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BERNADOTTE
ACADEMY**

SWEDISH AGENCY FOR PEACE, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT

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Ajuntament de
Barcelona



Course on Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration

17-28 November 2014, in Barcelona, Spain

The Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), in cooperation with Barcelona International Peace Resource Center (BIPRC), conducted a DDR course, 17-28 November 2014. The course gathered 23 participants from 13 countries, of which 40 percent were women and 60 percent were men. The participants represented 20 organisations in total, such as the Colombian Agency for Reintegration, United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) from the Philippines and OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine.

During this two week course, invited facilitators were among others, Silke Rusch (DPKO), Leontine Specht (UNDP), Irma Specht (Transition International) and Cornelis Steenken (DDR Consultant), Christine McCormick (Save the Children) and Daniel Mouqué (OCHA Syria). FBA and BIPRC are pleased that such experienced facilitators could share their knowledge throughout the course.

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. An updated version of the IDDRS Operational Guide from 2014 was handed out to all the course participants.

The students were divided into four groups and given a case-study at the beginning of the course. The aim of the task was to present an outline of a DDR program on a selected country at the end of the course. Each course module during the course was designed to facilitate this DDR planning process.



Photo from the DD Site Exercise

The DDR course also included practical hands-on exercises, such as the Weapon Destruction Exercise, and the Disarmament-Demobilisation (DD) Site Exercise, of which the latter aims to train the participants to interview combatants arriving at the demobilisation site. The

exercise intended to raise awareness and sensitivity on how to conduct interviews and the importance of being well prepared to receive and assist individual combatants with different profiles, expectations and dreams arriving at a demobilisation site. For a more realistic exercise, the participants were trained in interviewing combatants (played by professional actors). The participants thought it was a good exercise as it was more difficult to conduct interviews than expected.

During the first week, the participants also had the opportunity to enjoy a guided bus tour around the city of Barcelona, visiting, among other places, the mountain of Montjuïc - where the DDR course took place 2009 to 2011 - la Sagrada Família cathedral and Gaudí's main residential building, and La Pedrera, one of the most imaginative houses in the history of architecture. The tour ended in St. Jaume's square and was followed by a classical Spanish "tapas" dinner downtown.



View from the mountain of Montjuïc

At the end of the first week, the participants had some free time. For those interested, a day-trip outside Barcelona was organised on Sunday. The majority of the group joined an excursion to Salvador Dalí's Museum in Figueres, one of Spain's most visited museums. After the guided tour of the museum, the group continued to the medieval city Girona, located 150 km north from Barcelona, where they enjoyed a fantastic Catalan cuisine lunch in Cal Ros restaurant. Before returning to Barcelona the participants took a guided walking tour of the city.

At the end of the course, the participants were given a course certificate, a group photo and a course USB-stick with all information presented during the course, together with other important DDR documents.

FBA and BIPRC would like to express their gratitude to both facilitators and participants for contributing to the success of the course. The students' active participation and contribution throughout the course made each session more valuable to all. FBA and BIPRC believe that sharing experiences and knowledge with other colleges is very important to understand the complexity of the DDR sphere. The course would not have been such a success without their contributions.

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