



Promoting and Facilitating Dialogue in Support
of Peace Building Processes since 1995

Strategy 2011-2015

www.nansen-dialogue.net

NDN Strategy 2011-2015

The idea of creating Nansen Dialogue started in Norway in 1994, when the city of Lillehammer, host of the Winter Olympics, connected with a former Olympic City, Sarajevo, at that time a city under siege

The wars in the Western Balkans in the 1990s left many societies divided and segregated, with little hope for a better future. With the aim of bringing hope through dialogue and reconciliation ten Nansen Dialogue Centres were established in Croatia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Macedonia

These centres are the core of the Nansen Dialogue Network (NDN), a network which shares its know-how and experience with local, national and international actors and partners to jointly support dialogue and peacebuilding processes around the world

Our **vision** is of a world in which

- Societies are peaceful, inclusive and functional
- Diversity is an asset
- Every person respects and enjoys human rights
- Integration, and not segregation, is a core value
- Conflicts are transformed into opportunities through dialogue

Our **mission**

To support actively and effectively intercultural
and interethnic dialogue processes
at local, national and international levels
with the aim of contributing to conflict prevention, reconciliation and
peace building



Our **values**

- Long term commitment
 - Impartiality
 - Integrity
 - Inclusiveness
 - Transparency
- Accountability & responsibility



Our key **operating principles**

- Activities developed in accordance with the needs of local communities
- Generating trust and mutual respect and striving for local ownership over processes and results
- Working in partnership
- Caring about sustainability of processes and actions
- Multilevel, knowledge-based and result-oriented approach
- Quality before quantity
- Systematic monitoring and evaluation
- Sharing information, knowledge and experience





Our ***strategic objectives:***

- Support inclusive and integrated education (both formal and informal) in multiethnic and multicultural societies
- Work with opinion and decision makers to improve the efficiency of institutional systems in post conflict environments
- Contribute to processes of reconciliation and sustainable return of refugees and displaced people through dialogue.
- Networking with key social and political actors within the field of peacebuilding
- Improving capacities and performance of our network

Strategic Objective 1

Support inclusive and integrated education (both formal and informal) in multiethnic and multicultural societies

"Peace does not fare well where poverty and deprivation reign. It does not flourish where there is ignorance and a lack of education and information"

Frederik de Klerk, Nobel Peace Prize 1993

Goals:

1.1. Further development, implementation and sharing of curricula for integrated and intercultural educational programmes

2.1. Develop and strengthen the intercultural competences amongst school management, teachers, parents and students

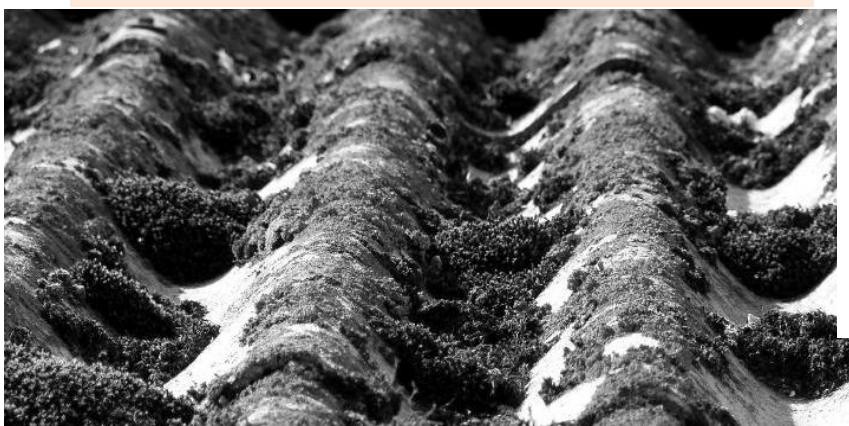
3.1. Improve and expand the support and implementation of peer mediation processes as a tool for conflict prevention and conflict transformation within the educational system

