THE YOUNG FACILITATORS

ABKHAZ-GEORGIAN-SOUTH OSSETIAN
MEMBERS & SUPPORTERS
How it all started & about this booklet

In January 2009, five months after the Georgian-South Ossetian-Russian war, Dina Alborova (Tskhinval), Tinatin Asatiani (Tbilisi), Irakli Khintba (Sukhum), Dalila Pilia (Sukhum), Oliver Wolleh (Berlin) and Wolfram Zunzer (Berlin) met in Prishtina, Kosovo. Their meeting was the beginning of a process that would lay the ground for a new relationship between Abkhaz, Georgians and South Ossetians and empower a new generation to shape this relationship on the basis of peace, respect and mutual understanding.

This booklet introduces the Abkhaz, Georgian and South Ossetian young facilitators, young people that evolved from the initial dialogue process started and took up their own role in shaping its continuation.

The young facilitators work in close cooperation with local and international senior facilitators, composing an evolving inter-generational team of skilful peace builders.
AN ENCOUNTER ACROSS CONFLICT LINES IS A VERY PRECIOUS MOMENT. THERE IS ONLY ONE CHANCE TO MAKE A FIRST IMPRESSION AND TO GET ACROSS THE MESSAGES THAT WILL GENERATE A TRUST-BUILDING MOMENTUM.

PREPARATION AND DISCUSSIONS BEFORE AND AFTER EVERY DIALOGUE WORKSHOP ARE THEREFORE INDISPENSABLE FOR HIGH QUALITY DURING THE ENCOUNTER. NEW PARTICIPANTS LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCES OF THEIR PREDECESSORS, AND INDIVIDUAL OBSERVATIONS TRANSLATE INTO A GROUP-WIDE-LEARNING DYNAMIC.

AN ENCOUNTER ACROSS CONFLICT LINES IS A VERY PRECIOUS MOMENT. WHATEVER THE POLITICAL GOALS AND VISIONS OF THE PARTICIPANTS ARE, THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE ANSWER WHEN IT COMES TO THE ISSUE OF WAR AND VIOLENCE.

THIS PROCESS IS NOT ABOUT TEACHING PARTICIPANTS THE MOST BASIC NOTIONS OF HUMANITY. IT IS ABOUT EMPOWERING THOSE WHO UNDERSTAND THAT ANY CONFLICT NEEDS TO BE DEALT WITH BY NON-VIOLENT MEANS. IT AIDS TO SUPPORT AND EQUIP THOSE WHO HAVE A VISION TO LIVE UP TO IT.
IN 2009, A SERIES OF DIALOGUE & STUDY VISIT WORKSHOPS STARTED FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FROM ABKHAZIA, SOUTH OSSSETIA AND GEORGIA.

THE MEETINGS TOOK PLACE IN MOLDOVA / TRANSNISTRIA AND KOSOVO. THE COMBINATION OF DIALOGUE AND STUDY VISIT TURNED OUT TO BE VERY PRODUCTIVE, GENERATING A DYNAMIC OF COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS AND "LESSONS LEARNED". AROUND 120 YOUNG PROFESSIONALS PARTICIPATED IN THESE MEETINGS.

WITH THE INCREASING MOMENTUM AND TRUST BUILT BETWEEN THE GROUPS OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE DIALOGUE PROCESS, IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT SYSTEMATIC TRAINING IN FACILITATION AND COMMUNICATION WOULD MAKE THE GROUP PROCESSES BOTH MORE EFFICIENT AND MORE SUSTAINABLE. THIS TRAINING PROCESS STARTED FROM 2012 ONWARDS WITH THE PROJECT "YOUNG FACILITATORS OF THE FUTURE".
YOUNG FACILITATORS: SELF-REGULATED DIALOGUE & STUDY VISIT

UPON CONCLUSION OF THE FIRST ROUND OF TRAININGS, MIXED TEAMS OF GEORGIAN-ABKHAZ AND GEORGIAN-SOUTH OSSETIAN YOUNG FACILITATORS WERE FORMED TO CONDUCT THE DIALOGUE AND STUDY VISITS ON THEIR OWN. THIS ALLOWED FOR AN ENTIRELY NEW LEVEL OF TEAM-SUSTAINABILITY AND MARKED A SIGNIFICANT SHIFT IN OWNERSHIP TO THE LOCAL TEAMS.

