

# 2014 OVERVIEW

European Peacebuilding Liaison Office

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# 1 Mission Statement

The European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (EPLO) is the platform of European NGOs, NGO networks, and think tanks which are committed to peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict. EPLO's mission is to influence the EU to be more active and more effective at promoting peace and preventing violent conflict throughout the world. EPLO aims to realise its mission by channelling civil society analysis into EU policy-making.

Its activities include:

- Analysis of EU policies
- Joint advocacy work (position papers, statements etc.)
- Facilitating dialogue between civil society peacebuilding organisations and EU policy-makers

EPLO's current policy objectives are:

1. To ensure that conflict prevention and peacebuilding are prominent within the policies and structures of EU external affairs.
2. To secure increased resources for conflict prevention and peacebuilding.
3. To integrate peacebuilding into EU development policy, programmes and approaches.
4. To promote the inclusion of a meaningful gender perspective in EU policy, programming and implementation related to peace and security.
5. To promote peacebuilding in EU response to specific conflicts.
6. To ensure conflict sensitivity is included in the EU's trade policy and in EIB lending.

# 2 Highlights from 2014

The main highlights in 2014 were:

- Launch of second phase of the Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN)
- Organisation of three CSDN in-country meetings in Myanmar and DRC
- Extension activities in the EU Member States

# 3 EPLO's Evolution 2009 – 2014

EPLO was established in 2001. Over the past six years, the organisation has grown significantly in terms of members, geographical coverage, activities, staff and budget.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<b>Member Organisations</b>	29	29	32	32	33	32
<b>European countries covered (indirectly)<sup>1</sup></b>	13 (9)	13 (9)	14 (9)	15 (9)	14 (9)	13 (10)
<b>Full-time staff members</b>	5	5	6	7	8	8
<b>Expenditure (€)</b>	322,334	423,159	676,119	673,467	984,865	805,636

<sup>1</sup> Countries covered are those in which one or more EPLO member organisations are based. Countries covered indirectly are those in which members of EPLO member organisations are based.

## 4 Working Methods

EPLO's policy work is led by a set of thematic working groups consisting of representatives of EPLO's member organisations. In 2014, EPLO had five standing working groups and four ad hoc groups. The main purpose of the groups is to develop common positions which EPLO can use in its advocacy work, including in conferences and seminars, and bilateral meetings with EU policy-makers and other relevant actors, and to provide information to EPLO member organisations on EU policy developments.<sup>2</sup>

In 2014, EPLO's thematic working groups were as follows:

Type of Group	Title of Group
Working Groups	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. European Investment, Bank, Trade and Conflict</li><li>2. Funding for Peace</li><li>3. Gender, Peace and Security</li><li>4. Peacebuilding and EU Institutions and Policies</li><li>5. Peace, Development and Security</li></ol>
Ad Hoc Groups <sup>3</sup>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. EU Accession and Peacebuilding</li><li>2. EU-Africa Relations</li><li>3. EU Support for Peace Processes</li><li>4. Middle East and North Africa</li></ol>

## 5 Governance<sup>4</sup>

### 5.1 General Assembly

The EPLO General Assembly meets twice a year and is EPLO's decision-making body. It is where constitutional decisions are taken by all member organisations, and where elections for the Steering Committee are held. The General Assembly decides on strategic multi-annual plans and the biannual work plans on the basis of proposals prepared by the Office and the Steering Committee. The General Assembly also decides on membership admission and the principle structure of the thematic working groups which develop EPLO's policy positions.

EPLO staff members report to the General Assembly on the results of EPLO's work and gather inputs from member organisations.

In 2014, the General Assembly had meetings in April in Paris and in November in Brussels.

### 5.2 Steering Committee

The members of the EPLO Steering Committee are elected for two-year terms by a two-thirds majority of the votes of members present at the EPLO General Assembly and proxy votes.

Steering Committee members:

- are proposed by their organisation or another member
- are generally the EPLO representatives of that organisation and have the seniority to engage their organisation
- are elected in a personal capacity and on the understanding that they work in the interest of EPLO, independent of their professional commitments elsewhere
- contribute their professional experience on a voluntary basis and seek to represent the best interest of EPLO as a whole and of all its members.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.eplo.org/policy-work.html>

<sup>3</sup> Ad Hoc Groups focus on specific topics for a limited period of time.

