

THE MEDICAL NETWORK FOR
SOCIAL RECONSTRUCTION IN THE FORMER
YUGOSLAVIA

**Children and Youth in
Post-War Situations**

Report on an International Conference and Training Workshops
15-18 June 2001

Hotel Zenit
Neum, Bosnia

Prepared by Paula Gutlove
September 2001

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Without the support of our sponsors and the hard work of our members, the Network would be unable to continue its important mission, which is to promote dialogue, cooperation, personal contacts, practical solutions, and the renewal of relationships across the former Yugoslavia.

REPORT INFORMATION

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I. Introduction

This report describes an international conference that was held in Neum, Bosnia, in June 2001. The conference was organized by the Medical Network for Social Reconstruction in the Former Yugoslavia, whose history and purpose are described in Section II, below.

II. History and Purpose of the Medical Network

The Medical Network for Social Reconstruction in the Former Yugoslavia (the Network) is a network of health care professionals from all parts of the former Yugoslavia. It is dedicated to the reconciliation of existing conflicts and the prevention of further conflicts in its region. It is founded upon two major beliefs. First, violent conflict and war are the ultimate threat to public health. Second, the medical community has a unique and crucial role to play in promoting a healthy society, not only by mending the physical and psychological wounds of individuals but also by rebuilding structures for public health care and creating bridges for community reconstruction and social reconciliation. To these ends, the Network aims to promote dialogue, cooperation, personal contacts, practical solutions, and the renewal of relationships in its region.

The Network has evolved from its origins in 1991, as a small group which met sporadically in conjunction with meetings of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW). Now, it is a network of over one hundred health professionals, including physicians, psychologists, university professors, teachers, and local and national government health-related ministers. Since 1993, it has convened annual meetings and has organized projects and training programs for medical professionals and medical students. Even during periods of extreme violence in the region, the Network has orchestrated broad-based participation and has brought together polarized parties. The Network was officially established in its present form in April 1997, at a conference in Graz, Austria. In April 1998, health professionals from more than 10 countries convened in Sarajevo to exchange knowledge and plan collaborative programs. At the Sarajevo meeting a structure, goals and an action plan for the Network were agreed upon. The Network has held an annual international meeting each subsequent spring, as follows: 1999 in Ohrid Macedonia; 2000 in Gracanica, Bosnia; and 2001 in Neum, Bosnia.

The Network functions through a "Contact Group" composed of pairs of representatives from each of 12 different geopolitical points throughout the former Yugoslavia. Through the Contact Group, communications throughout the former Yugoslavia are facilitated, to promote a multi-pronged strategy for action based on the following principles:

- communication and collaboration in joint activities;
- open information and knowledge exchange;
- support for non-violent conflict management activities, including conflict prevention and post-conflict reconciliation;
- pro-active development of programs to help spread ideas of peace and health; and
- spreading the basic ideas of the Network throughout the whole of society.

The Network's collaborative programs cover a range of content areas, including:

- refugees and resettlement;
- health care and social reconstruction;
- programs for youth and adolescents;
- professional training in trauma, psychosocial treatment and related program development;
- development of civil society through voluntary programs; and
- professional training in conflict management and reconciliation.

The Network enjoys cooperative relationships with international medical organizations, including the World Health Organization, the International Society for Health and Human Rights, and IPPNW.

III. Overview of the Conference

The Network's 2001 annual conference took place in Neum, Bosnia, from 15-18 June 2001. The local organizer was Dr. Alija Suko and the local host organization was the Maternal/Child Health Center, Mostar, Bosnia. Network international advisors, OMEGA Health Care Center in Graz, Austria and the Institute for Resource and Security Studies (IRSS), in Cambridge, Massachusetts, provided organizational, logistical and funding assistance. Additional assistance was provided by European Affiliates of IPPNW.

The conference was the most ambitious gathering that the Network has organized to date. It brought together 125 people from 20 countries (Bosnia 16, Germany 9, Netherlands 2, Ireland 1, Israel 2, Kosovo 32, Croatia 10, Macedonia 4, Montenegro 1, Norway 1, Austria 12, Poland 2, Rumania 2, Russian Federation 2, Sweden 7, Switzerland 1, Serbia 10, Slovenia 4, U.K. 3, USA 4). The vast majority of the participants were health professionals with special expertise and interest in issues related to children and youth in post-conflict situations. Among the participants were a significant number of internationally known experts in the field of trauma treatment for children and youth. A participant list appears as Appendix A. The official languages of the conference were English and Serbian/Croatian/Bosnian.

The conference was a mixture of plenary sessions and smaller working group meetings. The plenary sessions included presentations and panel discussions.

The small group sessions included professional exchange seminars, training workshops and organizational planning meetings. A conference program appears as Appendix B. Highlights of the program are discussed below.

IV. Highlights of the Conference Program

Friday 15 June

The conference opened on Friday afternoon with a welcome session and background information about the Medical Network. There was also a brief explanation of the role of IPPNW in the region.

Saturday 16 June: Exploring the issues

Plenary session: Children and Youth: Health and Psychosocial Reconstruction

Beginning on Saturday morning, conference participants began an exploration of the psychosocial and health issues presented by children and youth in the post-war situation. This exploration began with a plenary session: Children and Youth: Health and Psychosocial Reconstruction. The plenary was chaired by Dr. Paula Gutlove.

Dr. Anica Mikus Kos (President, Slovene Philanthropy) presented the work of the Slovene Philanthropy, emphasizing the importance of the medical profession's commitment to improving the quality of life for all children. The Slovene Philanthropy has been a leader in the development of psycho-social programs for children, working with children in school and home settings. Slovene Philanthropy programs emphasize the need to activate and empower children with a sense of their own responsibility to themselves and their society. The Philanthropy has instituted an ambitious voluntary action program within Slovenia, creating a voluntary action corps of over 10,000 children. They have also helped to initiate and support voluntary action programs in other parts of the region.

Hamdija Kujundvic, President of the organization Osmijeh, in Gracanica, Bosnia, spoke about the healing programs that Osmijeh has organized for youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Osmijeh also has a large voluntary-action program with over 8,000 volunteers active on local community reconstruction programs. The last presentation was from Dr. Mirjana Gravac, director of the Center for Adolescents, at the Psychiatric Clinic, in Rijeka, Croatia. This Center does professional work with children traumatized by war and post-war situations. The presentation included discussion of diagnosis and treatment modalities for these children.