YOUNG FACILITATORS: PEER-TO-PEER TRAINING & CAPACITY-BUILDING

THE YOUNG FACILITATORS ALSO WORK AS TRAINERS TO THEIR PEERS. IN FEBRUARY 2013, THE FIRST ABKHAZ-GEORGIAN-SOUTH OSSETIAN TEAM OF YOUNG FACILITATORS CONDUCTED A TRAINING ON COMMUNICATION AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT IN YEREVAN. THE YOUNG TEAM WAS PREPARED AND SUPPORTED BY LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL TRAINERS.
YOUNG FACILITATORS: GOING PUBLIC

AFTER EACH ABKHAZ-GEORGIAN OR SOUTH OSSETIAN-GEORGIAN MEETING, PARTICIPANTS AND YOUNG FACILITATORS INFORM THE WIDER PUBLIC IN THEIR COMMUNITIES ABOUT THE EVENT, ITS NATURE AND OUTCOMES. BE IT ON TV, RADIO OR BY PUBLISHING ARTICLES IN PRINT AND ONLINE MEDIA.
GELA BANDZELADZE WAS BORN IN 1982 IN TBILISI. HE CURRENTLY TEACHES POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY, COMPARATIVE POLITICS AND POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES AT THE GEORGIAN-AMERICAN UNIVERSITY (GAU) IN TBILISI, WHILE PREPARING HIS PHD AT ILIA CHAVCHavadze State University in Tbilisi. IN THE MEANTIME, GELA IS THE POLITICAL SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE "SOCIAL-DEMOCRATS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF GEORGIA" PARTY.

GELA STUDIED INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (BA) AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (MA) AT THE IVANE JAVAKHISHVILI STATE UNIVERSITY IN TBILISI AND IN 2011 HELD A HEINRICH BOELL FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP FOR RESEARCH ON THE ISSUE OF "SOCIAL AGAINST NATIONAL". HIS FIELD OF SPECIAL INTEREST ARE THE SOCIAL AND NATIONAL ASPECTS OF CONFLICTS. GELA WORKS ON THE GEORGIAN CONFLICT CASES BOTH SCIENTIFICALLY AND PRACTICALLY.


"I BELIEVE THAT PEACE AND COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT IS THE ONLY RATIONAL AND REALISTIC OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL SIDES. THAT IS WHY DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY BETWEEN YOUTH WHO ARE LESS INFLUENCED BY STEREOTYPES, WILL SUPPORT THE PROCESS OF REALIZATION THAT OVERCOMING XENOPHOBIA AND COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT IS OUR COMMON INTEREST."
Nini Chanturia was born in 1989 in Tbilisi. Nini is chairwoman of the Women’s Democracy Network of Georgia (WDN), of which she has been a member since 2007. She also serves as a program manager for WDN’s Women’s Leadership School program funded by the United Nation Democracy Fund (UNDEF).

Nini holds a degree in finance banking and insurance with a minor in journalism from Tbilisi State University of Economic Relations. Previously, Nini was a manager with Education Consulting Centre A Plus, and with Imperial Consultancy Services. She is highly proficient in gender and leadership issues and is a skilled trainer.

Since 2011, Nini has been very actively involved in the peacebuilding dialogue process between Abkhaz, South Ossetian and Georgian young professionals. In February 2015, she was one of the facilitators of the training in communication, facilitation and dialogue structures within the project “Young Facilitators Go Regional”.

Nini believes that intense peace dialogue projects can and will enhance trust between conflicting societies and will bring them closer to each other. As one of the members of the core team of young facilitators, she is actively striving towards these goals.
ZARINA GABEEVA, BORN IN 1982, IS AN ETHNIC OSSETIAN WHO LIVES IN THE CITY OF Sukhum in Abkhazia. She has been working at the Parliament of the Republic of Abkhazia since the beginning of her studies in 2004. She also works as an expert on gender rights at the Association of Women of Abkhazia, and as a trainer on human rights at the NGO Cultural-Charity Centre “World Without Violence” named after Z.-Achba.

ZARINA GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL NUMBER 26 IN Vladikavkaz (North Ossetia) in 1989 and continued her studies at High School number 17 in Sukhum. In 2004, she graduated from the Faculty of Law of Abkhaz State University, where she specialised in constitutional rights. From 2001, Zarina took part in various international trainings and seminars in the field of conflict studies, political science and human rights. Her professional spheres of interest are constitutional law, human rights, media rights protection mechanisms, and gender rights.

