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WRITE US

Did our newsletter make you think? Or do you have a different opinion regarding some of the topics? We would be delighted to hear from you and would like to invite you to send us your comments, opinions and questions. We will publish a selection of the entries in the next issue.

Write us at fokus.westbalkan@forumzfd.de

FOKUS

A society that cares: Towards dignity and justice for war rape survivors in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo and Serbia

"It is now more dangerous to be a woman than to be a soldier in modern conflict". This quote by Major General Patrick Cammaert who served as a UN Force Division Commander in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo is also true for the violent conflicts in the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Between 1991 and 2000, not only 130,000 people were killed and about 4 million forced into exile or internal displacement but also several thousand women and girls were systematically raped, often more than once and sometimes with the consequence of giving birth to children.¹ Since the news about women raped in war first came out in August 1992, feminists from the region and internationally founded women's organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo and Serbia have been working systematically on supporting the survivors.²

Transitional justice describes actions taken to create new trust in post-war societies where such trust has been fragmented or destroyed in fellow people. In the particular context of sexualized violence a whole spectrum of agents must take actions to re-establish trust and achieve justice. This includes not only the international community and the respective states and their institutions but also civil society and each individual citizen. From a feminist perspective the first and most important step is to give the survivors the opportunity to talk about the violence they experienced. This right of the survivor comes with the responsibility of society to listen to her and her story.

In order to transform from war to democracy and to create a new society built on trust we need to know what happened during wartime, how the women victims survived, how they were tortured or how they died. Knowing the crimes against women and humanity is not only the responsibility of each citizen, but avoiding such knowledge for some feminists is a type of social crime.³ That even 20 years after the wars, societies in the Western Balkans are still far from acknowledging the suffering of women is exemplified by a letter written by a survivor read out during the conference for the 20

year anniversary of *Medica Zenica*, a therapy centre for women victims of the war in BiH:

"To be a woman victim of war and at the same time to be a mother, wife, daughter, sister, it is a burden of life that we who survived the Golgotha must live with. You all talk about the rights and justice for victims. But in reality and in our everyday lives, that is not the case. In order for us to fulfil any of our rights we have to go from one institution to another, speak about our painful past, explain who we are, and again with difficulty, and more often never, achieve those rights. We, many women victims of war do not have proper housing, we are not employed, our children do not have support for education."



Protest held by the feminist- anti-militaristic peace organization Women in Black in May 2013 in Belgrade to commemorate the women who were raped during the war in Bosnia

Additionally, there is also a legal side to the issue of war rape. Soon after the news about the rapes in BiH got public in 1992, feminist lawyers, researchers and international experts came to understand that every war relies on sexualized violence. Then, in 1994, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) was formed to prosecute war criminals. Many feminist experts cooperated in drafting its statute. The result was that by 2013, in the ICTY 15 men were convicted for sexual abuse in war with prison sentences, among other crimes. In the new estab-

lished national courts for war crimes⁴, 61 men in BiH, 2 in Serbia, and 19 in Croatia were convicted. This makes about 100 men convicted for rape in war (among other crimes) – this is a worldwide historical number. These convictions are an important success in the development of the international law. Feminist lawyers are to be credited for this historical change which included five different sexual crimes in the statute both of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the ITCY. After that, in 2007, women’s organizations in BiH (only the part of the Federation of BiH) succeeded in lobbying for the approval of a law that recognizes women survivors of rape in war as civil victims of war. This means that women who suffered from sexual violence in the war-time and live in the Federation of BiH now have a right to state compensation, a small monthly sum, barely enough to cover the high cost of medication. Activists report that about 700 women registered for this compensation. Similar laws are expected to enter into force in Croatia and Kosovo by 2014. But as Madeleine Rees, the Director of the *Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom* said in 2012, we need to know “Whether the ways in which sexual violence is investigated assists in the understanding of that experience from a woman’s perspective.”⁵

