

EDITORIAL

Dear readers



This year's Nobel Peace Prize went to the «Quartet du dialogue national», a group that has earned special merits in the democratisation process of Tunisia. The quartet is made up of four NPO: the unions' umbrella organisation, the association of trade and industry, a human rights organisation and the association of lawyers. These four NPO could hardly be more different, a fact that highlights the special powers of NPO within societies: NPO offer their services as bridge builders and mediators to increasingly differentiated societies. They are thus able to overcome divides in society while building up new social capital.

Previously, the primary role of NPO was advocacy of members and affected people, while these days, they should much rather embrace the function of a facilitator. This puts one of the oldest explanatory theories on the existence of NPO into a new perspective: Henry Hansmann emphasised in his theory of market failure that NPO were more trusted by clients in comparison to enterprises because of not being allowed to distribute dividends and profits. The example of the quartet even shows us that NPO are able to enjoy greater trust among members of other pressure and interest groups. It is this quality of NPO and its contribution to peace promotion that we would like to give a better understanding of in this issue.

Wishing you all the best for a peaceful 2016.

Your Georg von Schnurbein

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Philanthropy for peace

Give Peace a Chance – the famous song by the Beatles is now more valid than ever. The world is in disarray. Wars and their consequences are dominating politics and the media. It is particularly important during times like these that civil society campaigns for peace. Possibilities are numerous. Philanthropy and peace work have long been closely intertwined. An article from Steffen Bethmann

The word 'philanthropy' originates from Greek and means human-friendly behaviour (philos 'friend'; ánthropos 'human being'). Philanthropic activities aim at improving the living conditions of people. Peace work has always been one of the core areas within philanthropy. It happens on many different levels. Examples are the financing of peace research, humanitarian aid in war regions, the support of refugees as well as the dealing and prevention of violent conflict. Each aspect thereby contributing to a peaceful society.

Peace Research

Already the pioneers of the large grantmaking foundations saw peace work as one of the important areas within philanthropy. Four years prior to the outbreak of World War I, the American billionaire Andrew Carnegie created a foundation with the goal of working towards world peace. Endowed with an initial capital of 10 million USD, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace came to existence in 1910. In the foundation charter, Carnegie writes that the institution was to «hasten the abolition of war, the foulest blot upon our civilization». This was to be achieved through the establishment of arbitration courts and the development of international law. The foundation quickly gained importance and became one of the supporting pillars of international peace work. Today, the Carnegie Endowment for International

Peace, according to a ranking by the University of Pennsylvania, is the third most influential think tank in the world, with separate sister organisations in Moscow, Beijing, Beirut and Brussels. Research-based policy analyses are carried out in the respective country's language and propositions for peace supporting political initiatives are developed. Meanwhile, institutes for peace research have become established at many universities. Many offer programmes for mediation. Whoever wants to engage in mediating between conflicting parties can learn important basics there.

Caring for the wounded

The outbreak of wars cannot be prevented by research. Besides diplomacy, in particular those organisations are in demand that look after the people in crisis areas. It was the suffering of the war invalids who were not cared for in the aftermath of the decisive battle of Solferino, that brought the Swiss business man Henry Dunant to address his ideas to the Geneva Public Welfare Committee. Together with four other citizens Dunant founded a Committee in 1863 that was initially called the International Committee for Relief to the Wounded. Shortly afterwards, it became known as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) of today. In the same year, the Committee convened an international conference to formalize the concept of national societies. The ICRC still

monitors compliance of the Geneva Convention and works towards the care and provision of the injured and prisoners of war as well as engaging in the mediation between conflicting parties. Similar goals are targeted by the organization Doctors without Borders that was rewarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999. Founded in 1971 in France, the organization works in crisis regions and is particularly active in the area of provision of health-care of the people. And it often happens that Doctors without Borders are at risk of losing their own lives. Unfortunately, they have become victims of bombs that were dropped «in the name of peace», like in Kundus or Jemen. Very different to the ICRC that is bound to strict neutrality, Doctors without Borders names the aggressors in violent conflicts in cases where it helps to protect innocent victims. Both organizations finance a large part of their activities through donations. They are dependent on the solidarity of people for other people.