Professional exchange seminars

Following the plenary were four parallel "professional exchange seminars" to address : Youth and Social Reconstruction: Health Professionals Making a Difference. In each seminar, three to four speakers presented the work they are doing with children to assist health and social reconstruction. The group discussion that followed discussed lessons learned from these experiences, and explored the wider application or adaptation of such programs to meet the extraordinarily large need for assistance to children in the region.

The parallel seminars addressed the following issues:

- a. Health and Psychosocial Reconstruction for Children and Youth
- b. Meeting Special Needs of Children and Youth
- c. Empowering Children and Youth
- d. Special Issues of Refugee Children

a. Health and Psychosocial Reconstruction for Children and Youth

The seminar "Health and Psychosocial Reconstruction for Children and Youth" was facilitated by Dr. Paula Gutlove. Two different programs were presented. Gentian Cala and Mark Choonoo presented a project of CARE International, which has been implemented in Kosovo. Their presentation was entitled: Towards a sustainable model of addressing the psychosocial needs of youth and children in Kosovo. CARE has instituted a community-based psychosocial program in Kosovo. They credited the design of their program to Anica Kos and the Slovene Philanthropy. The program works through community forums that bring together parents, teachers and the other social services resources of the community to provide integrated psychosocial assistance to children through schools and other community institutions.

The second presentation was made by Prof. Ziad Abdeen of Al-Quds University, in Jerusalem, and Randi Garber, of the Joint Distribution Committee, in Jerusalem. Their presentation was entitled: "Health and Wellbeing of Children, Adolescents and Women -- A Cooperative, Cross-cultural Approach". Abdeen and Garber presented the work of the joint research project in which they had both been primary actors: "Israeli-Palestinian Cooperation in the Health Field 1994-1998". Of great interest was the potential application of lessons learned from joint work in a situation of active conflict in the Middle East to the Balkan region.

b. Meeting Special Needs of Children and Youth

The second professional exchange seminar addressed different therapeutic approaches to address the special needs of children in a post-war situation. The session was chaired by Sonja Kosac, of the Igalo Institute in Montenegro. Presentations were made as follows: Dr. Charles Tauber, founder and director of the Coalition for Work with Psychotrauma and Peace, in Croatia, presented

“Complex rehabilitation model and integrated approach”. Naila Elezi and Stanka Petrova presented the work of the Macedonian Centre for Mental Health, in a presentation entitled: “The Art-Club for users of psychiatric services at Macedonian Centre for Mental Health”. Ksendija Kondic, of the NGO Familia, in Belgrade, presented “Assessing special needs of children in foster families aged up to 11 years”. Madina Kodzoeva, who works with WHO in Ingushetia in the Russian Federation, presented the WHO prosthesis assistance program for children in the North Caucasus. This presentation discussed the prosthesis and rehabilitation program of the WHO for children who have lost limbs to anti-personnel weapons.

In this session, the post-conflict situation for children in the different regions of former Yugoslavia and in the North Caucasus was discussed and compared. All programs noted the crucial importance of psychosocial support in different contexts and settings. The discussion focussed on the concrete needs of children and young people. One conclusion of this seminar was that psycho-therapeutic counseling, adapted to the different cultures, is very important. Foster families and other support actors in the community can play an important healing role. Pitfalls and lessons learned were discussed.

c. Empowering Children and Youth

In this seminar presenters discussed a range of programs designed to empower children and youth. Hanna Wintsch, of Switzerland and Kosovo, presented: "Planting seeds of hope", a therapy program working with children and youth in Bosnia and Kosova". Tuija Lehtinen, who works with the Life-Link Foundation in Sweden, presented the work of Bosnian Life-link schools in Sweden, in a presentation entitled: "Student empowerment in schools". Nila Kapor Stanulovi, of the University of Novi Sad, presented: "Training for Provision of Psychosocial Assistance to War-Affected Children". In this presentation the lessons learned from cross-cultural experienced were discussed. Maja Menkovic and Kristina Egumenovska of the Macedonia Center for Psychosocial and Crisis Action presented the work of their program: "Reaching the Hand", a psychosocial program for children and refugee women in the refugee center "Ljubanci", in Skopje, Macedonia.

d. Special Issues of Refugee Children

This seminar addressed special issues of refugee children. It dealt with refugee children who are living within the region and those who have been relocated to other parts of Europe. The facilitator for the seminar was Nancy Cohn, of MedAct in the UK.

Zdenka Pantic and Radojka Kraljevic of the IRCT in Zagreb, Croatia, presented "Return which is not a return or how did we understand the process of repatriation". John Bancroft, of MedAct and the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture in the in the UK, presented “Refugees/ asylum seekers,

who have to return to their countries of origin". Angelika Claussen, of IPPNW in Germany, presented: "Taking care of traumatised refugee children and adolescents in Germany". Maire Steadman, of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture in the U.K., presented "Unaccompanied refugee children – cross cultural psychotherapeutic relationship".

Keynote speech: Dr. Svetlana Broz: "Good People In A Time of Evil"

Dr. Broz is the daughter of Zarko Broz, who was the eldest son of Josip Broz-Tito, and Dr Zlata Jelinek-Broz. Dr. Broz is a cardiologist, a journalist, and the author of the book Good People In A Time of Evil. The book is a collection of stories that were told to Dr. Broz about good things that people did for others, across ethnic and national boundaries, in the period 1992-1995, during the Bosnian War. In her book Dr Broz has recorded, in abbreviated form, ninety moving stories as told by Moslems, Croats and Serbs. She has written thirty stories from each group, describing acts of goodness, kindness and the willingness of people of one group to reach out to help people of another group, in spite of great risks and hardships. First and foremost as a doctor, and then as a humanitarian, Dr Broz has shown that, regardless of the God one worships, there are still good people in times of evil. Many of these good people wanted to remain anonymous, because they wanted to protect all those whom they had helped.

Dr. Broz explained in her address the reason she wrote the book:

" The basic motive that started me and guided me, even while I was stumbling forward, was the desire--under conditions of universal evil and destruction, when human life was worth a single bullet--to reaffirm human kindness as the supreme postulate on which rests the future of all three confessions in the land of my forefathers. Good people, those who in the most terrible of times had the strength to talk about other people's kindness, as well as those who -- without asking the price -- had the courage to do a good deed, were the most impressive guarantee of the validity of such a motive."

