

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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<https://www.cwwpp.org/annual-and-semi-annual-reports.html>.*

### **INTRODUCTION AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

2020 will mark 25 years that the CWWPP has existed. The need for our work seems to be increasing, not only in the Western Balkans but in other parts of the world. We work hard and with enthusiasm. We thank you for your support in the past and hope that you will continue to do so.

As far as Croatia is concerned, there were presidential elections at the end of the year, which were won by the center-left candidate Zoran Milanović, who defeated the right-wing incumbent, Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović. Parliamentary elections are expected soon, and these almost certainly will move Croatia even further to the right.

Croatia will have the leadership of the European Union during the first half of 2020. Further, it is likely that Croatia will become a member of the Schengen group in 2020, as all requirements for membership have been met.

Also, in this sense, Croatia is following what seems to be European policy in extremely harsh reactions to migrants attempting to cross its borders. There have been reports throughout the year of massive human rights violations and people being injured and killed. Virtually every human rights organization has reported incidents at one point or another.

Furthermore, there has been no improvement, and even a worsening, in the psychological state of people in this region in 2019. We remain the only organization in the region giving psychological assistance without charge and without drugs. The importance of mental health and wellbeing still is undervalued and stigmatized.

Internally, fundraising and keeping the organization alive was one of the major challenges of 2019, and will continue to be so in 2020. Yet, the same issues that always have plagued us continue to do so, namely the insensitivity to mental health, to this region, to migrants, and to long-term approaches that concentrate on bottom-up work.

Externally, in 2019, while maintaining work with clients, groups, and supervision, we concentrated on migrant issues and on the self-paced online Pragmatic Empowerment Training (PET) courses. These also will be our emphases in 2020.

The issues with clients remained as they have been – a large amount of abuse as children, this complicated by wars and by trans-generational transmission of trauma and negative narratives.

We had supervision with two people this year, namely Alphonse Kanda in South Africa and Ivan Maslow in Split.

With regard to groups, we started a group with students from the University of Belgrade wishing to work with migrants. We also started a group in India with Snehalaya, which is an institution working with the children of sex workers, some of whom have HIV. We had a group in South Africa and expect to have another in 2020.

We have been speaking with a number of people in the Democratic Republic of Congo about having groups there.

We are deeply disturbed about the migrant situation. Pushbacks from the European Union have been violent, and people have been injured and killed. The human rights violations have been many and egregious. Further, there is little if any psychological assistance available to migrants, especially the required long-term assistance, and international organizations and others seem insensitive to it. Volunteers come for very short periods and are untrained and unsupervised psychologically. We do not have the funds to set up the kinds of programs that we would like, either in the locations underway or in the receiving regions. We see dangers of dysfunctionality, illness, and violence if more is not done.

We continued to work on the self-paced online Pragmatic Empowerment Training (PET) courses. At the end of the year, we were in the process of revising the videos for the first course on the caregiver-client relationship and self-care, which we expect to be online early in 2020, and of writing the manual for the second course, namely that on communication.

We had a number of articles published by the Dutch Quaker monthly, "De Vriendenkring", a chapter on trauma and peacebuilding published in a book edited by the International Leadership Association, and a virtual presentation at the INPACT conference, which, in 2019, was held in Zagreb. Also, an article about us was published by the Mental Health Innovation Network.

We continued our associations with the Global Psychosocial Network and Refival.

In 2019, we gave seminars for the University of Belgrade, the University of Osijek, and the University of Olomouc (Czech Republic).

We mourned the deaths of Erik Hummels, a human rights lawyer from the Netherlands, and of Bobbi (Florence) Kendig, one of the founders of Cedar House, one of the first institutions for abused children in California.

We look at 2020 wondering what will happen to the world and to us. We see an enormous amount of work ahead of us.

2020 will mark 25 years since the end of the wars in the Western Balkans and 25 years of the existence of the CWWPP. We would like to commemorate both.

With regard to the region, we see that little reconciliation has taken place and we see that the politics are against it happening in the near future.

We fear that we will remain the only organization in the region and one of the very few organizations in the world giving psychological assistance, education, and supervision without drugs and without charge, particularly on a long-term basis.

Internally, our main issues are funding and, if we obtain it, personnel, this including people to work in the field.

Externally, we see our primary current and future role as that of teaching and supervision, with a concentration on work with people at the grassroots level.