Refugee Aid

Volunteering is another possibility of how one can contribute besides donations. Wars displace people from their homeland. They flee terror and violence. The terrible scenes that we witnessed in Paris are scenes that occur on a daily basis in their home countries. The way of dealing with the steady influx of people seeking protection is an expression of the values that a society lives by. Those who have been deprived of every possibility of living in peace deserve our support. One contribution to this is provided by many volunteers in the preliminary reception centres. Individual groups have travelled to the external borders to help people in precarious situations. Many more people are involved in helping refugees to integrate into the communities that are housing them. They spend time with them, give language lessons and help them with clothing and food stuffs. Their contribution is all the more important as they are sending a signal against misanthropes (misenin: 'to hate'), who are starting to mess around with matches again, in the end, deliberately setting fire to houses to prevent the accommodation of refugees. Besides the volunteers, it is also the established institutions that are looking for solutions. The Bundesverband Deutscher Stiftungen (Association of German Foundations) has set up a special website. It gives a registry of foundations that are engaged in refugee work as well as a fact sheet

that shows possibilities of how foundations can provide help within the realms of their assigned purpose.

Global Peace Index

The Global Peace Index of the Institute for Economics and Peace analyses a total of 162 countries regarding their degree of peacefulness. Based on 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators, such as the number of wars at home and abroad, or the military spending as a percentage of GDP, the countries are divided into five categories. Category 1 is made up of the most peaceful and category 5 are the most conflictual countries. The 2015 Global Peace Index report ranks Iceland as the most peaceful country; Switzerland, out of the 162 countries, ranks in fifth place. Among the most conflict-ridden countries are Afghanistan (160), Iraq (161) and Syria (162).

Source: Institute for Economics and Peace: Global Peace Index 2015. Measuring Peace, its Causes and Its Economic Value. www.economicsandpeace.org

De-traumatization and Reconciliation

Even after the guns are silenced, many challenges follow that need to be resolved. On the one hand, wars leave behind traumatized victims that need psychological support. The Swiss Academy of Development, for example, has launched a project with the South Sudan Psychological Programmes called «Women on the move». Via sports-based

activities, women are assisted in processing their traumas originating from violent assaults during the war. They are shown how to gain courage and hope again to master their future lives. Besides the work with the war victims, NPOs take on a lot of work in the area of reconciliation. They organize dialogue forums and meeting spaces with the goal of creating mutual understanding in order to prevent the resurgence of violence. An example is the association Parents Circle – Families Forum (PCFF) that unites more than 600 families from Palestine and Israel who have lost one or several family members in the course of violent clashes. PCFF engages in working towards peace and creating a dialogue. The organization is exemplary for many others that are relying on reconciliation to oppose more violence.

Philanthropy for Peace

There are many more examples we could list here representing foundations, associations or individuals that engage in peace work associations. Peace work is a core area within philanthropy. Many people living in safe environments are aware of their mere luck. They donate, do volunteer work or get involved on a political level to work towards peace. December is the month of contemplation. Let us contribute something to give peace a chance.

Steffen Bethman is researcher at the CEPS and editor of Philanthropie Aktuell

Happiness as additional impact

Ways of how to build a social enterprise in a global environment is demonstrated by the CAS in Global Social Entrepreneurship. The first graduates developed a learning center in Mongolia.



In early November, the first graduates of the CAS in «Global Social Entrepreneurship» (GSE) received

their certificates. They had successfully completed an eventful and challenging training programme over the course of nine months, its highlight being a study trip to Mongolia. On location, the participants implemented a business plan that they had previously developed and which had stood the test of an investor.

What will stick in the memory of the participants even more positively than the joy over their own degree will be

the «happiness» of the many children and adults that attended to opening ceremony of the new learning centre in Dchinggis Town. They will be visiting the centre regularly for English classes, book lending or computer courses.

The second CAS in «Global Social Entrepreneurship» is already being planned and it is due to start on 25 October 2016. The training course will be carried out by the CEPS in cooperation with the Basle social enterprise BOOKBRIDGE.

