

*publicly, and only then we will be able to talk about how to change the opinion of members and followers of the Serbian Radical Party. Until then, we have to focus on smaller groups which will be able to adopt our way of thinking. Also, each organization should follow its strategic plan and be able to present its results to possible donors for other perhaps more ambitious plans.*

**Statement:** Miloš Simić, Democratic Initiative Center, Serbia, National consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, July 8th 2007.

**Dealing with the past should become a part of the institutional discourse and institutions should legitimize the entire process.**

*How can we make this whole thing a part of the institutional discourse, who will institutionalize the entire dealing with the past process? We have to urge our governments to instruct two or three institutions to back this process and give it the much-needed legitimacy to distinguish it from underground initiatives. If the state fails to do that, we have a big problem. Perhaps civil society initiatives should become stronger in that respect.*

**Statement:** Darko Soković, a film director from Serbia, National consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, July 8th 2007.

**The role of the civil society is crucial for the creation of an atmosphere allowing societies to deal with the crimes committed in the past.**

*This makes the government even more responsible because if it does not accept it on an institutional level, all NGOs and everybody else doing things in this direction will be labelled traitors. I think that the NGOs have a role in creating a positive atmosphere so that when Boris Tadić apologizes to the Croatian people, he does not have to worry about what kind of a reaction it will provoke back home because we prepared the people in Serbia to expect something like that.*

**Statement:** Maja Stojanović, Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Serbia, National consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, July 8th 2007.

**A cultural platform can offer ways to make the public more sensitive to victims of war crimes and assist the public to deal with the crimes themselves. Young people must actively combat the denial of war crimes by using every opportunity to discuss them.**

*I think that the cultural platform in Serbia is not being used enough (...) because the values we discuss*

*here can be promoted through artistic creations and we need to figure out how to use it (...) I think that people want more cultural manifestations and that's where we need to see our role.*

**Statement:** Maja Stojanović, Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Serbia, National consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, July 8th 2007.

*We need to fight together against oblivion as an official state policy and to continue insisting on solving the crimes committed in our name, to discuss them publicly and force them into domains where they are being denied by the official discourse. Furthermore, we need to visit locations where crimes were committed in our name and build a sense of solidarity with victims, to try to understand the dignity of the victims and beg forgiveness.*

**Statement:** Časlav Lazić, Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Serbia, National consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, July 8th 2007.

*It would be a good idea to get public personalities, pop-culture or music stars, and artists, to start talking about these topics. I believe there are many who are aware of these issues but they haven't had an opportunity to be active.*

**Statement:** Ana Batočanin, My Initiative – Youth Initiative for Human Rights, Serbia, National consultation with young people, Belgrade, Serbia, July 8th 2007.

## **6. National consultation with young people on dealing with the past**

Zagreb, Croatia,  
July 20th 2007

The consultation was organized by Documenta (Croatia) and the Croatian Youth Network. The participants were comprised of 18 young human rights activists. Vesna Teršelić (Documenta, Croatia), Emina Bužinkić (The Youth Network of Croatia), Marijana Toma (Humanitarian Law Center, Serbia), Srđan Antić (Nansen Dialogue Centre Osijek, Croatia) and Helena Bučko (Danube Youth Peace Group, Croatia) opened the gathering. Nenad Vukosavljević's *Everyone would gladly throw a rock*, produced by the Centre for Nonviolent Action (2007.) and Davor Konjikušić's *Video footage of personal feelings about the war*, produced by *Documenta* (2006.) were both aired at the consultation.

**While the youth of today do not bear responsi-**

**bility for past crimes, they are responsible for the legacy they will leave to future generations.**

*Youth do not bear responsibility for the sufferings that hundreds of thousands of people went through during the 1990s in what are now referred to as the post-Yugoslav countries. However, we need some sort of an open dialogue about what the real motives, the real, genuine motives would be for youth to assume responsibility for the process of dealing with the past for which they do not bear any responsibility.*

**Statement:** Marina Škrabalo, Centre for Peace Studies, Croatia, National consultation with young people, Zagreb, Croatia, July 20th 2007.

*I think that the problem with youth is the fact that they have a burden thrust upon them and a significant problem to deal with. They must deal with this responsibility, but the problem is, and I am now speaking from the point of view of someone who works mainly in Vukovar, that they are not aware of it (...) I think that the task of civil society would be to find a way to explain to young people that, even though they are not responsible, it is in their best interest to deal with the fact.*

**Statement:** Srđan Antić, Nansen Dialogue Centre, Croatia, National consultation with young people, Zagreb, Croatia, July 20th 2007.

*There is no responsibility taken for what happened, responsibility for the past or for history does not exist: what exists is the responsibility for the future because one day, I am referring to a period in the next ten years, the younger generations will ask you why you didn't search, why you didn't establish [the facts], and why you left this legacy for them still to continue. They will ask you why you weren't persistent. They will be persistent with their questions in order to establish the complete facts.*

**Statement:** Nataša Kandić, Humanitarian Law Center, Serbia, National consultation with young people, Zagreb, Croatia, July 20th 2007.

*My experience tells me that youth and youth organizations do not understand this responsibility, and find it hard to see why it exists (...) Seven years and two months later we witnessed a complete fiasco in peace building and dealing with the past workshops. Participants refused to talk about the war because they believed it was too dark a subject and they thought that it had no bearing on their lives today and that it should not be a topic.*

**Statement:** Emina Bužinkić, Croatian Youth Network, National consultation with young people, Zagreb, Croatia, July 20th 2007.