With regard to the migrant situation, we would like to set up offices in the Western Balkans, in Greece, and in the Middle East to work with migrants themselves and those assisting them.

We also would like to expand our work to other regions. Notably, we have received requests from the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Great Lakes Region of Africa. We also have gotten requests from the Middle East and would like to work there.

We see our work on the self-paced online Pragmatic Empowerment Training (PET) courses as a very important contribution. They will give appropriate knowledge, skills, and attitudes to people in places where such training is not otherwise available.

We remain one of the very few organizations working on the psychological reactions to conflict and other traumas on a long-term basis from the bottom up without drugs.

Unfortunately, the world is not sensitive to our approaches and philosophies, and thus we must continually struggle for existence, aside from the need and desire to do the work we care about.

## **STATE OF THE REGION**

Another year has gone to the history books, a year of violence and rebellion. In 2019, Croatia was characterized by scenes of abused women and undocumented migrants. It was a year in which Prime Minister Andrej Plenković was not saved by government reconstruction, by the rise of right wing and worse election results, and in which the teachers' strike achieved almost the impossible: it united organizations, associations, and interest groups of all ideological and political colors.

On Orthodox Christmas 2019, seven days after the start of the year, the son of the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) parliamentary deputy and Association of Wounded War Veterans' (HVIDRA) chief Josip Djakić sent a congratulatory message to the Serbian minority in Croatia through Facebook. With the comment, "To All Friends of Serbs Merry Christmas", he posted a photo of an Ustasha (Second World War Croatian National Socialist) holding a severed Chetnik (Second World War Serbian National Socialist) head.

The day after the Orthodox New Year 2019, January 14, Vukovar Mayor Ivan Penava marked the anniversary of the peaceful reintegration of the Croatian Danube Region by claiming that Vukovar had become the "epicenter of continued Greater Serbian creeping aggression". In order to prove the thesis, he showed a video clip of Serbian high school students who did not rise for the Croatian anthem in the stands of a local football match. Just two days after the release of the controversial video, which also was posted on the official website of the City of Vukovar, a group of children with masks on their heads attacked a third grade student from the same school.

An initiative was launched in March that, in all its specifics, possessed the spirit of the global "Me Too" movement. The problem of violence against women in a deeply patriarchal society, left to the care of hardworking activists and related institutions, thus finally gained deserved visibility.

From the beginning to the end of 2019, there was hardly a month without new reports from foreign and domestic organizations and media on the massive human rights violations toward refugees at the border between Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia and at the border between Serbia and Croatia. The testimonies of hundreds of beaten, illegally expelled refugees were added to this year by police whistleblowers, with accompanying reports from Croatian Ombudsperson Lora Vidović.

It is quite certain that Croatia would not engage in inhumane and shameful policies without agreement with the European center. In accordance with centuries-old stereotypes of the Balkans, the Croatian border has imposed itself as a dark and violent subconscious of the proclaimed European project of solidarity, equality, and respect for human dignity.

The elections to the European Parliament, held in May, led to some surprising changes in the forces on the domestic scene. In spite of all expectations, the Social Democratic Party won four seats, ending one of the longest crises in its history.

The presidential election further confirmed what was seen in the European Parliament elections: the rise of the nationalist option outside the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ). With the help of an entrepreneurial clique, the Miroslav Škoro project was created (Škoro is a popular far-right singer). His candidacy for president is of secondary importance; the objective is the parliamentary elections and demolition of Andrej Plenković from the HDZ.

As we were preparing this report, a center-left challenger, Zoran Milanović, won Croatia's highly contested presidential election, beating his conservative incumbent, Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, a rare victory by a relative liberal in recent votes in Central Europe. The result is a blow for the ruling conservatives at a time when Croatia holds the European Union's rotating presidency and before parliamentary elections in 2020. Milanović's team and supporters at his election headquarters were jubilant, but he was cautious not to be triumphant. Although Croatia is a member of the EU, it still has corruption problems and economic woes as well as other issues not resolved since its devastating 1991-95 war.

We continue to receive an increasing number of reports, and are treating clients, with severe post-traumatic psychological reactions, including trans-generational transmission of trauma. This is particularly true of villages, where people are isolated, and also applies to cities and towns. We note that there has been very little change in the psychological state of people since our last report and, in general, in the period since 1995 that we have been in the region. We continue to be the only organization in the region offering long-term assistance on psychological issues other than drug therapy. The importance of mental health and wellbeing is still undervalued and stigmatized.