Further information to the programme: <https://ceps.unibas.ch/en/executive-education/>

Practice-oriented peace research

The Swiss peace foundation swisspeace has set itself the task to contribute to a peaceful solution to conflicts. Over 50 staff members work for swisspeace, an institute associated to the University of Basel, in research and education, while being in an active exchange with the daily practice. The foundation supports Swiss and international organisations in the development and implementation of prevention and peace promotion programmes. The CEPS talks to the Director Prof. Laurent Goetschel.

CEPS: Why are we seeing an increase in the number of violent conflicts in recent years?

G.S.: The number of violent conflicts has in effect only risen in the past two years. On average, the number has not increased significantly since the end of the cold war. We can, however, witness some wars which are costing the lives of more victims. And these are particularly those conflicts that, due to their geographical situation and the parties involved, get more of your attention, like Syria and the Ukraine.

Laurent Goetschel



Laurent Goetschel is the director of swisspeace and professor for political science of the university of Basel. Currently he is also the president of the Commission for Research Partnerships with Developing Countries (KFPE).

CEPS: : In what way does swisspeace promote peace?

swisspeace generates knowledge on conflicts and on how to deal with them. The target is not to avoid conflicts, but to minimise the extent of physical and military violence and to support processes of non-violent mechanisms towards conflict solutions. It is this target that lets swisspeace work towards conflict prevention and peace promotion. At the same time, we develop instruments and approaches that will prevent the rekindling of hostilities after conflicts have ended. These activities include models of political early warning systems to mediation or dialogue processes up to the reappraisal of the past.

CEPS: What are the challenges that swisspeace is faced with?

G.S.: We are working in a research environment that needs a very close contact to daily practice. All of our research questions stem from concrete experiences.

And we also want to deliver insights that are as effective as possible, meaning that they have a considerable potential for implementation. This type of research is not usually accepted to an equal extent in the area of social sciences. In addition, in our research work we want to cooperate in with partners that come from the respective conflict contexts. They often don't have sufficient financial means for this. And finally, the simultaneous anchoring of peace research in daily practice needs a lot of networking and relationship building. Thanks to our proximity to the «field», we want to train especially good researchers. And of course we would like to be able to present successes in practice that are as tangible as possible.

CEPS: How does swisspeace support organisations that work towards peace?

G.S.: We offer further education, we advise them and we accompany them in their work, of course, always under the premise that this is what they would like us to do. We also perform «learning processes» whereby we analyse experiences with participating actors to increase the effectiveness of future activities. And we have a platform for exchange, the centre for competence in peace promotion (Kompetenzzentrum Friedensförderung, KOFF), as well as a widely read newsletter.

CEPS: What can foundations and NPO do to contribute to peace work?

G.S.: They can financially support civil society actors working in this area by giving them donations. They can also provide more specific services, by funding education grants, for example, or by supporting selected projects. This is how we recently received support for the participation of Syrian students in a course. There are also organisations that offer direct support in conflict affected contexts. This can allow for the support of actors and processes that would otherwise not receive any international attention.

CEPS: How can enterprises be involved in the peace work?

G.S.: Enterprises play a central role in all

contexts of conflict. They deliver the basis for any social-economical future. Of course peace and politics are not their main areas of activity. But we have increasingly succeeded with making decision makers in the business world understand that they can make a positive contribution towards more peace by adapting certain procedures and perceptions in the realm of their activities. This is also in their economic interest.

CEPS: What can the normal citizen do?

G.S.: The citizens can show interest in the topics «peace» and «conflicts» and they can actively engage. In Switzerland, there are many organisations that are committed to political, humanitarian or social goals. For the official part of Switzerland it is good to know that its involvement in civil peace promotion is positively received by the larger public. There are also aid organisations and NGOs active in this area. Recently, in the Parliament, a working group «Peace promotion» was established. I see this as a sign for the population also being moved by the activities of Switzerland in our field.

CEPS: Thank you!

CEPS INSIGHT

CEPS Publications

Georg von Schnurbein is co-author of the [Swiss Foundation Code 2015](#), that was published in the CEPS publication series Foundation Governance as Volume 11. In the CEPS Working Paper Series Steffen Bethmann and Georg von Schnurbein published the report «[Effective Governance of Corporate Foundations](#)». The article «[Nonprofit Organizations as Ideal Type of Socially Responsible and Impact Investors](#)» from Tizian Fritz and Georg von Schnurbein appeared in the Journal of Finance and Risk Perspectives

New team member

Theresa Gehringer joined the CEPS team on October first as Phd student. Her thesis will investigate different forms of corporate philanthropy.