<sup>4</sup> See [http://www.eplo.org/assets/files/1.%20About%20us/Decision-making/EPLO\\_Internal\\_Statutes\\_1003XX.pdf](http://www.eplo.org/assets/files/1.%20About%20us/Decision-making/EPLO_Internal_Statutes_1003XX.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> See <http://www.eplo.org/steering-committee.html>

In 2014, the Steering Committee had meetings in January, April, September and November.

Term	Steering Committee Members
November 2013 – May 2014	<p><b>Chair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeri-Maria Jaarva (Crisis Management Initiative)</li> </ul> <p><b>Treasurer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aurélien Colson (ESSEC IRENÉ)</li> </ul> <p><b>Members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chiara Biscaldi (International Crisis Group)</li> <li>• Colette Nkunda (Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation)</li> <li>• Sonya Reines-Djivanides (Search for Common Ground)</li> <li>• Sanne Tielemans (Conciliation Resources)</li> <li>• Bernardo Venturi (European Network for Civil Peace Services)</li> </ul>
May – November 2014	<p><b>Chair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeri-Maria Jaarva (Crisis Management Initiative)</li> </ul> <p><b>Treasurer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sanne Tielemans (Conciliation Resources)</li> </ul> <p><b>Members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chiara Biscaldi (International Crisis Group)</li> <li>• Colette Nkunda (Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation)</li> <li>• Sonya Reines-Djivanides (Search for Common Ground)</li> <li>• Nicolas Rougy (Interpeace)</li> <li>• Bernardo Venturi (European Network for Civil Peace Services)</li> </ul>
November 2014 – April 2015	<p><b>Chair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sonya Reines-Djivanides (Search for Common Ground)</li> </ul> <p><b>Treasurer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nicolas Rougy (Interpeace)</li> </ul> <p><b>Members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chiara Biscaldi (International Crisis Group)</li> <li>• Sidonia Gabriel (swisspeace)</li> <li>• Meeri-Maria Jaarva (Crisis Management Initiative)</li> <li>• Andrew Lane (Quaker Council for European Affairs)</li> </ul>

### 5.3 Member Organisations

EPLO's members are individual NGOs, networks of NGOs, and think tanks. At the end of 2014, EPLO had 32 member organisations based in 13 European countries (10 EU Member States plus Kosovo, Norway and Switzerland).

## 6 Publications

In 2014, EPLO published 5 papers:<sup>6</sup>

	<b>Title of Publication</b>
1.	Peace and Security in the new Africa-EU Partnership: Recommendations for civil society participation
2.	Where are the EU's Women Leaders in Foreign Affairs?
3.	Civil Society Dialogue Network Discussion Paper 8: Peacebuilding in Ukraine: What Role for the EU?
4.	Overview of the EU's policy and financial commitments on governance
5.	Support for peacebuilding and conflict prevention in the EU's external financing instruments 2014-2020

EPLO also produced:

- 11 meeting reports and 4 sets of recommendations from meetings organised by EPLO
- 11 issues of its internal newsletter and 6 issues of its external newsletter (EPLO Conflict Prevention Newsletter)<sup>7</sup>
- 4 think pieces on gender, peace and security by EPLO member organisations
- 9 other documents (some for internal use only)<sup>8</sup>

## 7 Meetings

In 2014, EPLO organised 51 events:

- 23 Brown Bag Lunch events (See Section 8)
- 16 events in the framework of the Civil Society Dialogue Network project (See Section 9)
- 5 events in the framework of the 'The EU and Peacebuilding: From European Peace Project to Global Actor' project (See Section 10)
- 6 events in the framework of the 'Strengthening Early Warning and Mobilising Early Action' project (See Section 11)
- 1 round-table on mediation support (in co-operation with EPLO member organisation the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD Centre))

In addition to the meetings which EPLO organised, EPLO staff members:

- moderated and/or made presentations in more than 30 external events
- participated in more than 60 external events
- had more than 70 meetings with EU policy-makers<sup>9</sup>
- had more than 50 meetings with representatives of other civil society organisations, officials from international organisations and various opinion-formers.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>6</sup> See <http://www.eplo.org/eplo-publications.html>

<sup>7</sup> See <http://www.eplo.org/conflict-prevention-newsletter.html>

<sup>8</sup> Background papers for meetings, briefing papers for external and internal use, contributions to consultations, contributions to non-EPLO publications, amendments to European Parliament reports, letters to EU policy-makers etc.