## **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

### **Clients**

We had a mix of clients this year. Some were people from the region whom we've been seeing for quite a while. While some of these were local, a number were from other parts of the region whom we see online. We also have clients from this region who live in other countries who want to speak with someone who understands their language and their situation. We have had a few volunteers from non-governmental organizations as clients. In general, the clients have been abused in one way or another – psychologically and/or physically and/or sexually – as children. Further, many have been through other traumatic experiences, notably war. We also see a large amount of trans-generational transmission of trauma.

We would like to work more directly with migrants. There are several issues. One is language. Another is getting access to them. This is a general issue in the migrant situation as a whole. We will discuss this issue in more detail in the section on the migrant situation below.

### Groups

We had a smaller number of groups during 2019 than in previous years. Some groups disappeared and then reappeared. We are attempting to start new groups continually and are open to them. Our greatest priority in this sense is Pragmatic Empowerment Training educational groups.

In Belgrade, a group was started at the University of Belgrade, this organized by Professor Tamara Džamonja of the Departments of Psychology and Political Science. The intention of that group was to train students to work with migrants. That group was still running at the end of the year. It will be discussed further in the section on the migrant crisis below.

The group of the relatives of people with psychiatric diagnoses in Split ran until the summer. It will resume in 2020. Further, Charles Tauber has been asked to be a member of the Board of the new non-governmental organization that the group has formed.

A small group has formed in the Johannesburg area of South Africa through the efforts of Alphonse Kanda. It met a number of times. The aim is to create “barefoot therapists” or “peer supporters” who will work in the townships with people with HIV/AIDS, poverty, migration, and other issues.

At the end of 2019, there was the prospect for a second group in South Africa.

Perhaps the most successful group in 2019 was that with Snehalaya in India. This is a group working with the children of sex workers. Many of the children have HIV. We are working with them on education and supervision and on the issues of the children themselves, which include institutionalization and abandonment and on increasing capacity through peer counseling by the children themselves.

### Supervision

In 2019, we had two people in supervision, namely Dr. Alphonse Kanda and Ivan Maslow.

Dr. Kanda is a psychiatrist, originally from the DR Congo. He has an extremely busy schedule. He has a high client load. He is working with people who have HIV/AIDS, who are poor, and who frequently are migrants. His clients have a variety of psychological and psychiatric issues. Further, he is working on a master’s thesis in medical anthropology. Additionally, he teaches logotherapy. He also has family obligations. The issues that he sees in South Africa are similar to those here. He is attempting to set up several educational groups for barefoot therapists (also see above under “groups”).

Ivan Maslow in Split was trained as a masseur. He does excellent body and talk therapy. In his work, he sees a large proportion of people, males and females, who have been the victims of sexual and other types of abuse by their parents and others. He works quite well with them. We have done some educational work with him on these issues. He also works with a number of clients with issues of addiction. Again, he does this quite well.

## The Migrant Situation

### Introduction and State of the Situation

The situation with regard to migrants worsened in the course of 2019. The number of people on the move increased. Violent police pushbacks and other violent suppression of migrants also increased. A number of human rights organizations strongly criticized the response of the police in Croatia, as well as in all the other countries in the region. In many if not most places, it now is a crime to escape from war, torture, and poverty and to assist people who are doing so.

Further, it seems that there are few logical approaches to working with migrants. Those that exist are not being funded. We note here not only ourselves but also the Refival Refugee Incubation Project originated and run by Johannes Cornelis van Nieuwkerk.

Further, most humanitarian organizations use short-term volunteers. While the volunteers are concerned people, they are untrained, they are not being psychologically supervised, and they are not being debriefed once they finish their service. They stay for short periods of time and sometimes do more harm than good, both to the migrants and to themselves.

In all of this, we find that there are very large amounts of work to do and no time, funds, or personnel with which to do it. Thus, we are extremely frustrated.

### Some of the Issues that We Face

The largest issues that we face are the attitudes of the international community and particularly of politicians toward migrants and migration. Rather than dealing with the causes of it – war, abuses of human rights, poverty, and similar – they deal with migrants as people who “illegally” cross borders and thus are criminals. Thus, those who assist them are aiding and abetting criminals. We feel that such attitudes, which dominate in the world today, are morally indefensible. Unfortunately, we see people who call themselves “religious” expressing this. To us, this is hypocrisy and inhuman.