*I can't deal with the past of my grandfather, who was in the Partisans: I can't, I simply can't. However, what I do feel I can do is teach young people about the past in a proper manner and thus reach, I wouldn't dare say responsibility, but the need to deal with the past.*

**Statement:** Marko Turk, Documenta, Croatia, National consultation with young people, Zagreb, Croatia, July 20th 2007.

*We cannot deal with something we did not take part in. We can accept it in some ways; we can ask that the state and state institutions teach us about what happened in the past, we can demand that problems are dealt with.*

**Statement:** Dan Špicer, Social Democratic Party Youth Forum, Croatia, National consultation with young people, Zagreb, Croatia, July 20th 2007.

**Only education, travel and cultural interactions can help youth overcome prejudices about others living in neighbouring countries.**

*The only concrete things that can help young people overcome prejudice are in fact education, travel, and encounters with other cultures and nations. After all, it all starts with the environment in which the child is brought up, and then by education, and so forth.*

**Statement:** Dan Špicer, Social Democratic Party Youth Forum, Croatia, National consultation with young people, Zagreb, Croatia, July 20th 2007.

*Basically, all of them said they didn't want to speak about the war, that they didn't care about it, that it is their parents' past, that they have nothing to do with it and that they wanted to talk about the music they like, the clothes they like to wear, what they do, how they have fun, how they spend their time, and I had a feeling that they all felt that these people from across the border were significantly different, and they were some strange people that we needed to learn a bit more about.*

**Statement:** Anamarija Soćo, Volunteer Centre Zagreb and Zagreb City Youth Council, Croatia, National consultation with young people, Zagreb, Croatia, July 20th 2007.

*Generations born after the war experience war trauma, passed onto them from family histories, narratives, prejudices, educational systems, social relations and stereotypes. There is a lack of direct contact with the youth from other countries, from other post-Yugoslav countries (...) Young people, who meet each other for the first time, have a need to identify similarities (...) Some of the older generation imply that young people have the same*

*experiences, that they are alike and that they themselves did not have that; they only have to acquire it because it is a different context in which they grow up.*

**Statement:** Marina Škrabalo, Centre for Peace Studies, Croatia, National consultation with young people, Zagreb, Croatia, July 20th 2007.

**Youths fear that states [Croatia and other successor states to the former Yugoslavia] will not alter their national truths about the past, despite the facts.**

*Do you think that it will ever be mentioned in official Croatian documents that Croatia was an aggressor in Bosnia and Herzegovina? I mean, I can have an opinion about it and I can say for one thing or another that I personally believe it was like this, but honestly, I really doubt that it will be like this one day.*

**Statement:** Dan Špicer, Social Democratic Party Youth Forum, Croatia, National consultation with young people, Zagreb, Croatia, July 20th 2007.

*Learning about the past is important represents the foundation for dealing with the past (...) The Ministry of Education has recently launched a film called The Truth about the Homeland War and sent it to elementary schools. I must admit that I do not agree with many things presented in this film which glorify Croat and diminish Serb victims (...) An Information-Documentation Memorial Centre, I think it is called, has been recently opened in Vukovar. I heard that in this centre there is a simulator where anyone can go, pick up plastic pistols and shoot at Serbs. I think this will never bring us to the process of dealing with the past and that these are highly biased ways of teaching about the past.*

**Statement:** Emina Bužinkić, Croatian Youth Network, Croatia, National consultation with young people, Zagreb, Croatia, July 20th 2007.

**The regional connection of youths creates an environment in which they can deal with the past, whilst building trust and promote communication.**

*I think it is important that youths [from the region] are brought together to a place where they can meet, to see that they are basically the same, that they are equal, with similar problems, interests, and then on such grounds can discuss the past. There could be several regional camps [for young people] where the focus would be on the issue of dealing with the past*

*or some sort of peace education.*

**Statement:** Anamarija Sočo, Volunteer Centre Zagreb and Zagreb City Youth Council, Croatia, National consultation with young people, Zagreb, Croatia, July 20th 2007.

*We had two groups for civic education, including Serbs and Croats. We were simply scared of how they were going to accept each other. But they acted on their own initiative: They wanted to be in the same group, much to our surprise; we realized that although such projects cannot make them be together, they themselves will realize that they are not so different and that they can work together. We had one project called Seal without Borders, where young people from Bač and Vukovar socialized.*

**Statement:** Helena Bučko, Danube Youth Peace Group, Croatia, National consultation with young people, Zagreb, Croatia, July 20th 2007.

**There is a need for a regional conference dedicated to projects and activities of young people on dealing with the past that would create an opportunity for joint strategies.**

*Regional conferences should be organized where we could have a space for youth and small organizations to present what they have achieved so far, what movies, materials or books they have made. In Belgrade, I saw some tutorials about tolerance, from all different angles of methods, manners and means of dealing with the past in order to come together in a certain way. In the future, we might have an opportunity to combine our efforts on the basis of these achievements.*

**Statement:** Srđan Antić, Nansen Dialogue Centre, Croatia, National consultation with young people, Zagreb, Croatia, July 20th 2007.

## **7. Regional consultation with journalists: Instruments for establishing facts about war crimes committed on the territory of the former Yugoslavia**

Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina,  
September 29th 2007

The consultation was organized by the Humanitarian Law Center (Serbia), Research and Documentation Center (BiH), and Documenta (Croatia) in cooperation with the BH Journalists (BiH), the Independent Journalists' Association of