Good People In A Time of Evil was published in Serbo-Croatian language by "Prelom" Press in Banja Luka, Bosnia. It is being translated into German and English and these publications should be available some time in late 2001. The introduction to Dr. Broz's book appears as Appendix C in this report.

Training workshops

The conference sponsored three parallel training workshops:

a. Voluntary Action

A training workshop on voluntary action and psychosocial assistance was presented by Emir Kuljuh, of the OMEGA health Centre in Graz, Austria, and Slobodanka Stankovic of the Centre Scrc in Novi Sad, Yugoslavia. The workshop

discussed a range of issues relating to voluntary action and children, including: volunteers as a protective influence in children's lives; the social context of modern voluntarism; identifying needs for voluntary activities; introducing volunteers in a school setting; role playing; presentation of models of "good practice" of voluntary projects; and educating and supporting volunteers.

b. Trauma and Social Recovery

A training workshop on trauma and social recovery was presented by Tamara Tic-Bacic of the Psychiatric Clinic in Rijeka, Croatia. This workshop provided concrete tools and lessons learned from trauma recovery work in Bosnia, Kosovo and Croatia. Also addressed was the stress of professionals who work with traumatized people. The workshop discussed a crucial aspect of this stress, the problem of "burnout", including the particular susceptibility of "helpers and healers" to burnout, and what to do about it.

c. Defining A Project And Getting It Funded

A training workshop on proposal writing and fundraising was presented by Vahida Huzejrovic, of the Slovene Philanthropy, and Paula Gutlove, of the IRSS. This workshop discussed the range of potential sources of support for work in post-conflict social reconstruction. An emphasis was made on raising money from grants through defining a viable project and writing a compelling project proposal. Participants had the opportunity to write a draft project proposal and present it to the group for critique. See Appendix D for "Exercise In Project Development and Proposal Writing" which was used in the workshop. Participants also had the opportunity to role-play the presentation of their grant proposal to a funder.

Sunday 17 June: Meeting the needs

Reports from professional exchange seminars

At a panel session on Sunday morning, reports were provided from the professional exchange seminars held on Saturday.

Plenary: The Medical Network in the International Arena

In this plenary session a panel of international participants spoke, from their cultural and professional perspectives, about: building health bridges East, West, North, and South; working across cultures; and the assets and liabilities of Western methods in non-Western cultures.

Panelists were: Azamat Koumykov, who is from Karbardino Balkariya (in the North Caucasus) and works for WHO in the North Caucasus; Dean Ajdukovic, of the Society for Psychological Assistance, Zagreb, Croatia; Nancy Cohn, of MedAct in the UK; Ziad Abdeen, director of Research at Al Quds University in Palestine and a member of the Jerusalem Public Health Association (an NGO);

and Naila Elezi of the Macedonian Centre for Mental health, in Skopje. The panel was chaired by Anne Marie Miörner Wagner of the OMEGA Center in Graz, Austria.

The discussion around this panel was lively and emotional. There was general agreement that the most important elements in successful cross-cultural collaboration are mutual trust, openness (transparency), and effective communication between collaborators. Collaborators should strive for equality in the relationship in whatever way they can.

Excursion

On Sunday, afternoon, an excursion was held to Mostar and other points of interest in Bosnia.

Monday 18 June: Where we can go from here

Meetings on organizational planning and development

To address the next steps for programs in the region, three parallel organizational meetings were held:

- a. Medical Network Organizational Meeting
 - b. Medical Students Meeting
 - c. IPPNW European Regional Meeting
- a. Medical Network Organizational Meeting*

Overall, participants expressed great excitement for the Network, agreeing that there is a powerful vision and tremendous energy and potential to realize this vision. There were many unanswered questions about how best to use this energy, including questions about the structure of the Network and the rights, privileges and responsibilities of the membership. A variety of issues related to the development of the Network were discussed, including: fundraising; hiring network staff; Network official registration; and improved Network electronic communications. While many people volunteered to work on these issues, it was agreed that such issues of structure and organization should be discussed in greater depth by a small group, rather than a plenary. Therefore, these organizational issues were referred to the Network Contact Group.

Participants reflected on the needs in the region and the resources that health professionals and humanitarian assistance organizations can offer to meet these needs. There was a great desire to develop cooperative projects across the region, particularly as they relate to: voluntary action; special-needs children; and psychosocial work for children through schools and teachers. Many felt that we needed to use the opportunity afforded by the conference to explore the potential options of supporting colleagues in Macedonia. It was noted that the

developing crisis there has certainly put a strain on professional resources in the field, and has created the need for new and innovative intervention programs.

The regional director of the CARE/Kosovo delegation to the conference, Mark Choonoo, offered that he will recommend to CARE that it begin assessing the mental health needs in Macedonia. To that end, CARE will be meeting with colleagues who were at the conference, starting in mid-July. CARE will try to link any proposal for work in Macedonia to a regional approach by recognizing potential replication in areas of Albania, Serbia and Kosovo.

In addition, CARE representatives noted the request from participants at the conference for an extension of the CARE/Kosovo psychosocial assistance program to include Kosovo Serbs and other minorities. The recommendation of the conference will be considered very seriously in CARE, and it is hoped that they will implement a program of outreach to the Serb and other minorities in Kosovo. The program that CARE is presently implementing only caters to Albanian school children, and CARE will seek potential donors and further funds to replicate the project in other areas.

Finally, Choonoo discussed how to use the Network to help implement the proposed actions. This role could also promote the development of the Network and its programs. Choonoo asked: "How can this be used to fund the Network as an organization?"

Choonoo stated: "I have been lobbying for the use of the Network and its partners as consultants for possible future projects in the region. CARE is developing a regional strategy that will cover all CARE offices in the former Yugoslavia. I have recommended that this strategy be linked into the Network so that its professional resources can be tapped and the Network can benefit [in return] for the services offered. CARE can include capacity-building components for the Network as a whole or only the engaged partners."

After discussion of the proposed projects by CARE, participants discussed numerous additional existing and potential projects for the Medical Network. These included:

- DAPHNE project, presented by Anne Marie Moirner Wagner of OMEGA.

This is a database project, enumerating the psychosocial resources for children's rights in the region, including former Yugoslavia, Eastern Europe, and members of the European Union. Money for this project is already in hand (at OMEGA) from the Daphne European Union fund and other sources. Internet information about the Daphne project will be available some time in 2002 at: www.omega-graz.at. Anne Marie Moirner Wagner leads this initiative.

