, called for proposals for the restoration and maintenance of endangered monuments all over Cyprus. The program's aim is to contribute to building co-operation and trust between the communities, by working together on issues of common concern.

The project is under the auspices of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and receives the financial support of USAID.

After reaching a unanimous decision on March 14th, the Kontea Community Council and the Kontea Refugee Association jointly applied to the UN for the restoration and maintenance of the church of Agios Charalambos and of the church cloisters in Kontea, and for the preservation of the cultural heritage of the village.

The proposal also includes the preliminary study of the damaged Catholic Church, Frankish Mansions and unique system of underground cisterns and irrigation ducts, which are all in the same complex, with a view to later restoring and maintaining them.

The primary objectives of the proposal however is the preliminary study and subsequent restoration of the Agios Charalambos church and its ancillary buildings, which will be used for the communities' joint activities; and for the creation of 'The Carob Tree Peace Park', which will serve as a picnic area and space for open-air activities.

Source: **http://www.konteaheritage.com/en/index.html**

Youth Power

Katerina Antoniou

Youth Power is a network of youth organizations, which managed through its work and development to become an example of bridging institutional and virtual space for the divided communities of Cyprus. First, by connecting a variety of youth organizations from both the north and south of Cyprus under its umbrella, and doing capacity-building for their coexistence and professional cooperation. By receiving funding from UNDP-ACT and securing additional projects from other agencies, it created a strong youth brand that became known across the island.

Moreover it created virtual common spaces for the youth of Cyprus by empowering youth groups to run their own projects jointly, by offering entrepreneurship and other skill-related seminars, by providing social space through festivals, movie screenings and parties, and by establishing relevant online platforms.

Mission: to inspire, energize and strengthen the youth, and respond to problems young people face today:
- Rising unemployment
- Stereotyping, bullying
- Gender issues
- Shifts in family, social and political structures
- Marginalization from political processes
- Community fragmentation

Vision: a peaceful, sustainable, multicultural Cyprus of aware, empowered and active citizens

Values: inspiration, sharing, cooperation, active citizenship, diversity, friendship, creativity and, above all, peace!

Youth Power's Work
- Promoting youth activism
- Working in diverse environments
- Working on cross-cultural awareness
- Aiming to establish organized youth advocacy
- Strengthening the youth's skills
- Connecting with key decision-makers
- Outreach to the wider public

Main Objectives
- Empowerment
- Ownership
- Active Citizenship
- Action steps
- Communication with Key People
- Outreach to the wider public

Main Activities
- Festivals – Seminars – Trips – Grants
- Funding Diversification:
– UNDP-ACT/USAID
– UNDP-PFF
– Cyprus Youth Board
- Additional Partnerships and CSR

The Youth Power Network
- Enabling capacity-building
- Providing administrative support
- Securing funding opportunities
- Expanding each member's outreach
- Developing legal frameworks
- Supporting institutional innovation
- Bridging the gap

The Youth Power Small Grants
- Reaching out to non-formal youth groups
- Expanding the network – promoting its objectives
- Working beyond Nicosia
- Developing opportunities for synergies across the divide
- Providing logistical support
- Bridging the gap

The Youth Power Entrepreneurship Workshops
- Enhancing the skills of youth
- Educating on business, branding, social entrepreneurship
- Addressing youth unemployment
- Endorsing innovation
- Tackling overarching issues
- Promoting collaborations and bridging the gap

The Youth Powerline Platform
- Developing a joint entrepreneurship platform
- Sustaining youth activism across the divide
- Creating a virtual space for collaboration
- Providing trans-communal educational tools
- Identifying resources and experts from across the island and bridging the gap

The Youth Ambassadors Initiative
- Convene an energetic and effective group of youth, inter-regionally
- Facilitate cross-cultural dialogue
- Hold difficult dialogues
- Develop youth skills
- Challenge stereotypes
- Explore different perspectives and bridge the gap

http://youthpowercyprus.org

Conclusion

Esra Can Akbil, Emre Akbil, Sebnem Hoskara, Giorgos Psaltis, Kai Vöckler

Participants in the conference discussed the prospect of future collaboration. To facilitate collaboration, they would need:

- To exchange material on the different projects for documentation purposes (digital publication)
- To work to promote the network and link up with existing networks such as http://citiesintransition.net
- To investigate possibilities for expanding the network using mapping as a tool to bring together different layers and consequently alternative readings of the region. With 'Mapping Karpas' Archis_Cy has already made a start and there is an idea pending for a broader network under the domain 'mappingspace.org'

Future collaboration could involve work on:

- Using the extreme similarities and the related problems of different contexts as a starting point: e.g. identify the three zones – these could be visualized as the central zone, the confidence zone, and the buffer zone, i.e. identify different ways to call the same thing basically, and then position projects accordingly
- Examining differences between and the applicability of models/practices in the light of local particularities, and discuss the issue of whether or not to theorize on practices: Should we aim for a descriptive theory rather than a manual?
- Comparatively assessing the various fields (e.g. main practice/ experience) in which each of the centres/projects is ahead of (or lagging behind) the other projects, as preparation for student/volunteer exchanges and study visits (at workshops, summer camps, etc.), to facilitate the general exchange of practical knowledge, past experiences and ideas on how best to overcome obstacles,
- Creating future partnerships for commonly funded projects, e. g. a proposal for a rotating event
- Exploring how technology can help users bypass barriers,

walls, boundaries: walls and conflicts become more and more fragile as technology advances and contact increases, (whereby the new technologies in part may engender new problems and conflicts).
- Testing the financial and political framework in which NGOs can act (as well as the limits / constraints they face), so as to assess their relation to sponsors and the strength and scale of their (political) influence
- Assessing the role of the UN and other supranational governmental organisations and the projects' relationship to and experiences with them
- Assessing the relationships between project sponsor/ supporter, project promoter and local community, in cases of bottom-up projects
- Describing in each case the importance of community participation in the project procedure, in order to achieve a truly bottom-up project
- Describing in each project the involvement of politicians, from event celebration to problem solving
- Assessing segregated education and the construction of 'otherness' in each project
- Assessing constitutional, administrative or religious practices and problems in each project
- Assessing acknowledgement and ownership problems in each project
- Assessing the personal reconciliation process of each of the actors, a long and complex healing process, and the vital importance – particularly in genuine bottom-up projects and cases where the community members are involved in the 'healing procedure' – of the process and not necessarily of the 'final product'

All participants agreed that:

Conclusion

- Joint planning is vital. They say 'Yes' to democratic and participative procedures, but want to reduce these to a feasible level
- Promoters' commitment is vital
- Building on trust is absolutely necessary. Transparency is therefore obligatory
- A very tangible and clear vision is required

Archis Interventions' approach:

NGOs should conform to the following description:

- They represent interests that have no voice in existing political structures (political advocacy)
- They identify problems and topics, and include them in political negotiations and decision-making processes at both the local and international level (agenda setting)
- They mobilize factual expertise and knowledge in order to solve or publicly debate topics
- They develop projects that are not undertaken by state and supra-state players, or else carry them out when governments or the international community cannot do so owing to organizational or political reasons

Non-governmental organizations in post-conflict situations must adapt their approach to the local context and thus only limited generalizations can be made. However, it is possible to propose some fundamental principles for discussion:

- Reflect upon and communicate one's own position
- Do not pursue any commercial interests
- Address different interest groups, in order to incorporate them over the long term
- Bundle various interests whenever project implementation requires that groups cooperate
- Balance collaborations; advantages and profits must be shared equally
- Create transparency: goals and procedures should be openly discussed in public

- Create room for negotiation, open up perspectives, mobilize knowledge and place it at everyone's disposal
- Plan and design the process; structure it through dialogue and keep it open

Accordingly, the three fundamental pillars of the work are: (1) communication, (2) cooperation, and (3) shaping the process.

Participants

Esra Can Akbil is an architect, designer, and co-founder of Etika Architecture and Design Studio, who has been awarded several competition prizes. She also teaches Design at the Department of Architecture, Eastern Mediterranean University, North Cyprus. As a designer and researcher, Esra Can Akbil has collaborated with a variety of partners on interdisciplinary and participatory projects related to spatial practices, and is a co-founder of Archis Interventions_ Cyprus Initiative.

Giorgos Psaltis is an architect with an MSc in Sustainable Architecture in the Mediterranean Cities. He wrote his thesis on Divided Famagusta (CY), University of Florence, 2011; architecture degree (Laurea) with thesis on Divided Nicosia (CY), University of Rome, 'La Sapienza', 2005. Currently works as an architect in Cyprus and Italy; has been involved since his early studies in urban space transformation in relation to social changes; particularly interested in the impact of the division in Cyprus on society and structures, and the role of architecture and civil society in politically or socially conflicted contexts; involved in civil society-led projects in Cyprus and Italy. Co-founder of Archis Interventions_Cyprus Initiative.

Sebnem Onal Hoskara is an architect in North Cyprus. PhD in Urban Design,1994, from the University of Nottingham, U.K. Currently professor at the Department of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture, at the Eastern Mediterranean University, North Cyprus, and the dean of the faculty. Teaching involvement in architectural design studios, urban design studios, advance research methods, and conservation/revitalization of historic urban environments. She has more than 60 international and national publications to her credit, and is co-founder of Archis Interventions_Cyprus Initiative.

Kai Voeckler is an urbanist and publicist. Founding member of Archis Interventions; program director of the Southeastern Europe (SEE) Network. Urban development projects in Southeastern Europe. Urban research projects in Europe and Asia. Author, editor, exhibitions curator, and lecturer on art and urbanism themes. PhD in Art History, with a focus on urban spatial images. Currently Endowed Professor for Creativity in Urban Contexts at the Offenbach University of Art and Design, Germany.