Still in 2013 the survivors are searching for recognition and struggle for a life in emotional and economic dignity. Still societies do not seem to care enough about their health, employment and emotional well-being. Therefore, from an activist’s perspective there exists also the responsibility to acknowledge women’s suffering and to express empathy. Everyone who suffered from

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violence needs others to recognize her pain in order to heal. Susan Brison, a feminist philosopher and survivor of rape and at-

tempted homicide, said “The trauma has changed me forever, and if I insist too often that my friends and family acknowledge it, that’s because I’m afraid they don’t know who I am.”⁶ If we understood the self as “fundamentally relational – capable of being undone by violence, but also being remade in connection with others”⁷, we can say that wanting to know, to hear and to express empathy is a form of citizens’ courage as well as responsibility. Finally, this leads all of us as civil society to the responsibility to organize ourselves and to engage in concrete political actions. Numerous and di-

verse such political activities have been undertaken in the last twenty years on the cause of sexualized violence in order to mobilize a response from the society and the state. But all these successes are far from enough, and we are still only in the beginning. In order to inspire shaping the future, I will only mention a few actions undertaken by feminists in the region in 2013.



Founding meeting of the FLIPSUR network initiative in Zagreb in March 2013

- Zagreb, in March 2013 a group of feminists from BiH, Kosovo, Croatia, Serbia and Slovenia came together and formed the FLIPSUR Initiative – Feminist List Against Rape in War in Countries of former Yugoslavia. The network had two meetings with the aim to exchange work done and to widely spread the quest for civil dignity towards women who were sexually abused in the wars.
- In Croatia, *The Center for Women War Victims and Documenta – Center for Dealing with the Past* follow the court cases with women war survivors, organize round tables, like “Responsible towards Crimes of Rape in War”.
- In Kosovo activists of the *Kosova Women’s Network (Rrejtji i Grupeve të Grave të Kosovës/Mreža Žena Kosova)* that links around 104 women’s organizations held demonstrations for the International Women’s Day on the 8th of March 2013 demanding legal regulations for women survivors of sexual violence in wartime as civil victims of war.
- In Serbia, *Women in Black* organized permanent street manifestations to inform the public on the pain of others, demanding the government to be accountable for the war crimes. In May 2013 a street protest was held called “We remember women survivors of sexual violence in BiH”.
- In BiH there were many actions taken: A shadow report on the rights of women victims of war was accepted by the CEDAW (Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimina-

tion Against Women) Committee; networking was done among women's organizations; protocols on collaborations with institutions were signed; actions in memory of the survivors of sexual violence were organized, like in Foča or Višegrad.

I wish to end this essay by emphasizing that survivors of rape in war are not just some other women. Experiencing sexual violence is a fear that each one of us (including women and men, girls and boys) might face at some point in life. We are therefore deeply connected to each other which implies that we as citizens do not only take care of ourselves but also of each other. As Monika Hauser, the founder of the *Medica Zenica* said in her speech on the occasion of the 20 years of work: "Because the consequences of war violence are far from over, we still need to share the pain with the survivors".⁸

The author comes from Belgrade and has been involved for more than 30 years in activism for peace, nonviolence, women's rights and sexual self-determination. She is the co-founder of several organizations, among them "Women in Black" and the Autonomous Women Centre Belgrade and has written books and numerous articles on these topics.

¹ Neither governmental institutions nor nongovernmental organizations have concrete data on the incidences of sexualized violence in the wars in the respective countries. UN agencies estimate that alone in the period between 1992 and 1995 up to 60,000 women were raped in the former Yugoslavia. To a much lesser extent, men have also suffered from sexualized violence during the wars. Since in every war and every patriarchal society, women bear the brunt of sexualized violence, this article will focus on their experiences and activism carried out for achieving justice for women survivors.

² Women's specialized organizations working on this issue, are in Bosnia and Herzegovina: *Medica Zenica, Viva Zene, Amica Tuzla, Trial*; in Croatia: *Center for Women War Victims*; in Kosovo: *Medica Kosova*; in Serbia: *Autonomous Women's Center, Women in Black*.