- Igalo Summer Camps for summer 2002

Summer camps for children from all parts of former Yugoslavia are staffed by caregivers from all parts of former Yugoslavia. The camps aim to serve two groups of children in particular: children with disabilities; and children who are socially disadvantaged. Money will be sought to support this from the Stability Pact. Sonja Kosac agreed to lead this initiative.

- Conflict and Post-Conflict Field Institute

A proposed institute in Brko would provide training (for NGOs, IGOs, and GOs) and education. Charles Tauber agreed to lead this initiative.

- Preschool for Children at Risk

It is proposed, using as a model some existing programs in Belgrade for Roma children, to develop preschools for vulnerable or high-risk children in areas throughout former Yugoslavia.

b. Medical Students Meeting

(Report from the medical student group available separately.)

c. IPPNW European Regional Meeting

IPPNW participants agreed that they participated in the conference in order to gain a new perspective on the situation in the Balkans, new ideas and new contacts. The European IPPNW country affiliates represented at the conference provided information about their respective projects and activities. The group concluded that an annual IPPNW meeting is desirable in order for people to stay in contact with each other, to enable mutual support and motivation, and to form new action-planning groups if desired. Furthermore, there is a desire to reactivate the IPPNW affiliates in the Balkans region. There is an interest also in developing IPPNW ties to medical students in this region.

IPPNW plans to have two meetings in 2002: one in Rumania; and one in the former Yugoslavia. This conference with the Network was an excellent IPPNW experience because of the human contacts and the intellectual exchanges that the meeting provided. IPPNW requests that the Medical Network consider again a collaborative medical Network/IPPNW meeting in spring 2002.

Plenary session: Conference Conclusions and Closure

In this plenary session, representatives from IPPNW and the Network reported back to the whole group the progress they made in their organizational meetings. Participants had an opportunity to sign up to work on the various projects proposed during the Network planning meeting. Organizations also had an opportunity to volunteer their support to the Network. Dr. Hildegard Scheu

volunteered to assist the Network to develop an electronic communications program that would meet its growing organizational and programmatic needs.

Participants expressed their deep appreciation to the meeting organizers and their desire to continue the important work that was begun at the meeting. One participant from Kosovo gave heart-felt testimony to the importance of the meeting, saying: "This has been a diplomatic mission, this conference. We have come together with our souls, our hearts, our knowledge and our hopes. God help us that we meet again as soon as possible, and our next meetings should also be full of these things."

Network Contact Group meeting

Nineteen people attended the Contact Group meeting. (A list of participants appears as Appendix E.) The group agreed that there was a great deal of important Network business that the Contact Group needed to do. Because of the limited time frame and the uneven representation of the Contact Group at this meeting (e.g., many of the Croatian participants had to leave early to attend the subsequent meeting in Cavtat), it was agreed that a multi-day meeting should be scheduled. It was agreed to schedule this meeting for 4-7 October 2001 at a retreat Center in Slovenia. The Slovene Philanthropy volunteered to organize the meeting. Participants agreed to work together to promote broad regional representation and full participation for the next Contact Group meeting.

Some questions that surfaced during the group discussion, to be addressed at the next Contact Group meeting, included:

1. Who are members of the Network?
2. Does the Network wish to be more inclusive of minority groups?
3. How can Network members and international partners (international organizations, IGOs, etc.) assist this process?
4. Does the Network want to outline a regional programming framework/strategy representing the inputs and strengths of its members and partners?
5. What is the role of international NGOs in the Network?
6. Does the Network want to register to enable comprehensive funding, or will it rely on charging partners for services rendered? If the latter, what are the operational mechanisms that need to be in place?

Some suggestions for the Contact Group meeting agenda, and for future development of the Network, were:

1. At the Contact Group meeting, discuss:
 - Outlining the future structure of the Network (formal organization or informal resource and support network?).
 - Drawing up a regional programming framework/strategy inclusive of all partners.
 - Developing practical tools for Design, Monitoring and Evaluation (DM&E) of programs.
2. Develop working groups representative of the interests of all partners in the Network, to pursue:
 - Donor relations (including active lobbying for funding).
 - Research and publications (to provide professional-quality background information on issues being advocated, and to update partners).
 - Program development (including the development of internal DM&E training modules).
3. Establish a Web page to represent the Network and its partners.
4. Investigate the possibility of the Network competing on tenders to supply services to other professional bodies (NGOs, GOs, IGOs, universities, etc.).

V. Evaluation

There were two forms of evaluation at the conference. One was a conference evaluation in which all participants gave feedback on the conference itself. This was achieved through distribution of an evaluation form which all participants were instructed to fill out. The responses are summarized in Appendix F to this report.

The second form of evaluation was a survey of the views of selected participants in Network programs, regarding the Network's goals and achievements in the past (especially the period 1997-2001) and its goals for the future (especially the period 2001-2003). Participants' views were obtained through interviews conducted by Gordon Thompson during the Neum conference. Dr. Thompson is the executive director of IRSS. This survey was conducted according to the principles of structured learning, and could be part of an ongoing process of structured learning within the Network. The survey is described by Dr. Thompson in a September 2001 report, [A Survey of Participants' Views on the Network's Goals and Achievements](#), that is available from IRSS.