4.1. Build strong partnerships with key actors in the field of education

5.1. Enable successful transfer of knowledge, experiences and good practices in the field of integrated and intercultural education

Key actions:

- Strengthen the network educational team (resources, approaches and skills)
- Focus on fighting segregation in the educational system, through constant public awareness raising initiatives
- Develop new, and further implement already existing, educational trainings; extracurricular activities and student/teacher exchange, both nationally and internationally
- Organise teacher's trainings and 'training the trainers' workshops; activate mediation teams and secure support for further development and implementation of peer mediation programs by educational authorities.
- Establish a group of Nansen peer mediators
- Continue cooperation with, and joint implementation of, programmes and initiatives with schools, teachers' unions and training institutions. This includes coordination with ministries and local departments of education
- Development of new training manuals, handbooks, case studies, etc; support research and create an multicultural education section in the NDN virtual library



Strategic Objective 2

Work with opinion and decision makers to improve efficiency of the institutional system in post conflict environments

“Difference is of the essence of humanity. Difference is an accident of birth and it should therefore never be the source of hatred or conflict. The answer to difference is to respect it. Therein lies a most fundamental principle of peace: respect for diversity”

John Hume, Nobel Peace Prize 1998

Goals:

2.1. Be recognized as an important actor in processes of political dialogue in multicultural communities

2.3. Facilitate dialogue and cooperation between political opinion and decision makers and civil society actors, to widen participation in creating and implementing public policies

2.4. Improve representation of minority groups in decision making structures through their participation in governmental bodies and public administration

2.5. Support and facilitate interethnic and intercultural international and cross-border initiatives aiming for reconciliation, cooperation and sustainable development

Key actions:

- Enable and continue commitment, cooperation and partnership building with and between key political actors on relevant levels, to facilitate relevant public and other activities. This includes working with civil society organisations.
- Empower minority groups' representatives through enabling communication amongst themselves, as well as with decision and opinion makers in their respective communities
- Facilitate and support working meetings, seminars and joint campaigns with representatives of minority groups and different governmental bodies, in order to provide active and continuous cooperation between neighbouring communities

Strategic Objective 3

Contribute to processes of reconciliation and sustainable return of refugees and displaced people through dialogue

Goals:

- 3.1. Support and encourage dialogue initiatives and actions aiming to the re-establishment of social and personal relationships damaged by conflicts
- 3.2. Strengthen coordination with and amongst key actors to improve the management of return processes, including policies and legal frameworks
- 3.3. Improve and develop new tools and methodologies to ensure more efficient monitoring and evaluation of both reconciliation processes and sustainable return

"I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word."

*Martin Luther King,
Nobel Peace Prize 1964*

Key actions:

- Secure a safe space for open and constructive dialogue and cooperation with relevant local stakeholders able to contribute to processes of sustainable return and reconciliation
- Build and enable solid partnerships with social and political decision makers on local and national level, and facilitate processes of needs assessments followed by joint strategic and action plans to secure safe returns
- Ensure proper follow up and consistent work on collecting and analysing documentation and measurable results related to return projects. Secure cooperation with relevant research institutions and peacebuilding networks.



Strategic Objective 4

Networking with key social and political actors within the field of peacebuilding

“Peace is a never ending process... It cannot ignore our differences or overlook our common interests. It requires us to work and live together”.