³ Adrienne Rich (1979), *On Lies, Secrets, and Silence: Selected Prose 1966-1978*, New York.

⁴ National Courts for war crimes were founded to continue the work of ICTY in the region: in Serbia in 2002, in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2005, and in Croatia in 2011.

⁵ Madeleine Rees, on the conference: *Ensuring Justice, Reparations and Rehabilitation for Victims of Conflict Related Sexual Violence* in Sarajevo, on 5-6 September, 2012, p. 4; www.stoprapenow.org/uploads/advocacyresources/1355227733.pdf.

⁶ Susan Brison (2002), *Aftermath: Violence and the Remaking of a Self*, Princeton.

⁷ See fn. 6.

⁸ Monika Hauser in her opening speech on the October 23rd, 2013 to the International conference "From the initiative to a professional service – 20 years of work with women and girls traumatized from war", Zenica, BiH.

Kosovo

Overcoming silence and taboos: A workshop on the female perspective on the past

Dealing with the Past (DwP) is a core challenge of post-conflict Kosovan society. One aspect is often neglected in the public memory of the violent conflicts of 1998/99: the women's perspective. Some Kosovan women experienced the war in the form of sexualized violence. Though international humanitarian law prohibits rape as a weapon or tactic of war, women in Kosovo often find themselves confronted with the fact that their experiences have become a taboo. *forumZFD* wishes to help break this silence.

It is exactly this that the eighth workshop for journalists from the "Frequencies of the Past" series focused on. So as to allow women to deal with their trauma, it is important to include this issue on the public agenda and to speak out against events being made into more of a taboo and against the stigmatisation of those affected. Media professionals should also be made aware of such issues and conflict-sensitive journalism thus encouraged. For the approach of the Kosovan media to DwP can by all means be criticised. Journalist Dardan Hoti confirms: "Several times we have seen texts in the media that had to do with violence and war background, but very rarely these stories have been treated in the right way."

Four key speakers were invited to discuss their experiences in practice during the two-part workshop held for

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<http://dwp-kosovo.info/>

Kosovan journalists by *forumZFD* in October 2013. Flora Macula (*UN Women*) gave an introduction to the legal classification of rape as a war crime in general, and on the current political and legal situation in Kosovo. Nina Pelkonen (EULEX) reported on her battle to actively prosecute perpetrators while simultaneously protecting those affected. In contrast, Vepre Shehu (*Medica Kosova*) told of her work with traumatised survivors and also of the challenge for

media professionals in taking a sensitive approach to their work and not causing further trauma for the women affected.

In the second part of the workshop, artist Zana Krasniqi from the Kosovan NGO ARTPOLIS considered the role of civil society and emphasised how important discussions on such controversial issues are. The workshop partici-



© Lisa Leupolz

The participants of the workshop in Pristina in October 2013

pants were thus not only provided with the according background knowledge but also with the contact details of key actors as possible interview partners. Moreover, they were supported in the search for possible story ideas. Dardan Hoti believes that workshops such as those run by *forumZFD* since 2011 make an important contribution to the establishment of DwP in the Kosovan media: "We will often have to write articles about the past and especially the violence that has been used in the war. So in our future writings, since I believe that we will be in this profession for a long time, we will use as much as we can from the knowledge gained in this workshop."

A wonderful outcome to this workshop would be if some of the participating journalists were to actually publish articles on the female perspective on the war. The journalism prize for the field of "women, peace and security" recently announced by *UN Women* is perhaps one further incentive. And who knows, perhaps one of our participants will be among the future prize winners.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

„MONUMENTI. The changing face of remembrance“: The difficulties surrounding display of the photo exhibition in Banja Luka

So far, *forumZFD*'s "MONUMENTI" exhibition has been shown in Serbia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo, Derвента, Mostar), Germany and the United Kingdom. Unfortunately, it has not yet been possible to present the "MONUMENTI" exhibition with its photographs of monuments from the region in Banja Luka, the capital of the Republic of Srpska.