Medical Network Conference: Children and Youth in Post-War Situations

15-18 June 2001, Neum, Bosnia

Appendix A - 1

Appendix A: List of conference participants

Name	Country	Organization
Anne-Marie Miörner Wagner	Austria	Omega Health Care Centre
Gert Wagner	Austria	Omega Health Care Centre
Emir Kuljuh	Austria	Omega Health Care Centre
Gerald Ressi	Austria	Omega Health Care Centre
Sandra Jensen	Austria	Omega Health Care Centre
Vedrana Mladina	Austria	Omega Health Care Centre
Michael Reichmayr	Austria	Omega Health Care Centre
Andrea Janisch	Austria	Omega Health Care Centre
Daniela Bogorin	Austria	Omega Health Care Centre
Katharina Purtscher	Austria	Omega Health Care Centre
Irmela Steinert	Austria	Omega Vienna
Alija Suko	Bosnia	Medical Network, Omega
Svetlana Broz	Bosnia	
Dijana Kapic	Bosnia	GTZ - Deutsche Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit-Office Sarajevo
Tanja Junuzagic	Bosnia	GTZ - Deutsche Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit-Office Tuzla
Nermina Mujcinovic	Bosnia	Lotos Zenica
Aisa Hadzihalilovic	Bosnia	Lotos Zenica
Deniz Bulja	Bosnia	IPPNW
Azra Durak	Bosnia	IPPNW
Amera Brkovic	Bosnia	IPPNW
Vahedin Bulja	Bosnia	IPPNW
Mubera Pilav	Bosnia	Women Association "Anima"-Gorazde
Atifa Mutapcic	Bosnia	GTZ Sarajevo
Fatima Fazlovic	Bosnia	Centre for Social Work, Brcko-District
Nihad Sibonjic	Bosnia	Mental Health Centre-Brcko District
Selma Pasic	Bosnia	Amica Tuzla
Vahida Huzejrovic	Bosnia	Osmijeh, Association for psychosocial help and development of voluntary work
Hamdija Kujundzic	Bosnia	Osmijeh, Association for psychosocial help and development of voluntary work
Radojka Kraljevic	Croatia	IRCT Zagreb
Zdenka Pantic	Croatia	IRCT Zagreb
Dragan Jusupovic	Croatia	Drustvo za psiholosku pomoc- Society for Psychological Assistance (SPA)
Dean Ajdukovic	Croatia	Drustvo za psiholosku pomoc-SPA
Slobodanka Postic	Croatia	Drustvo za psiholosku pomoc-SPA
Margareta Jelic	Croatia	Drustvo za psiholosku pomoc-SPA
Mirjana Graovac	Croatia	Psychiatric Clinic-Rijeka
Tamara Tic-Bacic	Croatia	Psychiatric Clinic-Rijeka
Tanja Kosec	Croatia	Center for Help in Stress, Rijeka

Medical Network Conference: Children and Youth in Post-War Situations

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Appendix A - 2

Charles David Tauber	Croatia	Coalition for Work With Psychotrauma and Peace
Kevin O`Connell	Croatia	Coalition for Work With Psychotrauma and Peace
Hildegard Scheu	Germany	GTZ
Paivi Koehler	Germany	Medical mission institute Wuerzburg, IPPNW Wuerzburg ,Germany
Bernd Koehler	Germany	Medical mission institute Wuerzburg, IPPNW Wuerzburg ,Germany
Angelika Claussen	Germany	IPPNW Germany
Kerstin Stellermann	Germany	IPPNW, amnesty international Germany
Inge Landzettel	Germany	IPPNW
Birgit Möller	Germany	Ambulance for refugee children and their families, University Clinic Hamburg
Vera Hupe	Germany	IPPNW Germany
Anne Braun	Germany	IPPNW Germany
Wolfram Braun	Germany	IPPNW Germany
Ziad Abdeen	Israel	Al-Quds University
Randi Garber	Israel	JDC-Middle East Program
Kamber Zeqiraj	Kosovo	University Clinic Pristina
Linda Ukmata	Kosovo	CARE International
Gentian Cala	Kosovo	University Clinic Pristina
Shpetim Bylykbashi	Kosovo	CARE International
Mark Choonoo	Kosovo	CARE International
Vebi Mujku	Kosovo	CARE International
Bashkim Geca	Kosovo	CARE International
Lendita Ajeti	Kosovo	CARE International
Afrim Rustemi	Kosovo	GTZ
Shaban Cocaj	Kosovo	Kendellja
Shpresa Maralusha	Kosovo	Kendellja
Valdet Kiseri	Kosovo	Kendellja
Shpresa Gocaj	Kosovo	Kendellja
Valbona Shemsedin	Kosovo	Kendellja
Lulezim Arapi	Kosovo	Association for Psychosocial Assistance, Gjakova
Fatmir Lama	Kosovo	Close to Children
Mikel Berisha	Kosovo	GTZ, CFT
Ramush Lekaj	Kosovo	Centre for Promotion of Education
Sabrije Lekaj	Kosovo	Centre for Promotion of Education
Hanna Wintsch	Kosovo	Children for Tomorrow, GTZ
Mirko Delfs	Kosovo	Kinderberg
Murat Bytyci	Kosovo	Kinderberg
Nuhi Bytyqi	Kosovo	Medical Network
Silke Maier Witt	Kosovo	Forum ZFD
Fehmije Luzhu	Kosovo	Medica Kosova
Gonxhe Brovina	Kosovo	Association for Psychosocial Assistance, Gjakova

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Karmit Zysman	Kosovo	Kinderberg
Vahide Ahmeti	Kosovo	Kinderberg
Mejtim Bytici	Kosovo	Kinderberg
Kai Leonhardt	Kosovo	GTZ
Michaela Henn	Kosovo	GTZ
Vjollca Kuqi	Kosovo	VITA-Sports and Health
Naile Elezi	Macedonia	Macedonian Center for Mental Health
Stanka Petrova	Macedonia	Macedonian Center for Mental Health
Maja Menkovic	Macedonia	Centre for Psychosocial and Crisis Action CPCA,
Marygrace C. Hagan	Poland	IPPNW-Students
Daniel Maurin	Poland	IPPNW-Students
Kristina Egumenovska	Macedonia	Centre for Psychosocial and Crisis Action CPCA,
Clepce Serban	Romania	IPPNW Romania
Azamat Koumykov	Russian Federation	WHO
Madina Kodzoeva	Russian Federation	WHO
Haiduc Catalin Petru	Romania	IPPNW Romania
Vera Slodnjak	Slovenia	Counseling Centre for Children and Adolescents
Anica Mikus Kos	Slovenia	Slovene Philantropy
Katja Cibej Fras	Slovenia	Slovene Philantropy
Bukovec Branka	Slovenia	Drustvo za razvijanje prostovoljnega dela Novo Mesto
Lilian Ralphsson	Sweden	Medical Centre for Refugees
Ana Maria Solari	Sweden	Medical Centre for Refugees
Christina Bruttno	Sweden	Medical Centre for Refugees
Tuija Lehtinen	Sweden	Life - Link Foundation, Sweden
Klas Lundius	Sweden	SLMK (IPPNW)
Dolores Hildebrand	Sweden	Academic Hospital - Child and Youth Psychiatry-Refugee care
Gea Elvingsson	Sweden	Academic Hospital - Child and Youth Psychiatry-Refugee care
Loes van Willigan	The Netherlands	Refugee Health Care Consultancy
Herman Spanjaard	The Netherlands	IPPNW
John Bancroft	U.K.	MEDACT
Nancy Cohn	U.K.	MEDACT
Jennifer Rylands	Ireland	Psychology Department for Refugees and Asylum seekers
Maire Stedman	U.K.	Medical Foundation For the Victims of Torture
Ksenija Kondic	YU	Faculty of Philosophy, Belgrade
Radmila Marusic	YU	Perspektive, Belgrade, YU
Sonja Ivanic	YU	SRCE, Novi Sad, YU
Sanja Miler	YU	SRCE, Novi Sad, YU

