

Jochen Schmidt

Jochen Schmidt, born in 1979 in Pirmasens (West Germany), is the representative of the *European Network for Civil Peace Services* (EN.CPS) to the Brussels based *European Peacebuilding Liaison Office* (EPLO). He works for the “Academy for Conflict Transformation”, the training department of the German NGO *Forum Civil Peace Service* (forumZFD). Mr Schmidt has been a peace activist for several years with a particular focus on international networks and EU foreign policy. He has studied Political Sciences and International Relations in Augsburg (Germany), Bologna (Italy) and Aberystwyth (Wales, UK). Mr Schmidt holds an MScEcon in Security Studies, and besides his academic stays he has lived and worked in Canada, Poland, France and Belgium.

European Network for Civil Peace Services (EN.CPS)

EN.CPS is an international network of peace, conflict resolution and human rights NGOs with the common goal of promoting Civil Peace Services (CPS), both on a national level as well as towards the European institutions. CPS are civil society driven long term conflict intervention initiatives that work on the transformation of conflicts with nonviolent means. While so far Germany is the only country where a government has adopted and publicly funds a CPS programme in cooperation with peace and development organisations, all existing CPS schemes have the same overall aim of enhancing civil society capacities for handling violent conflict and its legacies.

European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO)

EPLO is the platform of European NGOs, networks of NGOs and think tanks active in the field of peacebuilding, who share an interest in promoting sustainable peacebuilding policies among decision-makers in the European Union. EPLO aims to influence the EU so it promotes and implements measures that lead to sustainable peace between states and within states and peoples, and that transform and resolve conflicts non-violently. EPLO wants the EU to recognise the crucial connection between peacebuilding, the eradication of poverty, and sustainable development world wide and the crucial role NGOs have to play in sustainable EU efforts for peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and crisis management.

European efforts to build and promote nonviolent conflict intervention alternatives

Jochen Schmidt – 22nd October 2007

History of the concept of Civil Peace Services

- Political context (1990s) – Balkan Peace Team volunteer project - limits, European Parliament proposal for a European Civilian Peace Corps, German Berlin declaration for a Civil Peace Service
- CPS definition: civil society driven conflict interventions with long term placement of trained peace consultants to support local partners who work for peace, dialogue and reconciliation at grass-root and mid-levels of society

- German CPS – since 1998 government funded programme, institutional structures – consortium of implementing organisations and development ministry
- CPS Standards and fields of action (project example Middle East)

European Network for Civil Peace Services

- Initiatives in different countries – Hague Peace appeal 1999 – EN.CPS annual meetings
- EN.CPS - common political aim to promote CPS and platform for exchange on: training, recruitment, field projects, evaluation
- EN.CPS joint standards for training and field project; plans for joint project on Cyprus overcome by refusal of Annan plan
- Berlin conference 2007 and policy developments for CPS in several European countries

EU advocacy and European Peacebuilding Liaison Office

- EU institutional structures and policy framework - first and second pillar, new treaty
- Current shortfalls in EU context and potentials for civilian approaches
- EPLO – organisational history, EN.CPS as founding member, aim and purpose of EPLO (inwards / outwards), working structure
- Advocacy for sustainable peacebuilding policies - contribution of civil society actors (RoCS project), upcoming Peacebuilding Partnership under Stability Instrument

Reumée / outlook

- CPS as one element in needed infrastructure and among capacities needed for preventing conflict, for crisis management and ppeacebuilding
- Aim to have publicly funded CPS programmes in more EU member states – mutual reinforcement using success stories from different countries
- Increase practical cooperation / synergies between civil society initiatives from different European countries – joint pilot projects on training and for joint CPS field projects
- Coordinated EU advocacy for CPS at the EU level – e.g. as one of European-wide key demands for European Parliament elections June 2009