The human rights organization *Helsinki Citizen Assembly* from Banja Luka with whom *forumZFD* already cooperated on compilation of the photographs for the "MONUMENTI" project actually wanted to show the exhibition in Banja Luka on 21 September as part of the 2013 International Day of Peace. Numerous attempts to find a suitable exhibition space failed. Several museums and galleries declined the exhibition simply for practical



Monument in Banja Luka to the fallen Krajina soldiers (1961) by the sculptor Autun Augustinčić

reasons (i.e. the space was not available at the desired time); others expressed reservations about the content, considering a number of the photographs to be "problematic". Another NGO, which campaigns for war invalids and mine victims and is also a partner of *Helsinki Citizen Assembly*, declared itself willing to make its premises available for the exhibition. Unfortunately this organization's offer was coupled with conditions at the last minute, which were not acceptable to *forumZFD* and *Helsinki Citizen Assembly*. These conditions were justified with the exhibitor's fear of unpleasant reactions from certain members of the organization to several

"provocative" photos if "undesired" photos and comments were not omitted.

forumZFD was thus faced with a dilemma with its "MONUMENTI" project for the first time ever that called into question not only the aesthetic concept of the author (photographer Marko Krojać), but also *forumZFD*'s entire peace policy project that seeks to contribute to the stimulation of critical thought and a constructive approach

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to dealing with the past as an all party peace organization. These are the very aims that the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ms Ulrike Maria Knotz, highlighted so clearly in her foreword to the Bosnian Version of the exhibition catalogue: "MONUMENTI sheds light on the phenomena of memory and remembrance. This critical distance, this reflection, is a prerequisite for an honest and constructive approach to dealing with the past."

Guided by this claim and in line with its "do-no-harm" approach, the *forumZFD* office in BiH decided to seek a one-on-one discussion with the exhibiting organization in Banja Luka to allay the concerns. The discussion proved constructive as both organizations discovered that they had had similar experiences in the field of dealing with the past and the cooperation with veterans. The concerns could thus be eased and in-depth consideration of the aim and purpose of the exhibition reflected on together. At the end of the dialogue, an agreement was reached to show the complete exhibition together in cooperation with *Helsinki Citizen Assembly* in June 2014.

The difficult yet not impossible journey of "MONUMENTI" to Banja Luka shows just how important it is to seek constructive dialogue with others to overcome challenges to a peace-promoting approach to the past and positive conflict transformation in BiH in cooperation with local partners.

Macedonia

School mediation is only possible when your heart is in it

A teacher from Skopje began her presentation at the second conference on school mediation held in Ohrid with the words “Mediation changed my life”. The IT teacher reported with enthusiasm on how mediation was introduced at her school with the support of *forumZFD*, how the school developed the project further, and above all how she also benefited personally.

It was unanimously agreed at the “Second International Conference on Peer Mediation, Institutional Support and Regionalization” hosted by *forumZFD* in cooperation with the OSCE held on 10-12 October 2013 that mediation in schools does work, helps improve the atmosphere in schools, mitigates violence, and motivates students. Almost 70 teachers, mediators, and employees from the ministries of education and NGOs from the countries of the region came together for what was the second time to exchange on how mediation can be embedded in schools sustainably and developed further.

All agreed that mediation makes sense, but requires patience and a high degree of commitment from all involved. The presentations by Carol Hope, a guest from Scotland, and Marina Ostojic from Serbia, were particularly memorable. Though they hail from two very different countries, it was clear that mediation is a matter dear to both their hearts and essentially an attitude to life for

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both of them. Their presentations confirmed that students and teachers can be instilled with enthusiasm for mediation, and outlined how to go about doing so.

