

## NEWSLETTER: SPRING 2009

*Dear readers: Welcome to the first edition of the Partners for Democratic Change International (PDCI) network newsletter! In this quarterly publication, we are pleased to provide you with information about PDCI member organisations, including Partner “spotlights”, updates on PDCI member activities, and of course PDCI events and activities in Brussels. Happy reading!*

### PDCI Member Organisation Spotlight: Partners Jordan



#### PARTNERS JORDAN SOWS KNOWLEDGE AND TOLERANCE IN MA'AN

In 2008, **Partners Jordan** launched the project “Building a youth coalition for advocacy and civil participation for Reform in Jordan” which was funded by the European Commission in Jordan in partnership with the Ministry of Political Development. They trained young people between the ages of 22 and 32 from different political parties, non-governmental organizations, student unions and community-based centers, to form coalitions able to undertake national advocacy. After two trainings and different activities the participants were invited to collaboratively build an advocacy campaign. Partners Jordan distributed three small grants to the most eligible proposals and provided mentoring as well as coaching to the participants to help them implement their action plans.

One of the supported projects aims at establishing a public library and internet center to youth in Ma'an to provide students and youth, especially females, with sources of information and knowledge as this is a practice that is not culturally accepted in the region.

The 10 young activists participating in this project partnered with municipality members, education centers, the university and colleges to realize this project under the umbrella of Partners Jordan. Together they conducted consultations to find a location and furniture. Furthermore they implemented their advocacy campaign regarding the promotion of the library. In fact they designed and published posters to encourage youth reading, they made several play sketches to address the issue in schools, they participated in a media show and they even agreed with speakers at the mosque to inform attendees of the importance of reading and state that women should have the right to access the library. A report has been broadcast on Euronews, which very well reflects the outreach of this project. Click [here](#) to watch it.

This project is really a success story as the achievements are concrete and sustainable: from cooperation and communication to addressing tensions in communities. Partners Jordan is looking forward to enhance its activity in this area in the country.



*Partners for Democratic Change International is a global partnership of eighteen independent, local organizations in Europe, the Americas and the Middle East that work to advance civil society, good governance and a culture of change and conflict management worldwide.*

**PDCI AISBL, rue Belliard 205, B-1040 Brussels, +32 (0)2 230 7114, [www.pdci-network.org](http://www.pdci-network.org)**

## PDCI Member Organisations in the News

### CURING AND PREVENTING CORRUPTION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT WITH PARTNERS ALBANIA



In the framework of the project “Working together toward a more accountable and transparent local government”, **Partners-Albania** organized on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 the workshop “Local Government Transparency in Service Delivery”. The project is supported by the British Embassy and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Tirana. The goal of this project is to increase local government accountability by making its operation more transparent, thereby reducing the opportunities for corruption to manifest themselves. The project is using innovative participatory approaches in addressing corruption by establishing sustainable networks among civil society, the business community and local government, and building monitoring capacities at local level.

#### Upcoming events

- > 27 April to 4 May: One World Film Festival (PDCI participating as member of Human Rights and Democracy Network – HRDN)
- > 10-11 May: European Citizens Consultation final conference in Brussels (PDCI member organisations from Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic and Lithuania participating)
- > 28 June: Monitoring of the Albanian Parliamentary elections by Partners Albania and the Coalition of Domestic Observers.

### PARTNER CENTERS ORGANIZE EUROPEAN CITIZENS’ CONSULTATIONS

In **Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic and Lithuania**, Partners Centers are proud to run the second edition of the unique pan-European debate involving citizens from all 27 Members States to debate the future of the European Union across the boundaries of geography and language.

These European Citizens’ Consultations (ECC) have been initiated and are managed by the King Baudouin Foundation with the support of the European Commission. They began with the launch of websites to generate public debate on what role the EU can play in shaping our economic and social future in a globalised world. Emergent ideas are now being fed into the national consultations organized by Partners Centers in the countries highlighted above. In May, the ECC will organize a European Citizens’ Summit in the run-up to the 2009 European Parliament elections.



The Summit will encourage discussion between citizens and European policymakers on issues of concern to Europeans. So don’t forget to have a look to our next newsletter spotlight which will retrace this exciting experience and the Partners Centers’ involvement from the first event to the ECC’s culmination.

*Partners for Democratic Change International is a global partnership of eighteen independent, local organizations in Europe, the Americas and the Middle East that work to advance civil society, good governance and a culture of change and conflict management worldwide.*

**PDCI AISBL, rue Belliard 205, B-1040 Brussels, +32 (0)2 230 7114, [www.pdci-network.org](http://www.pdci-network.org)**

## PDCI Current Activities

### CAPACITY BUILDING CLUSTER REPORTS ON PEACEBUILDING AND ODA

As a co-coordinator (with EPLO) of the Capacity Building and Training Cluster of the Initiative for Peacebuilding, **PDCI** has produced 7 country case study reports which look at peacebuilding within official development assistance (ODA) policies and the role of civil society:

- Portugal and Peacebuilding: Colonial Memories and Contemporary Crossroads
- Polish official development assistance and peacebuilding
- Cross Sector Peacebuilding Capacities - Country case study: Spain
- Ten Years of Greek Development Cooperation and Peacebuilding: Challenges and recommendations
- Slovenia and Peacebuilding
- Bulgarian Official Development Assistance and Peacebuilding
- Peacebuilding within Czech Official Development Assistance