Another point here is the lack of knowledge – or, rather, the lack of the desire to know – about what is needed by migrants. Migration is nothing new. It has been going on throughout history. Through experience, we know that short-term top-down superficial solutions don’t work in assisting migrants underway or those attempting to integrate into receiving societies. Yet, it is very rare for governments, or even non-governmental organizations, to propose anything else.

Hence, there is a lack of coherent effective policy and funding to deal with these issues.

Still another point in this context is a failure to deal with the root causes of migration in the regions of origin. It seems that the funding of weapons and the pursuit of power and wealth are more important than the welfare of people.

Accordingly, there is little funding and less support available for work with people at the grassroots.

Furthermore, non-governmental organizations almost always are denied access to migrants in official camps, particularly with regard to giving psychological assistance.

Additionally, in the value systems of many traditional cultures, psychological reactions are stigmatized, the person having them being regarded as “irrational” or “crazy”.

Thus, for us, there are barriers of funding, knowledge, access, and stigmatization.

To be clear, we see all migrants, virtually without exception, as having psychological reactions of one sort or another to one degree or another. In our view, only very rarely can these be dealt with without some sort of intervention.

### Volunteers

Volunteers are a difficult issue in the current migrant situation. Most have good hearts and truly want to assist in some way. Yet, most have very little if any knowledge of the real issues involved. Furthermore, they stay for very short periods of time, mostly for periods of a week up to a maximum of about two months. Through their lack of knowledge and their desire to assist, they frequently form inappropriate relationships with migrants, who then become disappointed and further traumatized when the volunteers leave and don't contact them again. Also, the volunteers become secondarily traumatized and burned out from the contact with the stories of migrants.

We believe that any organization working with volunteers should make *mandatory*:

- training on the background of the migrants who are present in the region in which the volunteer will be working;
- training on how to work with migrants;
- regular – weekly, if not more frequent – psychological supervision for volunteers;
- debriefing for volunteers.

We are willing to work with any organization that wishes to carry out such a program.

### What We Would Think Needs to be Done and What We Would Like to Do

As we have noted, our standpoints are as follows.

- Psychological work is an essential part of working with migrants.
- In this sense, we feel that well trained well supervised “barefoot therapists”, also known as “peer supporters”, can do much of the work. Such barefoot therapists can and should be primarily from the migrant community and also from the staff/volunteer community.
- Work must be long-term and must go deep.



Accordingly, we very much would like to set up offices to work with people inside and outside the official camps in Serbia, Bosnia, and Greece at very least, and also in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria, as well as in other places.

We also would like to train and supervise more volunteers and migrants online.

Further, we would like to set up online chat rooms for migrants and volunteers in various languages.

Also, we feel that work on the self-paced online PET courses will assist in this work.

In order to do this, we need much larger amounts of funding than we currently have and need to train additional personnel.

#### *Our Activities This Year*

We worked together with several organizations this year.

In Belgrade, we formed an alliance with Professor Tamara Džamonja of the University of Belgrade, Departments of Political Science and Psychology. She formed a group of students who worked with us onsite and online. This group will continue into 2020.

While we tried, we could not get cooperation from official organizations, notably the Commissariat for Refugees, the Ministry of Social Work, or UNHCR.

We also should note that several large NGOs that were doing some psychological work, left Belgrade during the year.

Another group with which we had contact was No Name Kitchen. They work in Šid in Serbia and in Velika Kladuša in Bosnia. We worked with them onsite in Šid and online in both Šid and Velika Kladuša. Unfortunately, their volunteers stayed for very short periods of time, that is, for a few months at most. The volunteers worked distributing clothing, cooking one meal per day, washing the clothes of the migrants, and hanging around with them.

They also are involved with border monitoring.

We worked with them in Šid, Serbia, the border town with Croatia, both onsite and online. They were working with a “squat”, that is, a location where migrants were living. This was a destroyed factory just outside of the town. No Name Kitchen set up tents and a generator and cooked meals using bottled gas. They washed clothes for the migrants. They had a house for volunteers in town. Most of the residents of the squat were young men, and the population changed constantly, as did the volunteers. The police came regularly and destroyed the squat, taking the belongings of the residents. There were reports of a structure of smugglers inside the squat. These smugglers supposedly controlled everything and abused some of the young men sexually and in other ways. There was no contact between the volunteers and people and experts from the town. The hospital refused treatment to the migrants except in the most dire emergencies. The local psychologists refused to go to the squat. We wanted to – and still do want to – set up an office with at least one full-time person to work with the migrants. We do not have the funds to do so.