The sustainable embedding of mediation in schools is by no means a small task though. The first mediation conference made clear that particularly the responsible authorities – so the ministry of education and science and the bureau for educational development – must be won over to the concept of mediation in schools. Only

in this way can bureaucratic hurdles be overcome to introduce elements of mediation training in the school curriculum and to officially train conflict mediators. Together with the OSCE, *forumZFD* has intensified its efforts to persuade the authorities. A very positive external evaluation in which an employee from the office for educational development was also involved in addition to a mediation training for employees from the ministry of education and universities has helped raise further awareness of the concept of school mediation. The focus was once again on promotion at this year’s conference. Further schools must be encouraged to introduce



The participants of the conference in Ohrid in October 2013

school mediation, with training provided by school mediators who have already been trained. Some of these teachers called for just this in their presentations. They wish to contribute to making school mediation an integral component of Macedonia’s education system. Participants from Kosovo expressed at the end of the event that they also want school mediation.

Two further “signs” confirm the conference’s success: after her positive presentation, the representative from the Serbian ministry of education was approached by her Macedonian counterpart and the pair was subsequently seen deep in conversation during the coffee break. From the OSCE we learned later that a significant sum is to be invested in further promotion of school mediation next year.

Out of the box

Medica Zenica – 20 years of supporting survivors in recovering from the trauma of war rape and other forms of violence

In April 1993, thanks to the gynaecologist Monika Hauser from Cologne/Germany, the Women Therapy Centre *Medica Zenica* was established in order to provide a comprehensive approach to women who survived war rape and other forms of torture.

In this acute crisis situation, it was our priority to house the survivors in a safe place, to satisfy their basic needs, and to establish trust between the survivors and the *Medica Zenica* staff. In one place, the survivors were provided with safe housing, medical examinations (including gynaecological, internal, general and neuropsychiatric) and psychological support in form of individual and group therapy and in addition to that with economic empowerment and legal assistance. Survivors that could not come to live in the shelter were visited by field medical and psychological staff of *Medica Zenica* to provide them with services and support on site as much as possible.

Since then, *Medica Zenica* constantly developed and improved its services by acquiring new knowledge and skills from psychotherapy work and by linking theory

and practice. War rape survivors cope with many acute but also long term trauma reactions, therefore our programmes must always respond to

the current needs of the women. During our 20 years of work, we never gave up and were always confident that there is a healthy part preserved in every person which bears the potential to work out the trauma and to inte-

grate the traumatic experience with new meaning into the presence and future of the survivor.

On the occasion of marking 20 years of existing and work of *Medica Zenica* and *medica mondiale* from Cologne, an international conference with the title „Working towards dignity: 20 years of struggle for dignity of survivors of war rape“ was organized in October 2013. The two-day conference was attended by 175 participants from all over the world, from Afghanistan, Ger-

many, Switzerland, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States, Hungary, Jordan, Liberia, Rwanda, Croatia, Serbia, Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The aim of the conference was to evaluate and discuss the results of providing help and support to survivors of war rape in the last twenty years, as well as defining further steps and future challenges in the work with war sexual violence. The rich exchange between activists and aca-

demics, representatives of governmental institutions, international and national NGOs emphasized that we have to act faster and more powerful and use recognized models that have been developed over the last 20 years.

In addition to the direct work with survivors, „Medica“ also advocates for the rights of the survivors and develops trainings for experts who come in contact with traumatized victims. Although our commitment proved to be a success and our approach has been recognized as a model that can be applied throughout the country, as well as in the region and beyond, there are still many challenges that war rape survivors face today. They are still waiting for a more just approach aimed at normalization of their daily life. Some of them even died without being able to exercise their right to justice, truth, and indemnity. They are still



Monika Hauser (l.) and Sabiha Husić (r.) at the press conference on the occasion of Medica Zenica's 20 years anniversary in October 2013

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facing the lack of understanding, being stigmatized by their families and the society. From 2006 and to the end of 2012, about 700 women, survivors of rapes and other forms of sexual abuse gained the status of civilian war victims. Such status can be gained only in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and can be lost again if the woman leaves the country for longer than three months. Such an approach is discriminating and violates the rights of the survivors.

So far *Medica Zenica* has provided over 400,000 different services in BiH. Unfortunately, this number also reflects a general increase of violence against women and children in the post war period. Nowadays, many of the clients seeking support with *Medica Zenica* are victims of domestic violence. We therefore see a strong need to continue our work even 20 years after the end of the war and we will pursue our vision of a life for women and children free of violence and with full equality in the family as well as the society.