You can find these publications on the website of the Initiative for Peacebuilding:

<http://www.initiativeforpeacebuilding.eu/publications/index.php?c=6>



### WORKSHOPS ON PEACEBUILDING AND THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN SLOVENIA, BULGARIA, POLAND AND CZECH REPUBLIC

In November 2008 Partner Centers participated in several workshops in the framework of the Initiative for Peacebuilding in which some of the above-mentioned reports have been presented. In Slovenia, during a seven-day study tour, **PDCI** provided a presentation on conflict prevention and peacebuilding practice, main findings from other IfP case studies, EU peacebuilding policies and practice, as well as the Initiative for Peacebuilding project. **Partners-Czech** disseminated the findings of its report on Czech ODA and peacebuilding priorities during a Parliamentary Debate in the Czech Parliament in Prague on November 12, while **Partners Bulgaria Foundation** organised a roundtable on "Cooperation for international development and peacebuilding policy: Bulgarian contribution" in cooperation with the national Non-Governmental Development Organisation (NGDO) Platform in Sofia on 19 November 2008. Finally **Partners Poland Foundation** and the Polish Development Platform co-organised a one-day seminar in Slubice on 24 October 2008 to discuss active civil society participation at local level in Poland in which the Center highlighted the importance of civil society participation in government policy processes, including on development cooperation within Poland and in recipient countries.

More information on the Initiative for Peacebuilding website:

<http://www.initiativeforpeacebuilding.eu/news.php>

*Partners for Democratic Change International is a global partnership of eighteen independent, local organizations in Europe, the Americas and the Middle East that work to advance civil society, good governance and a culture of change and conflict management worldwide.*

**PDCI AISBL, rue Belliard 205, B-1040 Brussels, +32 (0)2 230 7114, [www.pdci-network.org](http://www.pdci-network.org)**

## PDCI Network Expansion

### PARTNERS FOR SUSTAINABLE LEADERSHIP

During 20 years, **Partners for Democratic Change** has observed how the shortage of leadership skills arrests development, thwarts good governance and economic growth, and hampers civil society. Accordingly, Partners has developed a new model for leadership development and center building, the Partners for Sustainable Leadership Programme which focuses on identifying and training local leaders, who then create Centers in their own countries with greater efficiency at lower cost.

With the generous support of the General Electric Foundation, Partners will be able to recruit and train ten Sustainable Leadership Fellows by 2011. After a rigorous selection through multiple rounds of interviews and extensive reference checking, the fellows engage in a two-year formal relationship with Partners. This consists first in an intensive three-weeks training in Washington DC, led by two veteran Center directors, on conflict management, facilitation and sustainability. Furthermore Partners pairs each Fellow with a member of the Partners' Board of Directors, who has expertise and experience in each Fellow's country, and who will use its network of contacts to introduce their Fellow to prospective donors and stakeholders in their countries. Finally the Fellows return to their home countries to start up their own independent Center, based on the strategic plans designed during the training and with guidance and assistance from Partners staff.

Below is a brief description of the first group of Fellows who participated in the intensive training in Washington DC in February 2009.

#### COLOMBIA



**Oscar Gaitan** comes to the program from his most recent position as Director of the European Commission's Justice Project. He is an attorney and expert in community mediation, arbitration and NGO law, and has extensive experience as a trainer and a university professor.

#### SERBIA



**Blazo Nedic** brings to the new Partners Center in Serbia, an accomplished background in the Rule of Law sector. Blazo is a seasoned professional with experience coordinating international donors and local government institutions and NGOs.

#### YEMEN



**Nadwa Al Dawsari** is a dedicated professional with an impressive background tackling the problem of tribal conflicts and blood feuds in her country. She was most recently Senior Program Manager with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) in Yemen.

#### PDCI MEMBERS & OFFICES

ALBANIA: [Center for Change & Conflict Management](#), ARGENTINA: [Fundación Cambio Democrático](#), BULGARIA: [Partners Bulgaria Foundation](#), COLOMBIA: [Partners Colombia for Democratic Change](#), CZECH REPUBLIC: [Partners-Czech](#), GEORGIA: [Center for Change and Conflict Management](#), HUNGARY: [Partners Hungary Foundation](#), JORDAN: [Center for Civic Collaboration](#), KOSOVO: [Center for Conflict Management](#), LITHUANIA: [BALTIC Partners for Change Management](#), MEXICO: [Centro de Colaboración Cívica](#), PERU: [Socios Perú](#), POLAND: [Fundacja Partners Polska](#), ROMANIA: [Partners Foundation for Local Development](#), SERBIA: [Partners-Serbia](#), SLOVAKIA: [Partners for Democratic Change Slovakia](#), UNITED STATES: [Partners for Democratic Change](#), YEMEN: [Partners-Yemen](#)

If you wish to unsubscribe to this mailing list or obtain more information about the PDCI network, please contact us at: [pdci@partnersglobal.org](mailto:pdci@partnersglobal.org)

*Partners for Democratic Change International is a global partnership of eighteen independent, local organizations in Europe, the Americas and the Middle East that work to advance civil society, good governance and a culture of change and conflict management worldwide.*

**PDCI AISBL, rue Belliard 205, B-1040 Brussels, +32 (0)2 230 7114, [www.pdci-network.org](http://www.pdci-network.org)**