<sup>9</sup> More information about these meetings is available on request from the EPLO office.

<sup>10</sup> In addition to the more than 60 meetings with representatives of EPLO member organisations.

## 8 Brown Bag Lunch Events

Since 2010, EPLO has organised regular lunchtime round-tables on a geographical and thematic issues relevant to the EU and its support for peacebuilding and conflict prevention.<sup>11</sup>

In 2014, EPLO organised 23 Brown Bag Lunch events:

	Title of Event
1.	Strategies and Next Steps for the Responsibility to Protect: Co-operation with Regional Organisations and the Role of Civil Society
2.	The Role of Civil Society Organisations in influencing EU External Action
3.	Mobilising Member States in EU advocacy: CONCORD's experience
4.	Crisis in Ukraine: Promoting Peace and the Role of the EU
5.	Civilian Protection through Humanitarian Engagement of Armed Non-State Actors
6.	<i>Quelles opportunités d'action pour la société civile dans la gestion des conflits au Burkina Faso ?</i>
7.	Peacebuilding in 3D: EU and US approaches
8.	M&E Challenges in Peacebuilding Programmes
9.	Engagement of Civil Society in Security Sector Reform processes in the DRC
10.	<i>Réconciliation et cohésion sociale en Côte d'Ivoire: Où en sommes-nous?</i>
11.	<i>Soutien aux femmes leaders en Afghanistan : Impact, défis et opportunités</i>
12.	Transitional Justice in Colombia: Enhancing victims' participation
13.	Peace informatics: Conflict resolution in a digital age
14.	Community security: A vehicle for peacebuilding and statebuilding
15.	Mediation and transitional justice in EU foreign policy: Principle, policy and practice
16.	Eight years of peacebuilding experience in Nepal: Reflections and lessons learned
17.	Unfinished peace: The ongoing peace processes in the Philippines
18.	The role of civil society in conflict prevention in West Africa: Prospects and challenges
19.	The role of the Holy See in promoting peace
20.	"We are all citizens": An Iraqi civil society contribution on the protection of minorities
21.	Experiences with peacebuilding across religions in Syria
22.	Current and future challenges for Timor-Leste's youth in becoming partners and leaders in nation-building
23.	Women's Dialogue Initiative: Bridging the Islamist-secular divide in Tunisia

<sup>11</sup> See <http://www.eplo.org/eplo-brown-bag-lunch-events.html>

## 9 Civil Society Dialogue Network

The Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) is a three-year project co-financed by the European Union (Instrument for Stability) and aimed at facilitating dialogue on peacebuilding issues between civil society and EU policy-makers. The events which are organised in the framework of this project are open to all interested civil society actors and take place in Brussels, EU Member States and conflict-affected countries with EU presence. It is managed by EPLO, in co-operation with the European Commission and the European External Action Service.<sup>12</sup>

In 2014, EPLO organised 16 events in the framework of the CSDN:

Civil Society Dialogue Network	
Type of Event <sup>13</sup>	Title of Event
Policy Meetings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strategic Review of EUMM Georgia</li> <li>2. Towards an EU Policy on Transitional Justice</li> <li>3. Strategic Review of EUTM Somalia</li> <li>4. EUPOL Afghanistan</li> <li>5. Global Peace Index: Peace, Institutions and Assessing Conflict Risk</li> <li>6. EUAM Ukraine and Effective Security Sector Reform: Input from Civil Society</li> <li>7. Designing and Supporting National Dialogues: What Role for the EU and Civil Society?</li> <li>8. Youth in Conflicts: Agents for Peace or recruits for armed groups?</li> </ol>
Geographic Meetings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Armed violence and capacities for peace in Iraq: Actors, causes, impact and EU responses</li> </ol> <p>Early Response Meetings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Early Warning System: Rollout in Central Asia</li> </ol> <p>In-country Dialogue Meetings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. <i>Mise en œuvre de l'Accord-cadre pour la paix, la sécurité et la coopération pour la RDC et la région : quel soutien la communauté internationale, en particulier l'UE, peut-elle apporter à la société civile congolaise ?</i> (Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC))</li> <li>4. Looking forward in Myanmar's peace process: How can the EU and civil society provide constructive support? (Myanmar)</li> <li>5. <i>Mise en œuvre de l'Accord-cadre pour la paix, la sécurité et la coopération pour la RDC et la région : quel rôle pour la société civile et pour l'UE ?</i> (DRC)</li> </ol>
Funding Instruments Meetings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace – Updates on programming; building links to other EU external financing instruments</li> <li>2. Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace – Consultation on 2015 programming</li> </ol>
Member State Meetings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The EU, conflict prevention and peacebuilding: State of play and the role of civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (Austria)</li> </ol>

<sup>12</sup> See <http://www.eplo.org/civil-society-dialogue-network.html>

<sup>13</sup> See

[http://www.eplo.org/assets/files/2.%20Activities/Civil%20Society%20Dialogue%20Network/EPLO\\_CSDN\\_Overview.pdf](http://www.eplo.org/assets/files/2.%20Activities/Civil%20Society%20Dialogue%20Network/EPLO_CSDN_Overview.pdf)



## 10 Member State Advocacy

In 2014, EPLO continued its work at the Member State level, including through the project 'The EU and Peacebuilding: From European Peace Project to Global Actor' and funding from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.<sup>14</sup>

'The EU and Peacebuilding: From European Peace Project to Global Actor' was an 18-month project funded by the European Commission (Europe for Citizens Programme). Its aim was to mobilise support for EU peacebuilding through involving European citizens, European civil society organisations, academic institutions, research centres and think tanks, as well as national and EU-level decision-makers in a dialogue on the EU's role in conflict prevention and peacebuilding and its history as a peace project.<sup>15</sup>

In 2014, EPLO organised five events in EU Member States (plus a CSDN meeting in Austria):

	Title of Event
1.	A Finnish view on EU peacebuilding and civilian CSDP (Finland)
2.	The Netherlands and the EU's engagement with fragile states (The Netherlands)
3.	<i>Réponse aux crises et fragilité des Etats: Les leçons de l'engagement français</i> (France)
4.	Italy's role in EU peacebuilding and civilian CSDP (Italy)
5.	The EU as a peace actor - peacebuilding in the EU and its neighbourhood (Belgium)

## 11 Strengthening Early Warning and Mobilising Early Action

The project 'Strengthening Early Warning and Mobilising Early Action' aims to contribute to the establishment, development and reinforcement of early warning mechanisms and increase opportunities for civil society to influence responses to conflict in a timely manner. In particular, through the provision of expert field-based conflict analysis, it aims to identify options for early action to allow the EU, its Member States and other regional and international actors the EU supports, to anticipate and respond to the risks of outbreak or recurrence of conflict.

This three-year project started in July 2013. It is co-financed by the EU (Instrument for Stability) and managed by the International Crisis Group (ICG) and EPLO.<sup>16</sup>

In 2014, EPLO organised six events under this project:

	Title of Event
1.	Watch List Briefing – Conflicts to Watch in 2015
2.	EU Briefing 2014
3.	Round-table – Whither South Sudan?
4.	Watch List Briefing – Conflicts to Watch in 2014
5.	Round-table – Curbing Violence in Nigeria: The Boko Haram Insurgency
6.	Round-table – Afghanistan: Looking ahead

<sup>14</sup> See <http://www.eplo.org/member-state-advocacy.html>

<sup>15</sup> See <http://www.eplo.org/the-eu-and-peacebuilding-from-european-peace-project-to-global-actor.html>

<sup>16</sup> See <http://www.eplo.org/strengthening-early-warning-and-mobilising-early-action.html>

## **12 Financial Information**

### **12.1 Sources of Income<sup>17</sup>**

In 2014, EPLO's income was derived from:

- Membership fees
- Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
- European Commission – Instrument for Stability (Peacebuilding Partnership)
- European Commission – Europe for Citizens Programme

### **12.2 Fundraising**

In 2014, EPLO continued to monitor funding opportunities. It submitted one application as lead organisation under the Europe for Citizens Programme and participated in two applications under the Non-state Actors and Local Authorities Thematic Programme and one application under Horizon 2020 as a partner organisation.