Oscar Arias, Nobel Peace Prize 1987

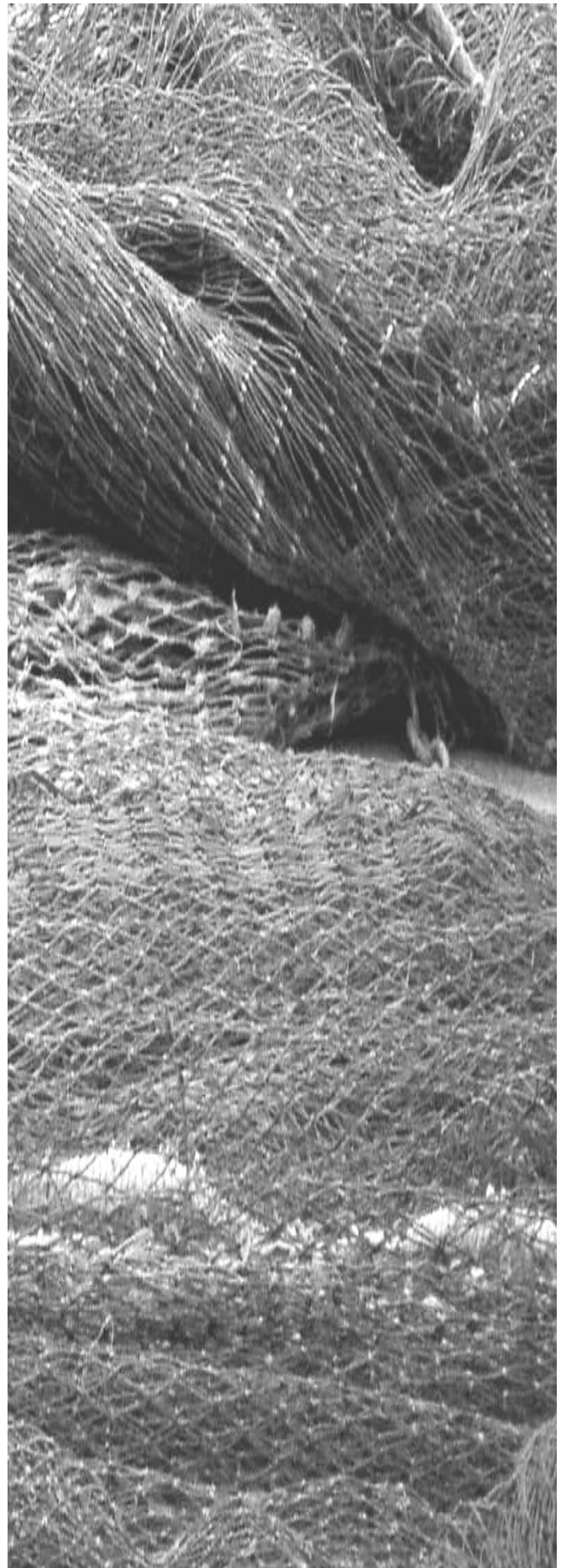
Goals:

4.1. Lobby and advocate the NDN approach to dialogue and reconciliation, towards international organizations, parliamentarians and governments with the aim of influencing policy making

4.2. Actively develop and strengthen cooperation and partnerships with other relevant civil society and political actors

Key actions:

- Mobilise partners and network colleagues to jointly participate in developing and implementing multilevel lobbying and advocacy activities
- Explore and search information on existing civil society networks, organizations and institutions, initiating and facilitating joint initiatives on local, national and international level.
- Develop and disseminate NDN promotional material, including strengthened relations with written and spoken media, research and educational institutions.



Strategic Objective 5

Improving capacities and performance of our network

“Let it be stated clearly that to make peace a reality, we must be flexible as well as wise. We must truly recognize our own faults and move to change ourselves in the interest of making peace”

Carlos Belo, Nobel Peace Prize 1996

Goals:

5.1. Strengthen network thematic teams (dialogue, education, and institutional capacity building), including internal training

5.2. Improve knowledge sharing capabilities of the network, including increasing the use of information and communication technology

5.3. Increase NDN visibility at local, national and international levels

Key actions:

- Work on collecting and systematizing and developing new materials such as “tool boxes”, training manuals, guideline, promotional material, handbooks, case studies and applied research.
- Create a Nansen Dialogue Network virtual library and other specific databases
- Initiate, facilitate and participate in internal training activities on lobbying and advocacy, fundraising, public relations and marketing, with focus on possible cooperation with external partners and associates.