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Slavica Selakovic-Bursic	YU	SRCE, Novi Sad, YU
Natasa Lazor	YU	SRCE, Novi Sad, YU
Nila Kapor Stanulovic	Yu	University of Novi Sad
Slobodanka Stankovic	Yu	SRCE, Novi Sad, YU
Teodora Radonic	Yu	SUMC
Paula Gutlove	USA	Institute for Resource and Security Studies
Gordon Thompson	USA	Institute for Resource and Security Studies
Jean-Claude Metraux	Switzerland	Appartenances

Appendix B: Conference program

**Medical Network for Social Reconstruction in the Former Yugoslavia
and the
Maternal/Child Health Center, Mostar, Bosnia**

***International Conference:*
"CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN POST-WAR SITUATIONS"**

Hotel Zenit, Neum, Bosnia
15-18 June 2001

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

15 June, Friday evening: Opening session with social evening to follow

18:00 - 22:00:

Welcome: Dr. Alija Suko, Governor of Neretva, Mr Dziho,
About the Network: Dr. Anne-Marie Miorner Wagner, Dr. Paula
Gutlove

About IPPNW: Dr. Herman Spanjaard (Vice President, International
Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War)

16 June, Saturday: Exploring the issues

9:00-10:00: Plenary: Children and Youth: Health and Psychosocial
Reconstruction

Panel discussion chaired by Dr. Paula Gutlove.

Presentations by:

Dr. Anica Mikus Kos (President, Slovene Philanthropy),
Hamdija Kujundvic (President, Osmijeh, Gracanica Bosnia)
Mirjana Gravac (Center for Adolescents, Psychiatric Clinic, Rijeka Croatia)

10:30-12:30:

Professional exchange seminars: Youth and Social Reconstruction: Health
Professionals Making a Difference. (Participants will present and discuss
the work they are doing with children to assist health and social
reconstruction.)

Four parallel seminars:

- a. Health and Psychosocial Reconstruction for Children and Youth
- b. Meeting Special Needs of Children and Youth
- c. Empowering Children and Youth
- d. Special Issues of Refugee Children

12:30-15:30: Lunch

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15:30-16:30: Keynote speech with discussion: Good People in A Time of Evil, Dr. Svetlana Broz, (Cardiologist and author of Good People In A Time of Evil, a book describing human destinies in the Bosnian War, 1992-1995).

17:00-19:30: Training workshops--parallel sessions:

- a. Voluntary Action: Anica Mikus Kos, Emir Kuljuh, (? and Slobodanka Stankovic?)
- b. Trauma and Social Recovery: Tanja Francicovic (?and someone from Macedonia?)
- c. Help to Helpers: Dean Adjukovic
- d. Defining A Project And Getting It Funded: Vahida Huzejrovic and Paula Gutlove
- e. IPPNW training workshop

20:00-22:00: Dinner and social evening

17 June, Sunday: Meeting the needs

9:00-9:45: Panel: Reports from professional exchange seminars of 16 June

9:45-10:15 Break

10:15-12:00: Plenary: The Medical Network in the International Arena

Panel discussion chaired by Anne Marie Miorner Wagner

An international panel of speakers from North Caucasus, West Europe (IPPNW), former Yugoslavia, and elsewhere will discuss subjects including: building health bridges East, West, North, and South; working across cultures; and the assets and liabilities of Western methods in non-Western cultures.

12:15-19:30: Excursion to Mostar and other points of interest in Bosnia
Visits to Bosnian medical and social service agencies and historical points of interest. The aim is to provide insight into local culture, needs and problems, and to establish contacts for future cooperation and network development. (The excursion will include stops for lunch and coffee.)

20:00-22:00: Dinner and social evening

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18 June, Monday: Where we can go from here

9:00-11:00: Parallel organizational meetings

- a. Medical Network Organizational meeting
- b. Medical Students meeting
- c. IPPNW European regional meeting

11:30-1:00: Break

10:00-12:00: Discussion, Conclusions, Closure

Panel: Reports from organizational meetings of 17 June

12:30-17:00: Resource Fair

12:30-15:00: Lunch

15:00-17:00 Medical Network Contact Group meeting

19 June, Tuesday

Depart (or stay for meeting of International Society for Health and Human Rights, 20-24 June, Cavtat, Croatia...)

Appendix C: Introduction to a book by Dr. Svetlana Broz

Good People In A Time of Evil.

by Dr. Svetlana Broz

Introduction

During my last year at the Belgrade School of Medicine, in 1979, I was studying for my general surgery examination, which included surgery on war wounds. I must confess that at the time I was deeply convinced that such a branch of surgery was anachronistic and not of great importance, but I was completely wrong. Twelve years passed and war trumpets announced the beginning of the war in Yugoslavia...

From the very beginning of the war, one could hear horrible news from the battlefield, as well as reports written by various journalists dealing with disastrous events. Those rare journalists who wrote objectively were as preoccupied with these disastrous events as were their warmongering opponents. I myself was witness to the breakup of longtime friendships, which came about because of the impossibility to determine which side's nationalism was more evil--and this happened in the cosmopolitan city of Belgrade. It seemed to me that this idle European city had turned into a beehive in which each "bee" created his own honeycomb, his own world into which he brought not pollen but hate, carefully nourished by the unfortunate conversations of deaf people – ex-friends. I could not believe that in this general madness there was nothing human. I set out on a journey to the war zone, first as a doctor, in the hope of helping at least one unfortunate victim. In the beginning, the people I was talking to in the cardiology ward were too shy to tell me their sufferings, but later, I realized that they needed to talk about their fate in the war. From their brief confessions, I felt their thirst for the truth, which was colored by their experiences in the areas that had been shelled, and was different from the black and white pictures we got in Belgrade and from around the world.

Those first rays of hope inspired me to put away my stethoscope and to take a cassette recorder and set out to record authentic stories from people belonging to the three different confessions. The working title of my book, "Good People in the Evil Times", served as the most succinct expression of my quest during my conversations with my interlocutors.