There was a similar story in Velika Kladuša.

As we have indicated, we very much would like to have someone working in the Kladuša-Bihać area. We do not have the funds to do so.

With regard to Bosnia, there also are large numbers of migrants in the Tuzla and Sarajevo regions. Again, we would like to have people working there.

The other organization with which we were involved this year was Advocates Abroad, to which we were introduced through the Global Psychosocial Network (GPN). Ariel Ricker is a lawyer from the USA who has been involved in several refugee situations, including the one in Croatia in 2015. She also has a feel for the psychological side of things. Advocates Abroad is working on the islands in Greece and in the region of Polykastro, near Thessaloniki. We established a weekly supervision session that sometimes had a number of people attending.

The state of the situation on the Greek islands and in other places in Greece deteriorated considerably and was continuing to do so at the end of the year. We heard many reports of suicides and self-harm and other psychological issues with migrants.

Again, we see a great deal of work in Greece, were we to have the funds to be able to do it.

### Conclusions and Perspectives

We see the migrant situation as one of our most urgent priorities. We expect further deterioration of it in 2020. We are extremely frustrated by the lack of sensitivity to these people and by the lack of funds to work with them. We seem to be the only organization attempting to work with them on a long-term and deeply reaching basis. We have stated above what we would like to do.

### Pragmatic Empowerment Training (PET)

We feel that the PET self-paced online courses are an extremely important part of the CWWPP's work in building capacity. These courses can reach into areas where there is no psychological work, that is, violent and post-violent regions and areas of natural disasters. They can reach vulnerable and psychologically injured groups that otherwise could not afford to obtain psychological therapy. Additionally, they save time and costs of traveling.

In future versions of the courses, we intend to make them interactive so that participants can communicate with one another.

In 2019, we had the manual for the first course, which is an introduction to working with people and self-care, translated into various languages. We continue to seek further translation of it.

At the end of the year, we revised the videos for the course.

We have begun to write the manual for the second course, namely that on communication. We hope that the manual will be complete sometime in 2020. We then will begin to make the videos for that course.

The following course in the series will be an introduction to psychology and counseling.

### Publicity About the CWWPP

In 2019, we had a number of articles about our work published by the Quaker monthly, "De Vriendenkring."

We also have had a chapter on trauma and peacebuilding published in a book of the International Leadership Association.

An article about the CWWPP was published by the Mental Health Innovation Network.

Further, we gave a virtual presentation to the InPACT conference in Zagreb. This presentation was later published on their website. In consequence of that presentation, Charles Tauber was asked to be on the scientific committee of that conference for 2020.

### Associations

We continued a number of associations in 2019.

Charles Tauber continued as a Board member of InterChange4Peace.

Further, we continued our relationship with Johannes Cornelis (Hans) van Nieuwkerk and his Refival organization, which is promoting novel ideas for the integration of refugees into Western societies. Unfortunately, Hans and Refival are virtually out of funds, and it is not known what will happen to them in 2020.

Charles Tauber continued as a member of the Global Psychosocial Network (GPN), which is part of Psychologists of Social Responsibility. This group includes professionals from a number of parts of the world.

We continue discussions with Stephen Sillett of Toronto, who leads a group called Aiding Dramatic Change in Development (ADCID) and who wants to work with groups in Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

We have had several associations with Quakers this year.

We continued our association with the European and Middle East Section (EMES) of the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC).

We also remained in communication with the Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA), that is, Quaker House in Brussels.

We were visited by Sytse and Marlies Tjallingii when they made their annual trip to the Western Balkans to teach Neurolinguistic Programming.

### Seminars, Talks, and Discussions with Students

This year, we gave seminars in three universities, Olomouc, Osijek, and Belgrade.

The seminar for the Department of Psychology for the class of Dr. Gorka Vuletić in Osijek has become an annual event. The topics this year were the usual ones, that is, trauma psychology, the concept of “barefoot therapy” or “peer support”, and work with migrants. This year, there were about twenty students, only two of whom were male. We feel that there need to be many more males in this work to deal with the male victims.