News & Events

News in brief

Camp against discrimination with 20 young people from Struga and Skopje

The youth camp held in Struga from 18 to 25 October 2013 according to the motto of "Don't be a deaf, blind and speechless monkey – against discrimination yesterday and today through art" ended with hugs and tears. And this despite the fact that the 20 participants, who were originally split into an Albanian and a Macedonian group, were initially wary of one another. This already changed during the anti-discrimination training, which laid the basis for consideration of different forms and mechanisms of discrimination. Our volunteer Paula Feicke from our office in Skopje explained in a presentation how young people dealt with discrimination in the age of national socialism.

During a visit to the village of Radolišta/Ladorisht in which the German armed forces committed a massacre in 1944, killing around 100 civilians, the young people learned how the local community commemorates the atrocity, and the extent to which this represents an opportunity to deal with experiences of violence and discrimination. The young people expressed their impressions through drawings, music and poetry, and presented their work to the village community as well as to the local and national press and members of Struga local council.

International Day of Peace in Sarajevo and Derventa

As part of the 2013 International Day of Peace for which the motto was "Feel the power of peace", *forumZFD* BiH organised an all-day event on 20 September 2013 in cooperation with the Publika-Sarajevo foundation and with the support of the "Mreža za izgradnju mira" network for peace. The "Treasure hunt or find Bob Marley" combined creativity and non-violence, and was taken up by both the participants and the general public with great interest. A total of 72 children from a number of different schools set out on an adventure in the capital city of Sarajevo with their teachers and young volunteers. Armed with a treasure map and questionnaire, the groups of students had to find puzzle pieces, which revealed the portrait of Jamaican reggae artist Bob Marley when pieced together. A monument dedicated to the musician, who is a symbol of tolerance and peace, stands in the north of Serbia and is also included in *forumZFD's* MONUMENTI photo exhibition.

The International Day of Peace was also celebrated again in Derventa this year. As in 2012, our local partner, regional peace initiative "Regionalna Mirovna Inicijativa" (ReMI), organised the traditional festival in the centre of Derventa. Over 700 young people and children from 15 cities in BiH participated in the Peace Run and interactive games or visited Catholic, Orthodox and Muslim places of worship.

Justice: a common bond for interethnic relations on the municipal level

How can the coexistence in a multiethnic municipality in Macedonia be shaped constructively? The project “What kind of justice for a multiethnic Kičevo” realised by *forumZFD* and the Centre for Community Development Kičevo has devoted itself to just this question since September 2013. The starting point is the territorial reform implemented within the community of Kičevo this spring that led to a shift in the ethnic majority ratios of Macedonians to Albanians. What is now the common bond that binds the ethnic groups in Kičevo and will continue to do so in the future? The coexistence between men and women, older and younger generations, urban and rural populations must also be shaped. The project therefore calls for public debates on various different aspects of justice and diversity in addition to an exchange between citizens, civil society, administration and local politics. The outcome will be a concept that will be handed over to the municipality of Kičevo in February 2014, and will provide answers to the question of what the inhabitants understand justice to be. The official reactions are eagerly anticipated.

“Internally displaced” performed in Belgrade

The play “Internally displaced” was performed on 9 December 2013 as part of this year’s *BeFem festival* held in Belgrade. It was conceived this April during a five-day documentary theatre atelier organised by *forumZFD/Kosovo* in cooperation with the NGO *Kvinna till Kvinna/Kosovo*. The atelier was directed by Elizabeth Hess and considered the topic of “Transforming trauma through art: war rape and collection of self and community”. The ensemble of seven comprising professional actresses, theatre authoresses and female students worked with excerpts of individual testimonies based on the eye witness accounts of survivors compiled in the “Kosovo, as seen, as told” report published by the OSCE Verification Mission. The artistic portrayal goes beyond merely presenting those affected as victims and instead lends a voice in a sensitive and impressive manner to all those who continue to be stigmatised and ostracised in post-war Kosovan society.