Swiss Foundation Code 2015

A new and completely revised version, the third edition of the Swiss Foundation Code (SFC), was published in September 2015, serving managers as a standard reference work for Foundation Governance.



The Swiss Foundation Code of the Association of Swiss Grantmaking Foundations (SwissFoundations) was released in autumn this year in its third and fully revised edition. The new version of the Code contains three principles and 29 recommendations making it a comprehensive framework for good governance. Executives of foundations will find it serves as a self-regulatory and action-orientation tool for best practice. To ensure this level of quality, all its components, these include the recommendations, the comments and annexes were critically examined und fundamentally revised.

The 29 recommendations address issues such as the foundation's establishment, organization, strategic management as well as the investment and financial strategy. Each recommendation must be applied following the three guiding principles for good foundation governance (implementation of the foundation's purpose, checks and balances, transparency).

Only foundations that fulfil these normative guiding principles in their daily work will meet the requirements of modern foundation governance. Even though the code is primarily based on the requirements of grantmaking foundations, it will serve all other types of foundations as an optional self-regulation tool. Since its first edition, the Code is regarded as indispensable standard reference work that is applied and followed by large and smaller foundations in addition to the statutory requirements. Both voices from academia and the industry, agree on the Swiss Foundation Code as the most important reference for best practices in the non-profit sector now and in the future.

Theresa Gehringer
The Swiss Foundation Code 2015: Principles and recommendations for the founding and leadership of grantmaking foundations, 221 pages. Co-written by Thomas Sprecher, Philipp Egger, Georg von Schnurbein. ISBN 978-3-7190-3699-7. The book is published in German, French, Italian and English. For more information: <http://www.swissfoundationcode.ch>.

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DID YOU KNOW?

1,723,000,000

With more than 1.7 billion Swiss Francs, the volume of donations by the Swiss population in 2014 has remained stable at a high level. For the most part it is donations from private individuals that make up the amount. Almost half of the donations go to humanitarian causes abroad.

Source: Zewo-Spendenstatistik 2014.

CALENDAR

CEPS ADVANCED STUDIES
Enroll now! (Courses in German)

Intensiv course
Foundation management
7 - 11 March 2016, Sigriswil

CAS Governance & Leadership
Modul 1: 18 - 21 April 2016, Sigriswil
Modul 2: 23 - 25 May 2016, Basel
Modul 3: 13 - 16 June 2016, Basel

CAS Global Social Entrepreneurship
(in English)
Modul 1: 25 - 28 October 2016, Basel
Modul 2: 07 December 2016, online
Modul 3: 16 - 18 January 2017, Basel
Modul 4: 05 - 12 March 2017, Cambodia: Implementation of Social Business
Modul 5: 04 - 05 May 2017, Basel

FURTHER DATES

Ashoka Switzerland
Final Year Event
15 December 2015, Geneva

seif
Impact Investment. The key driver for social innovation?
19 January 2016, Zürich

SwissFoundations
Annual Conference
11 May 2016, Biel

International Society of Third Sector Research
12th International Conference
28 June - 1 July 2016
Stockholm, Sweden

Network

The newly founded CEPS Research Fellows Programm met for its first workshop at the University of Basel.

The CEPS Research Fellows program is a new interdisciplinary network of researchers in the field of philanthropy and the non-profit sector. The aim of the program is to promote an exchange of research ideas, current research development and cooperation on research projects. Moreover, it offers the possibility to publish and disseminate knowledge of ongoing research in the CEPS publications. Members benefit from the CEPS' membership in international research networks.

Current members of the CEPS Research Fellows are researchers, particularly young researchers from various local universities and private research centers in Switzerland. The network currently has 10 members and is open to new researchers willing to participate. A first meeting took place on 6 October 2015. At the Philanthropy Studies Workshop, participants presented their current research projects and discussed ideas for joint research projects. Topics included mission investing and financial management of foundations, comparative research of third sector, the role of non-profit organisations in designing public policies and providing public services at local level.

For further information please contact the program coordinator Dr. Oto Potluka, oto.potluka@unibas.ch

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