We gave two online seminars for the University of Olomouc in the Czech Republic. Again, the topics were work with trauma and peacebuilding and “barefoot therapy”. The students were from several different disciplines.

As has been indicated above, the series of seminars with students from the University of Belgrade was still continuing at the end of the year. These were initiated by an agreement between the CWWPP and Professor Tamara Džamonja of the Departments of Psychology and Political Science

Further, we gave interviews to several students for work on their master's and doctoral theses.

### Courses Taken

During the year, we have taken a number of online courses.

Charles Tauber has been studying Arabic so that we can work better with migrants. We also followed the UNHCR course on detention, a course on children on the move given by the University of Strathclyde, a course on community health workers given by Last Mile Health, which is part of Harvard University, and a course on psychological first aid. Unfortunately, we do not have time for the amount of education that we would like to get.

### Outreach

We continued to attempt to form a project in the Democratic Republic of Congo, particularly in South Kivu. Until now, this has not produced concrete results. We are attempting to work with the Evangelical Quaker Church, with the Peace and Conflict Resolution Project, and, toward the end of the year, with CSC-ASBL Sud Kivu. Considering the very substantial issues in South Kivu, we very much would like to set up the program involving "barefoot therapists", a.k.a. "peer supporters". While there are a number of barriers, the largest is funding.

Further, we reached out to the social enterprise for refugees Peace by Chocolate in Nova Scotia.

Further, we reached out to, and never received satisfactory replies from several organizations in various parts of the world. We found this unsettling. Still, we will continue to reach out to organizations that we see as related to what we are doing.

### Commemorations

We commemorated a number of days, at least through notices on Facebook. These were: Gandhi's birthday, Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday and the day of his assassination, the International Day of the Victims of Torture, International Migrant Day, International Human Rights Day, International Climate Day, and Earth Day. From our moral principles, we do not commemorate national days or days commemorating battles or military days.

### A Point of Medical and Psychiatric Classification

In the same context, and in the light of the victims of wars, military and civilian, with whom we are working, we consider patriotism and nationalism to be psychiatric illnesses and that current wars and other violent situations are the result of such illnesses. We see this as a very serious worldwide epidemic. Unfortunately, politicians and brainwashing through schools and the media are strong disease vectors.

### In Memoriam

We mourned the deaths of two good friends this year, both Quakers. One was the human rights lawyer, Erik Hummels, from The Netherlands. Erik was a humanitarian who spent his time working for people in legal difficulties. Charles Tauber was a medical consultant to him in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Erik was a man who thought and felt deeply, despite denying it at times, and he and Charles had a number of written and oral discussions that brought insight into fundamental issues.

Another loss, later in the year, was Bobbi (Florence) Kendig of Long Beach, California. Bobbi was a social worker who, together with her colleague Clara Lowry, founded Cedar House, one of the first houses for sexually, psychologically, and physically abused children in California. She visited Vukovar in about 2000. She supported us professionally, morally, and financially. She was a valued colleague and a compassionate friend. We miss her enormously.

### **INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

#### Introduction

Fundraising was one of the major challenges of 2019, and will continue to be so in 2020. The same issues that always have plagued us continue to do so, namely the insensitivity to mental health, to this region, to migrants, and to long-term approaches that concentrate on bottom-up work. We have included a complete financial report at the end of this document.

We continue to work very hard. In December, we were joined by a person who will work on videos, general administration, and possibly fundraising. Darko Ravkić continues as our IT consultant. The issues with regard to personnel are the same as in previous years, namely finding enthusiastic and conscientious people committed to what we are doing and who will work for the funds that we have.

#### Volunteers

There are two main sets of issues with volunteers. One is the volunteers who wish to work with us. The second is working with volunteers from other organizations.

We get a fairly large number of requests from people to be volunteers with us. There are a number of points about this. First, most expect us to pay for their stay and even want a stipend. We cannot afford that.

A second issue is that most want to stay for a short period of time, usually somewhere between a week and a month. We find that it takes a minimum of three to six months, and sometimes a year, for people, especially those from abroad, to learn what we do and how we do it, and to adapt to the local culture.

Still another issue is that of the seriousness of the volunteers. Most want a vacation. To say that this organization is no place for a vacation is stating the obvious.

Another category of volunteers who apply to us are those who want to obtain asylum in the European Union. While we are extremely sympathetic to them, for a variety of reasons, including financial ones, we cannot take them on.

