



**FOLKE
BERNADOTTE
ACADEMY**

SWEDISH AGENCY FOR PEACE, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Course on Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration

29 September to 10 October 2014, in Stockholm, Sweden

The Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA) held its annual DDR course in Stockholm from Monday, 29 September to Friday, 10 October 2014. Among the participants from 18 different countries, 21 organisations were represented e.g. the Colombian Office of the High Commissioner for Peace and Myanmar Peace Center, just to mention a few. During this two-week course FBA invited experienced facilitators, among others, Glaucia Boyer (UNDP), Christopher O'Donnell (DPKO), Irma Specht (Transition International) and Cornelis Steenken (DDR Consultant) in order to offer valuable sessions throughout the course.

Shortly after arrival the participants were divided into four case study groups and tasked to present an outline of a DDR program on a selected country on the last day of the course. Each course module during the course was designed to facilitate this DDR planning process. In addition to theoretical presentations on DDR, several of the participants shared with the rest of the students some of their practical experiences and lessons learned from the countries where they actually work.

Participants were challenged with different exercises during the course, both theoretical, but also more practical hands-on exercises. The Weapon Destruction Exercise was highly appreciated. The students destroyed weapons with assistance from the Swedish Armed Forces.



Photo from the Weapon Destruction Exercise at the Swedish Armed Forces training institute in Kungsängen.

During the weekend, course participants were invited to take part on a guided tour in Stockholm, visiting, among other sights, the old town from the 13th century. After the walk, the group passed by the Royal Palace and had a glimpse at the Royal Guards marching towards the Palace to conduct the changing of the Guard. After the tour, a lunch was served at the Blue Gate Restaurant on Djurgården, followed by a visit to the Vasa Museum.



Group photo from the DDR course in Stockholm, 2014

The course is to a large extent based on the UN Integrated DDR Standards (IDDRS) for guiding principles for undertaking integrated DDR in the field. The students were given the newly updated version from 2014 of the IDDRS Operational Guide. As a proof that the participants had concluded the two-week training, the students were given a course certificate, group photo and a USB-stick with all information presented during the course, as well as other important DDR related documents.

The Folke Bernadotte Academy would like to thank both the facilitators and the participants for making the course such a success with their active and professional participation, at all times sharing their experiences with their fellow students.

Frida Lundström

Course and Training Assistant at the Folke Bernadotte Academy

Frida.Lundstrom@FBA.se