This document spells out the strategic priorities of the Nansen Dialogue Network for 2011-2015 and has been developed as a cooperative effort of all centres in the Nansen Dialogue Network

It has been built on reflection and field experience and contains the essence of what we are about

It is our road map towards the future

Our ambition is to see the Nansen Dialogue approach being useful in supporting peacebuilding and conflict prevention processes as it has been in the Balkans, the Middle East and other regions

Our hope is that dialogue and reconciliation will be understood as a prerequisite for sustainable peacebuilding and given a higher priority in all efforts to build a more humane world

Nansen Dialogue Network Coordination Unit

- Lillehammer
Norway.

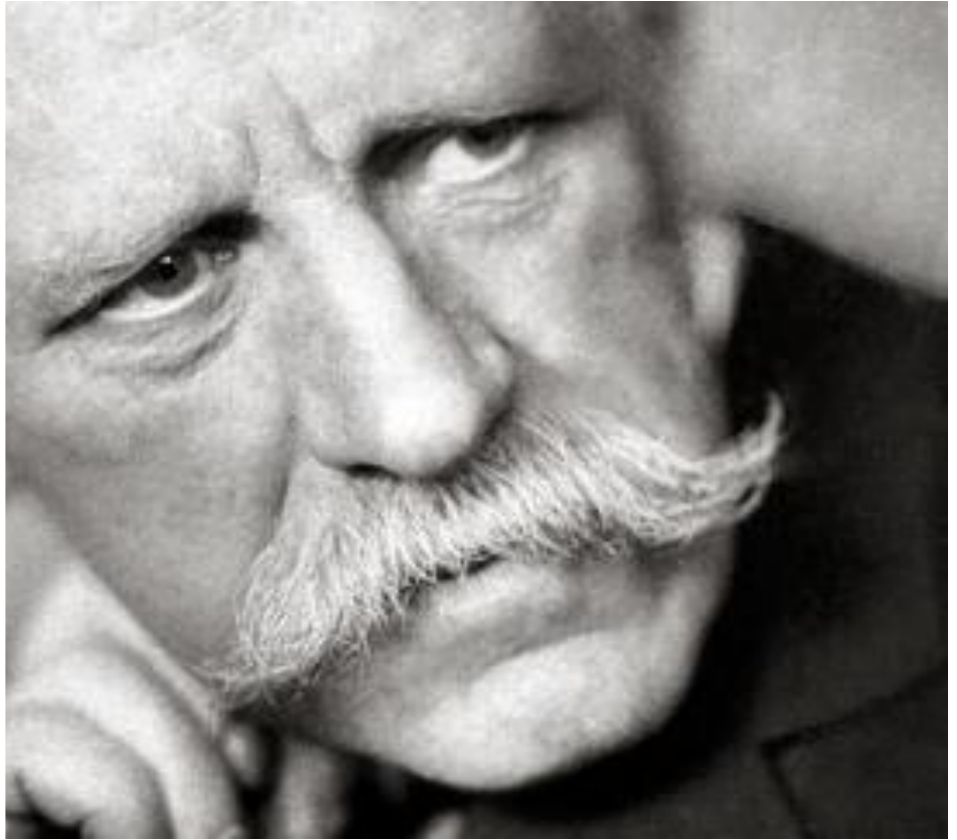
Nansen Dialogue Centres

- Sarajevo, Prijedor & Mostar
Bosnia & Herzegovina.
- Osijek
Croatia.
- Pristina & Mitrovica
Kosovo.
- Skopje
Macedonia.
- Podgorica
Montenegro.
- Belgrade & Bujanovac
Serbia.



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“No future can be built on despair, distrust, hatred and envy”.

“The difficult is what takes a little time; the impossible is what takes a little longer”.

Fridtjof Nansen (1861-1930)
Nobel Peace Prize in 1922.



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