### **12.3 Audit Report**

EPLO's auditor issued an unqualified approval of EPLO's accounts for the year ended 31 December 2013. The audit report was published and declared to the Belgian authorities in 2014.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> EPLO is included in the European Commission's Register of Interest Representatives.

See: <http://ec.europa.eu/transparencyregister/public/consultation/displaylobbyist.do?id=0878397912-17>

<sup>18</sup> See [http://www.eplo.org/assets/files/1.%20About%20us/Funding/DGST\\_Auditors\\_Report\\_2014.pdf](http://www.eplo.org/assets/files/1.%20About%20us/Funding/DGST_Auditors_Report_2014.pdf)

## 13 Member Organisations

Berghof Foundation

[www.berghof-foundation.org](http://www.berghof-foundation.org)

Budapest Centre for the International  
Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities

[www.genocideprevention.eu](http://www.genocideprevention.eu)

Catholic Organization for Relief and  
Development (Cordaid)

[www.cordaid.org](http://www.cordaid.org)

Causeway Institute for Peace-building and  
Conflict Resolution

[www.cipcr.org](http://www.cipcr.org)

Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD  
Centre)

[www.hdcentre.org](http://www.hdcentre.org)

Civil Society Conflict Prevention Network  
(KATU)

[www.katunet.fi](http://www.katunet.fi)

Conciliation Resources

[www.c-r.org](http://www.c-r.org)

Crisis Management Initiative

[www.cmi.fi](http://www.cmi.fi)

Democratic Progress Institute

[www.democraticprogress.org](http://www.democraticprogress.org)

Dialogue Advisory Group

[www.dialogueadvisorygroup.org](http://www.dialogueadvisorygroup.org)

ESSEC IRENÉ

<http://irene.essec.edu>

European Network for Civil Peace Services

[www.en-cps.org](http://www.en-cps.org)

Glencree Centre for Peace and  
Reconciliation

[www.glencree.ie](http://www.glencree.ie)

Global Partnership for the Prevention of  
Armed Conflict

[www.gppac.net](http://www.gppac.net)

International Alert

[www.international-alert.org](http://www.international-alert.org)

International Center for Transitional Justice

[www.ictj.org](http://www.ictj.org)

International Crisis Group

[www.crisisgroup.org](http://www.crisisgroup.org)

Interpeace

[www.interpeace.org](http://www.interpeace.org)

Kosovar Center for Security Studies

[www.qkss.org](http://www.qkss.org)

Kvinna till Kvinna

[www.kvinnatillkvinna.org](http://www.kvinnatillkvinna.org)

Life & Peace Institute

[www.life-peace.org](http://www.life-peace.org)

Nansen Dialogue Network

[www.nansen-dialogue.net](http://www.nansen-dialogue.net)

NGO Support Center

[www.ngo-sc.org](http://www.ngo-sc.org)

Nonviolent Peaceforce

[www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org](http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org)

Oxfam International

[www.oxfam.org](http://www.oxfam.org)

Partners for Democratic Change  
International

[www.pdci-network.org](http://www.pdci-network.org)

Pax Christi International

[www.paxchristi.net](http://www.paxchristi.net)

Quaker Council for European Affairs

[www.qcea.org](http://www.qcea.org)

Saferworld

[www.saferworld.org.uk](http://www.saferworld.org.uk)

Search for Common Ground

[www.sfcg.org](http://www.sfcg.org)

swisspeace

[www.swisspeace.ch](http://www.swisspeace.ch)

World Vision International

[www.wvi.org](http://www.wvi.org)