I must confess that it was very difficult to gain their trust under the awful conditions in which they lived--in destroyed houses and damp cellars--with shelling echoing nearby. Later, in strangers' houses and unknown hamlets, we talked amid the frightening rhetorical cannonades of national leaders calling for national homogenization. They feared everything: the publication of their names as well as the names of people of a different confession who had helped them to survive.

Many of those with whom I talked wanted to remain anonymous, because they wanted to protect those who saved them. That was a stunning indication of their consciousness that they were surrounded by intolerance and conformism. The

great majority of my interviewees were telling me about their experiences with people of different religions. Under such conditions, no story bearing witness to good deeds should be subject to doubt. The truth of each story rests on the conscience of the one who told it.

The language they spoke depended upon the level of their education. Although I normalized the language here and there, all the facts are authentic and true.

A careful reader will not miss the lack of emotions in this story telling. As a matter of fact, there were no such feelings. While I was listening to them, I had the impression that they had hidden all their feelings somewhere deep in their minds, perhaps in their subconscious. A trembling voice, interrupted at times by a soft or inaudible groan, great gaps between words while they gathered their strength to go on, a flood of feelings depriving them of the power to speak, and curses—the escape valves of the emotions—remain recorded on my audio cassettes. Their eyes, faces, the trembling hands with which they held a glass or lit a cigarette, remain forever in my soul. I did not describe such feelings in my book, on purpose. I left it to the reader to determine the depths of their suffering, and happiness, in accordance with his own sensitivity.

Human kindness, under normal living conditions, is taken for granted, so it is often not even noticed. In cruel times, when someone's survival depends on the moral and ethical norms of another, and against the background of innumerable horrors to which we can apply the Latin proverb: *Homo homini lupus est* ("Man is a wolf to man"), the expression of readiness to sacrifice oneself for the sake of another crystallizes, as a pearl forms on sand in a shell at the bottom of the sea. Someone had to dive for those pearls and make them into a necklace. Without it, a black cloud of crimes, committed by no matter how many individuals, will shroud in absolute darkness all of us who were born in this region, where even today a lot of honest and noble people live unnoticed. I believe that everybody will answer for his crimes, no matter how long the process takes. The question is whether or not deserving people will get satisfaction for their goodness and courage? How will people be rewarded who were killed at the hands of their neighbors because they wouldn't countenance bestiality and insanity, but, instead, protected men of another religion? That kind of goodness is heroism, but these heroes are anonymous. To such people, no army, no government will ever bestow recognition. No street, no square will be named after them, and their names will endure only in the memories of the people whose lives they saved, and perhaps, in the memories of their children. Future generations must be conscious of what happened and they must know that such people existed and still exist.

One cold, wartime winter, I drove about 7.500 kilometers along the icy roads of Republika Srpska, looking for people who were willing to tell me their life stories. My persistence was rewarded: I managed to record over a hundred painful stories, while the most thick-skinned supporters of the ethnic enclaves remained silent. The manuscript of the book was finished in 1996. There were some people who did not want the book to be published, but who did nothing to me while I was in the field, even though I expected they would. However, it was in the middle of Belgrade that they stole from my house the greater part of the

materials which I had gathered. This delayed my publication, but it didn't prevent it. On the contrary, it was yet another proof that the "raw" material had value, even greater value, because someone had stolen it and concealed it. The last autumn of the war, I traversed over 6000 kilometers of the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and I finished gathering the necessary materials. In this book you will find an equal number of stories of Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats, interwoven, as are their lives and destinies in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This is a collection of individual human confessions from the area which I managed to visit. The tragedy of all the nations in that region, during the war, is too great to be described in any book. Any generalization on the basis of this material would represent an abuse of the sincerity and suffering of those who had the strength to talk about it.

The basic motive that started me and guided me even while I was stumbling forward, was the desire--under conditions of universal evil and destruction, when human life was worth a single bullet--to reaffirm human kindness as the supreme postulate on which rests the future of all three confessions in the land of my forefathers.

Good people, those who in the most terrible of times had the strength to talk about other people's kindnesses, as well as those who--without asking the price--had the courage to do a good deed, were the most impressive guarantee of the validity of such a motive.

Belgrade
January, 1999.

Svetlana Broz, M.D.

Appendix D: Exercise in project development and proposal writing

INSTITUTE FOR RESOURCE AND SECURITY STUDIES

27 Ellsworth Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, USA

Phone: (617) 491-5177 Fax: (617) 491-6904 Electronic mail: irss@igc.org

Exercise In Project Development and Proposal Writing

(Sample Proposal for a Cooperative Medical Network Project)

June 2001

1. Information about the Applicant:

Organization name _____

Mailing address _____

Phone and Fax numbers _____

Email address _____

Project supervisor _____

2. Project Title: _____

3. Grant Period: from _____ to _____

4. Amount Requested: _____

5. Proposal Narrative:

5.a. Abstract: a brief overview of the project, describing the project's goals, what the project will do and how it will do it.

XXXXXX

5.b. Objectives and strategy: how will the project prevent or manage violent conflict?

XXXXXX

5.c. Background: the project's context and its history to date.

XXXXXX

5.d. Implementation: who will do what, and when will they do it? Discuss tasks and responsibilities, and create a project timeline.

XXXXXX

5.e. Products: what products will result from this project? Who will use the products? How will they get them?

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XXXXXX

5.f. Evaluation: how will the success of the project be evaluated?

XXXXXX

6. Project Budget

Category	Funds Requested	Other funds available	Total
Wages			
Benefits			
Consultants			
Travel			
Meetings			
Printing			
Supplies			
Communications			
Equipment purchase			
Office costs			
Other			
Total			

APPENDIX E: List of participants in the Contact Group meeting, 18 June 2001

1. Stanka Petrova (Macedonian CMH)
2. Slobodanka Stankovic (Center Scre, NoviSad)
3. Mark Choonoo (CARE/ Kosovo)
4. Zdenka Pantic (IRCT, Zagreb)
5. Katherina Purtsder (OMEGA)
6. Vahida Huejrovic (Slovene Philanthropy)
7. Paula Gutlove (IRSS, USA)
8. Hamdija Kujundvic (Osmijeh, BiH)
9. Sonja Kosac (Igalo, Montenegro)
10. Alija Suko (MCHC, Mostar, BiH)
11. Radmuila Marusic (Perspective, Belgrade, Serbia)
12. Ksendja Kondic (Familia, Belgrade, Serbia)
13. Ramush Lokaj (Center for Promotion of Education, Kosov)
14. Naile Eleu (Macedonia MCMN)
15. Katja fras (SF, Slovenia)
16. Anne Marie Moirner Wagner (OMEGA, Graz)
17. Emir Kuljuh (OMEGA, Graz)
18. Lulezim Arapi (Assoc. Psychosocial Assistance, Kosovo)
19. Hildegaard Scheu (GTZ, Germany)

