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The Staff

Nenad Sebek – Executive Director; Sheila Cannon – Projects Manager; Maria Nicolaidou – Secretary; Maria Tzelepoglou – Administrator; and Project Co-ordinators: Theano Savvaoglou, Leon Saltiel, Maria Mylona, and Corinna Noack-Aetopoulos.

Funding

The CDRSEE has built up a financial support base from both the private and public sectors. Both individuals and companies have covered the core costs of the Center since its foundation.

Three corporate sponsors offer annual support to the CDRSEE: Coca-Cola HBC, Hyatt Regency, and Titan S.A.

Project finance has been received from private institutions and from governments, most notably from Austria, Canada, Germany, Greece, Liechtenstein, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

The Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe (CDRSEE) is a non-governmental organisation established in October 1998 by private citizens from within the region. The CDRSEE projects to date consist of workshops, conferences, research, opinion polls, publications, and network building.

The CDRSEE aims to foster democratic, pluralist, and peaceful societies in Southeast Europe by advocating principles of social responsibility and reconciliation among the peoples in the region. Promoting leadership and initiatives from within the region is an effective way to build and sustain genuine change. Our priority is to support civil society activities and to develop appropriate tools and mechanisms, programmes and strategies that would change a pattern of hostility and conflicts into cooperation and mutual respect for common values and principles.

CDRSEE has excelled in the first five years of operation because of three comparative advantages:

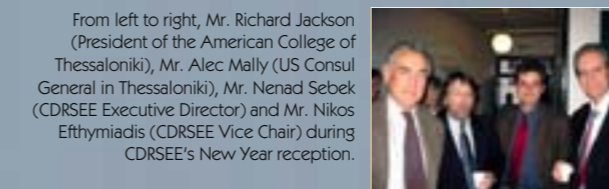
- A very positive image for CDRSEE in the region and beyond, due to the success of our activities and projects;
- The international composition of our Board of Directors, staff, and project participants;
- The honest results that we produce in the short-term, and the realistic long-term timeframe for changing mindsets.

Success Stories

- CDRSEE has initiated a youth leadership group in the Western Balkans, called, Building a Future Together, where participants go through high-level professional training and are empowered to draft their own priorities and vision for the future.
- With the project, Teaching Modern Southeast European History - or the "Teaching Packs" project, the CDRSEE has developed alternative teaching materials for history teachers at the primary and secondary school level in Southeast European countries. This initiative is part of the long-term: Joint History Project – an on-going and open-ended educational, social and political programme with the goal of bringing about informed, significant and realistic change in historical research and education in the countries of Southeast Europe.
- The CDRSEE convenes Junior Scholars' workshops annually to present, compare and discuss new doctoral research relevant to the history of Southeast Europe.
- CDRSEE, during the Reconciling for the Future international conference, drafted and launched the idea of an apology by the citizens of the former Yugoslavia for crimes committed during the War. The Presidents of Serbia-Montenegro, and Croatia issued similar statements.
- The Joint History Project Outreach Programme empowers associations of history teachers in Belgrade, Zagreb, Sofia, Bucharest, Pristina, and Tirana to improve history education in schools by exposing teachers to new methodologies and new research. Historians and history teachers are calling into question the often divisive political role that history plays in their societies, and are instead trying to turn history lessons into awareness raising exercises of the perspective of the 'other'.
- Through the Internet Forum project, CDRSEE is bringing well-known European policymakers, like Javier Solana and Erhard Busek, closer to the citizens of the region, enabling them to ask questions directly to the European leaders. Also, the Internet Forum project has brought together students from academic institutions of Southeast Europe, by asking them to produce original essays on a common theme.



Participants of the Building a Future Together workshop that took place in September in Halkidiki; From left to right, Anel Alisic from Prijedor, Marina Gjorgjioska from Prilep, and Jasmina Bozilovic from Prokuplje.



From left to right, Mr. Richard Jackson (President of the American College of Thessaloniki), Mr. Alec Mally (US Consul General in Thessaloniki), Mr. Nenad Sebek (CDRSEE Executive Director) and Mr. Nikos Efthymiadis (CDRSEE Vice Chair) during CDRSEE's New Year reception.



Dr. Erhard Busek (Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for SE Europe, and CDRSEE Board Member) and Dr. Elizabeth Rehn (Chair, Working Table I, Stability Pact for SE Europe) during the 'Reconciling for the Future' workshop that took place in April 2003.



Mr. Chris Patten (E.U. External Affairs Commissioner) and Mr. Nenad Sebek (CDRSEE Executive Director) as panelists on a TV show following the E.U. Summit in Halkidiki, Greece.



Some of the articles on the Reconciling for the Future' workshop that took place in Thessaloniki in April 2003.

Projects

There are seven on-going projects and several others in the planning phase.

The two most recent projects are:
Disclosing hidden history: Lustration in the Western Balkans is a project to strengthen good governance, the rule of law, and the participation of civil society in the democratic process, via regional and local activities. It is supported by the European Commission and the USAID . (www.lustration.net)

Our Town, Our Future consists of a radio drama series, co-organised with the BBC World Service Trust, set in a Bosnian local authority that aims to raise awareness of the current weaknesses, as well as the best practices of municipal authorities. It is supported by the European Commission.