MONuMENTI in Kikinda/Serbia: a contribution to a controversial discussion

forumZFD presented the exhibition “MONuMENTI. The changing face of remembrance” between 25 October and 22 November in cooperation with Kikinda’s veteran association and the local national museum. The exhibition aroused extensive interest among the general population and local media, and was hotly debated. In total, 475 people visited MONuMENTI, among them all the students of the vocational training school for economics in Kikinda.

The veterans’ association is currently heavily involved in the planning for a monument dedicated to those from Kikinda who died during the bloody conflicts in the 1990s. It not only wishes to remember these people, but also to indirectly campaign for the Serbian state to recognise their participation in the wars from that period, and to assume accountability to the former fighters. The association and its members have encountered resistance from the political sphere though. The presentation of MONuMENTI thus also served as a contribution to the public discourse in Kikinda on erection of the monument and on Serbia’s approach to dealing with its past.

KUVI conference in Sarajevo

On 27 November, *forumZFD/BiH* hosted the “Post-war Constructive Use of the Veteran Experience (KUVI)” conference in Sarajevo. Tamara Šmidling (Peace Academy Foundation Sarajevo), Branislava Stević (executive director of the War Trauma Centre in Novi Sad), Vladan Beara (psychologist and KUVI programme coordinator in Serbia), Lučiano Kaluža (ReMI Network Coordinator) and Spasoje Kulaga (director of BiH’s KUVI programme) spoke at the event. The speakers subsequently discussed the role of veterans as peace activists and their significance as actors in the work on dealing with the past with around 70 representatives from the press, authorities, ministries and NGOs as well as high-ranking officials from international organizations such as the OSCE and NATO. Experiences from the KUVI programmes in Serbia and BiH were also exchanged as well.

Upcoming Public Events

MOnuMENTI in Novi Sad, Geneva and Munich

forumZFD is delighted to present the exhibition "MOnuMENTI. The changing face of remembrance" in three new venues in 2014. From 14 January, the exhibition will be displayed in Novi Sad/Serbia in the local cultural centre until 11 February. In Geneva/Switzerland, MOnuMENTI will be shown between 24 January and 9 February at the [Atelier Interdisciplinaire de Recherche \(AIR\)](#), an initiative of the University of Geneva that promotes an exchange between young students of humanities and social sciences. Thanks to the support of several sponsors in Geneva, a French version of the MOnuMENTI catalogue will also be produced. Between 16 and 23 March, the exhibition will also be displayed at the Gasteig cultural centre in Munich/Germany as part of the [Balkantage](#) Balkan festival.

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Staff News

In December 2013, Lučiano Kaluža's and Spasoje Kulaga's time at forumZFD/BiH will end after three and five years respectively. Both colleagues will continue to be involved in the regional peace initiative ReMI (*Regionalna Mirovna Inicijativa*). We would like to thank them both for the successful cooperation, and to wish them all the best in their professional and personal lives.

Imprint

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The *forumZFD* is an umbrella organization of 38 member organizations and recognized by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development as a sending organization. It is committed to develop civil methods for conflict management and for the Civil Peace Service. Peace consultants by *forumZFD* work in projects in the Western Balkans, the Middle East and the Philippines. In its Academy for Conflict Transformation, *forumZFD* trains peace consultants who work worldwide for the prevention of violence and the promotion of peace.



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Pax Christi im Bistum Aachen

The peace of Christ was a sign of hope for many people in the destroyed Europe at the end of the Second World War. Out of this hope people of formerly hostile nations, mainly Germans, French and Polish, reconciled with each other. This was the beginning of the pax christi movement which by now is active for peace and justice in more than 60 countries. pax christi in the diocese of Aachen is part of the world wide pax christi movement. As founding-member of Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst pax christi Aachen carries out projects of the Civil Peace Service in the Western Balkans in cooperation with *forumZFD*.



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