Thus, we are very wary of having volunteers here, and say so openly.

We also have gotten a number of requests from people who wish to volunteer online. This has been somewhat more successful. To date, we have gotten the manual for the first Pragmatic Empowerment Training (PET) course translated into a number of languages in this way.

We are very open to volunteers, but they also must fit into our way of doing things.

A second category of volunteers is those working with other organizations. Our experience in working with them, both live and online, also has been mixed. The issues are similar to those wishing to volunteer with us. Many of these people volunteer to work with organizations assisting migrants.

Otherwise, internal affairs remain relatively stable.

### Board

As of the end of the year, the Board consisted of

- Darko Fischer, Zagreb and Osijek
- Gwyneth Jones, Prague
- Alphonse Kanda, South Africa
- Erik Kupers, Nieuwe Pekela, The Netherlands, Chair
- Charles David Tauber, Vukovar

### **PROSPECTS FOR 2020**

We look at 2020 wondering what will happen to the world and to us. We see an enormous amount of work ahead of us.

2020 will mark 25 years since the end of the wars in the Western Balkans and 25 years of the existence of the CWWPP. We would like to commemorate both. With regard to our own existence, if we have time, we intend to write a document giving lessons learned and a history of the organization.

With regard to the region, as indicated earlier, we see that little reconciliation has taken place and the politics are against it happening in the near future.

We fear that we will remain the only organization in the region and one of the very few organizations in the world giving psychological assistance, education, and supervision without drugs and without charge, particularly on a long-term basis.

Internal

Internally, our main issues are funding and, if we obtain it, personnel, that is, primarily people to work in the field.

External

The major issues which we wish to emphasize are the migrant situation, the PET courses, which we see as a major contribution, and expansion of our online teaching and supervision work. All of this will take funding and personnel.

In general, we see our current and future role as that of teaching and supervision, with a concentration on work with people at the grassroots level.

With regard to the migrant situation, we would like to set up offices in the Western Balkans, in Greece, and in the Middle East to work with migrants themselves and those assisting them.

We also would like to expand our work to other regions. Notably, we have received requests from the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Great Lakes Region of Africa. We also have gotten requests from the Middle East and would like to work there.

We see our work on the self-paced online Pragmatic Empowerment Training (PET) courses as a very important contribution. They will give appropriate knowledge, skills, and attitudes to people in places where such training is not otherwise available.

**CONCLUSION AND EPILOGUE**

We remain one of the very few organizations working on the psychological reactions to conflict and other traumas on a long-term basis from the bottom up without drugs.

Unfortunately, the world is not sensitive to our approaches and philosophies, and thus we must continually struggle for existence, aside from the need and desire to do the work we care about.



**FINANCIAL REPORT**

*All amounts in Euros*

*Expenses*

	2019		Budget 2020	
	Total All Expenses	Total Category	Total All Expenses	Total Category
Personnel Costs		53849		60450
Plant Equipment and Building Costs, Including Maintenance and Repair		448		500
Office Equipment costs, Including Maintenance and Repair		1133		2500
Rent and Utilities		7453		8150
Telephone and Internet		1580		1850
Office Supplies		148		200
Travel Costs		7837		5850
Other operational costs		1124		1550
Total Particular Project Costs		171		500
<b><u>Total Expenses 2019</u></b>	<b><u>73755</u></b>		<b><u>81550</u></b>	

*Income*

Name of Donor	Location of Donor	Amount in Euros	Total This Donor	Expected 2020
Anne Frank Fund	Basel, Switzerland	1786.83	1786.83	0.00
Anonymous US Donor		60869.57	60869.57	61000.00
Bagrly Alex	Unknown	20.00	20.00	0.00
Baudouin Foundation Belgium		5000.00	5000.00	5000.00
Client Contributions			1582.92	1000.00
Dougherty Patrick	USA	25.00	25.00	
Haella Stichting		2500.00	2500.00	0.00
Halbwidl Dieter	Montreal Canada	50.00	50.00	50.00
Hewlett Jason		10.00	10.00	0.00
Jones Helen		50.00	50.00	0.00
Okram	Vukovar	150.00	150.00	0.00
Pradnya Surana		5.00	5.00	
Tauber Charles David	Vukovar	27588.92	27588.92	27000.00
Miscellaneous Expected Contributions				2000.00
<b>Total Contributions</b>			<b>99638.24</b>	<b>96050.00</b>