Valdete Idrisi is Executive Director of CiviKos Platform in Kosovo. Right after the war, in 1999, Valdete founded the local grassroots multi-ethnic organization, Community Building Mitrovica (CBM), a local NGO that seeks to bridge the divide between the different communities living in the Mitrovica region. She served as an Executive Director of CBM for the next ten years, until the end of 2010. Her work for peace, dedication to bridging divided communities and outstanding role in the community were acknowledged in March 2008, when she was named the European Winner of the US State Department's 'International Women of Courage Award'. Secretary of State Ms. Condoleezza Rice gave the Award to her in the State Department on March 10, 2008. Valdete is an Honoree of the Soroptimist Peace Prize 2009 for her work for peace and dedication to the people of Mitrovica. She is one of the founders of the Mitrovica Forum and remains active locally, serving as a Board member for many bodies, organizations and institutions. Valdete currently leads CiviKos Platform, the largest cross-sectoral civil society network in Kosovo and remains active in the Mitrovica Forum composed of local politicians, and media and CSO activists. Valdete also holds positions in national and regional bodies representing civil society. Valdete was active in the Balkan region in recent years and continues to be part of regional civil society initiatives. Valdete studied Geology at the Mining Faculty in Mitrovica, and went on to complete a Masters in Conflict Management at the University of Novi Sad, in cooperation with the projects Responding to Conflict (Birmingham, UK) and the Nansen Academy (Norway).

Aferdite Syla was born in Mitrovica and still lives there today. She is currently an Executive Director of Community Building Mitrovica. She has been present and active in the civil society sector since the conflict ended in 1999. She is mostly active in the Mitrovica region, but also engages with various networks much further afield, participating in different workshops,

Participants

debates and conferences in within Kosovo as well throughout the region. After almost four years working with the German organization "Kinderhilfswerk", Aferdita decided to join CBM in 2004. One of her first projects within CBM dealt with youth from all ethnic communities in Mitrovica. Right after the first project, Aferdita was upgraded project manager and since then has been initiating and developing media projects and projects focused on transparency and accountability. Through her work, Aferdita has become a well-known figure not only in Mitrovica but also elsewhere in Kosovo, since she has participated in many debates and conferences, mostly on topics related to the political situation in Mitrovica. She and the previous director of CBM initiated and established a multi-ethnic magazine M-magazine, as well as the Mitrovica Monitoring Team (MMT), a project that researches, investigates and advocates on the work of Mitrovica's Municipality to increase transparency and accountability. She co-founded the multi-ethnic Mitrovica Women's Association for Human Rights and also the Center for Resource Youth and Media in north Mitrovica. In February 2012, the Universal Peace Federation nominated Aferdita 'Ambasador for Peace'. She also studied Management and Economics at FAMA College in Mitrovica.

Tina Coric is a founding member and manager of the Abrašević Youth Cultural Center in Mostar.

Stefan Ghenciulescu is Editor-in-chief of Zeppelin magazine and co-founder of the 'Zeppelin Association', Bucharest. Assistant professor at the 'Ion Mincu' University of Architecture and Urbanism, Bucharest; practising architect; author of Transparent City. Limits and Dwelling in Bucharest; co-author/ curator of several books and exhibitions. Current research interests are contemporary architecture, modern and post-socialist urban and architectural developments in South-Eastern Europe, the regeneration of socialist housing areas, alternative projects for public space.

Kyriakos Pachoulides is a founding member, and the current president of the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research, an intercommunal non-governmental organization based in Nicosia, Cyprus. He was a member of the project team that undertook the renovation of the Home for Cooperation. Kyriakos studied Pedagogy and Psychology and holds a PhD in Social Psychology. For the last five years, he has worked in Nicosia as an educational officer at the Office of the Commissioner for Children's Rights. His main research interests are nationalism in Cyprus, the sociogenesis and ontogenesis of national identities within the Greek Cypriot community, intergroup relations and the history of education.

Christopher Louise, Director, United Nations Development Programme /Action for Cooperation and Trust, Cyprus

Charalambos Pericleous is administrator of Kontea Cultural Heritage Foundation, former project manager at UNDP. He studied mechanical engineering at The City University London.

Fevzi Ozersay is architect in Kontea Cultural Heritage Project and director at Miro Designroom and Atelier-M at Nicosia, Cyprus. He holds a MArch from Eastern Mediterranean University and a PhD degree from The University of Sheffield.

Katerina Antoniou is the Associate Project Manager for the Youth Power network, and has been involved in a variety of civil society initiatives, including the recent inter-regional project Ambassadors for Cross-Cultural Dialogue. She also manages the operation of Crossroads Cafe, at the Home for Cooperation. Katerina is a Fulbright Scholar and holds a BA in Political Science and Economics (Clark University, MA) and an MSc in International Relations Theory (LSE). She is also a trained facilitator.

Credits

Archis Interventions_South Eastern Europe
Program Director: Kai Voeckler

In collaboration with Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES), Cyprus

Archis Interventions_Cyprus
Esra Can Akbil, Giorgos Psaltis, Sebnem Hoskara
Cemaliye Eken

Supported by ERSTE Stiftung

Home for Cooperation
Buffer Zone, Nicosia
May, 2013