Appendix F: Responses to the conference evaluation form

International Conference:

"CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN POST-WAR SITUATIONS"

15-18 June 2001, Neum, Bosnia

CONFERENCE EVALUATION -- SUMMARY

All the sessions, presentations and workshops have been rated according to the following scale:

<u>Excellent</u>		<u>Good</u>		<u>Fair</u>		<u>Poor</u>			
10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

1. Opening session

Welcome: Dr. Alija Suko, Governor of Neretva*, Mayor of Neum, About the Network: Dr. Anne-Marie Miorner Wagner, Dr. Paula Gutlove About IPPNW: Dr. Herman Spanjaard

was rated as: "good"

comments:

- simultaneous translation would be much better in general, otherwise too much time wasted on translation
- good and short

2. Exploring the issues

Plenary: Children and Youth: Health and Psychosocial Reconstruction

Speakers: Dr. Anica Mikus Kos, Hamdija Kujundzic, Mirjana Graovac

was rated as: "good"

comments:

- the time for each speaker was too short regarding the fact that the translation itself takes additional time
- ten minutes is not enough for a presentation like the one from Rijeka
- presentation of M. Graovac was too technical; too long, too complicated
- poor translation of Mr Kujundzic's speech
- it is interesting to hear about studies but it would be more interesting to hear about the results
- more use of audio-video support of the professional presentations could help overcome some of the difficulties in translation and also empower the professionals to present at the conferences
- too long presentations without much of an effect

3. Professional exchange seminars: Health Professionals Making a Difference

a. Health and Psychosocial Reconstruction for Children and Youth

was rated as: "good"

comments:

- sufficient time for two projects
- more time for a discussion
- interesting people
- it took so long time, till it was clear to us what CARE is doing, but then it was quite interesting

b. Meeting Special Needs of Children and Youth

was rated as: "good"

comments:

- Palestinian-Israel presentation was dramatic and useful-acronyms for implementation of the projects

c. Empowering Children and Youth

was rated as: "good"

comments:

- all the presentations were excellent-too pity that only such a small number of participants were interested in this topic
- the empowerment of the youth was neglected

d. Special Issues of Refugee Children

was rated as: "excellent"

comments:

- the time was far too short for this important issue-the possibility for exchange of the experiences was not given due to lack of time

4. Keynote speech with discussion: Good People in A Time of Evil, Dr. Svetlana Broz, (Cardiologist and author of Good People In A Time of Evil).

was rated as: "good"

comments:

- not enough time for more serious questions , answers and discussion
- wonderful
- what a spirit and a great idea
- a very moving presentation
- excellent idea for reconciliation in this region
- touching presentation

5. Training workshops--parallel sessions:

a. Voluntary Action:

was rated as: "good"

comments:

b. Trauma and Social Recovery:

was rated as: "fair"

comments:

- should be more focused, objective of exchange was not clear
- there was no structure for most of the time and than no time for discussion
- facilitators were not prepared
- there was no translator there and the facilitators tried to moderate with their poor English, which wasn't so successful
- the time was too short for such a difficult topic

c. Defining A Project And Getting It Funded:

was rated as: "excellent"

comments:

- more time was needed
- more information about the content of particular workshops was needed

- suggestion to organize a few-days workshop about this important issue
- clear picture of networking and issues that are important for the future

d. IPPNW training workshop

was rated as: "good"

comments:

- informal work in smaller groups was very pleasant
- too loose without structured discussion, but still very useful in terms of informal networking and sharing the progress and concepts of regional/national affiliaters
- great discussion and the possibility for making contacts

6. Meeting the needs

Plenary: The Medical Network in the International Arena: Working Across Cultures

Panel discussion chaired by Anne Marie Miorner Wagner

was rated as: "good"

comments:

- more exchange/discussion than statements
- more time for discussion was needed
- hope this could lead to some written guidelines
- lots of new aspects
- very important issue of East-West divide was emphasized – it is important to make this topic more visible for the humanitarian aid spectrum, so that West-organizations are aware of attitudes, position and competence of East; that is often not acknowledged or addressed but simply ignored
- a lot of ideas came up – there is a need to find the ways for realizing these ideas on the practical level

7. Resource Fair with funders:

was rated as: "good"

comments:

- the group was too large

8. Panel: Reports from professional exchange seminars

was rated as: "good"

comments:

- did not give good insight into work of the other groups
- it was always difficult to summarize the process
- very useful summaries
- the time for writing the summaries was too short and that's why their quality was not so high

9. Parallel organizational meetings

a. Medical Network Organizational meeting

was rated as: "good"

comments:

- excellent
- collection of ideas should lead to action planning (time frame, responsible person, etc.)-more specific
- good ideas-need to ensure follow-up

b. Medical Students meeting

was rated as: "good"

comments:

c. IPPNW European regional meeting

was rated as: "excellent"

comments:

10. Where we can go from here

**Panel: Reports from organizational meetings
Discussion, Closure**

was rated as: "good"

comments:

- time for the reports was too short

- the vision of networking and support was established

11. Excursion

was rated as: "excellent"

comments:

- return was too late
- what happened to the visit to medical and social services and historical points?
- visit to medical or social service agencies would have been welcomed
- organization was very problematic-the vehicles were not co-ordinated
- the trip to Mostar was excellent-both depressing and impressing
- very important to be confronted with the situation in this way

Additional comments about the conference :

- the specific needs of the different regions should find a space during the conference-networking within one region
- too bad that some people left before the conference was closed
- excellent meeting
- many thanks to everyone involved in the organization of this wonderful meeting
- excellent with lots of time for informal discussions in smaller groups
- excellent accommodation and facilities
- compliments for Omega and Dr Suko
- great appreciation for the professionals from Ex-Yugoslavia, who have done a lot and are still enthusiastic about their work – the attitude of Western humanitarian organizations is often arrogant and non-aware of the local professional competence
- the conferences like this one should be organized more often because this is the great opportunity to meet each other and get the clear picture about the particular problems
- Organization of the seminars was very good
- one big farewell party was missing
- great opportunity to meet interesting people and hope that this can result with future co-operation
- the list of participants should be provided at the beginning of the conference