From the very first dialogue and study visit in Kosovo in, Zarina participated in the “Engagement Through Dialogue” process. She later took part in the international training in Chisinau and as a young facilitator conducted a dialogue and study visit in Moldova/Transnistria. Zarina was part of the Abkhaz-Georgian-South Ossetian team of trainers in the “Young Facilitators Go Regional” training that took place in Yerevan in February 2013.
Misha Jakhua was born in 1987 in Sukhumi.

He studied at the Law Faculty of Sukhumi State University in Tbilisi. Currently, Misha is working at the Legal Aid Service of the Ministry of Corrections and Legal Assistance of Georgia as Coordinator of State Procurement.

Misha joined the Dialogue Process in 2010, taking part in an Abkhaz-Georgian Dialogue and Study Visit in Moldova/Transnistria. He later on participated in the Abkhaz-Georgian International Training Young Facilitators of the Future, and in 2011 was Facilitator of an Abkhaz-Georgian Workshop in the Self-Regulated Dialogue Process. In February 2013, Misha took part in the Multilateral Regional Training ‘Young Facilitators Go Regional‘ in Yerevan, where he assisted the young facilitators with organisational issues and in the preparation of the training.

Misha is part of the core group of people that are leading the Young Professionals’ Dialogue Process and are working to stabilise and expand it. Misha believes that the Young People’s Peace Dialogue Process is the best way towards a future without violent conflict, and hopes that the trust and mutual understanding between the conflicting sides developing in this framework will lead to more peace-building oriented projects in the future.
NUGZAR KOKHREIDZE WAS BORN IN 1981 IN KUTAISKI, GEORGIA.


HE JOINED THE DIALOGUE PROCESS IN 2010; WHEN HE PARTICIPATED IN A GEORGIAN-SOUTH OSSETIAN MEETING IN MOLDOVA/TRANSNISTRIA. SUBSEQUENTLY HE PARTICIPATED IN THE TRAINING SCHEME “YOUNG FACILITATORS OF THE FUTURE” AND TOOK ON AN ACTIVE ROLE AS A TRAINER IN THE PEER-TO-PEER TRAINING PROCESS THAT WAS PART OF THIS PROJECT.

NUGZAR BELIEVES THAT ANY PROCESS, ANY DIALOGUE IS BETTER THAN STAGNATION, BECAUSE EXACTLY THROUGH DIALOGUE IT IS POSSIBLE TO GET COMMON OUTCOMES ON THE WAY TOWARDS CONFLICT RESOLUTION. “IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE BETWEEN THE SIDES AND TRY TO COME TO A STARTING POINT WHERE FUTURE EXTENSIVE COOPERATION WILL BECOME ACCEPTABLE FOR ABHKAZ, OSSETIANS AND GEORGIANS. BESIDES, INVOLVING EUROPEAN STRUCTURES AS MEDIATOR IN THIS WAY OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION WILL PLAY A BIG ROLE IN THE PROCESS.”
INNA KVARCHIYA WAS BORN 1984 IN TKVARCHELI IN ABKHAZIA. SHE NOW LIVES IN SUKHUM/I.

INNA IS A LAWYER AND STUDIED JURISPRUDENCE AT THE HISTORICAL AND LEGAL DEPARTMENT OF ABKHAZ STATE UNIVERSITY (ASU). SHE WORKED AS AN ASSISTANT AT THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND SOCIOLOGY, ASU, TEACHING POLITICAL SCIENCE AND CONFLICT STUDIES AND FROM 2008 ONWARDS INNA HAS BEEN LECTURING AT THE DEPARTMENT ON STATE AND LAW AT ASU. AT THE SAME TIME, SHE HAS BEEN WORKING AS A LAWYER IN A FIRM. HER INTERESTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS, CONFLICT RESOLUTION, POLITICAL SCIENCE, CONSTITUTIONAL LAW, INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW, GENDER LAW.

SINCE 2003, SHE HEADS THE NGO ASSOCIATION “YOUTH FOR YOUTH”, WHICH IS ENGAGED IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF YOUTH IN ALL SPHERES OF PUBLIC LIFE.

INNA HAS BEEN TAKING PART IN THE DIALOGUE PROCESS SINCE JANUARY 2011: FIRST AS A PARTICIPANT IN AN ABKHAZ-GEORGIAN DIALOGUE MEETING IN MOLDOVA/TRANSNISTRIA, THEN IN THE TRAINING IN FACILITATION AND MEDIATION IN JUNE 2011, AND SUBSEQUENTLY AS YOUNG FACILITATOR IN THE SELF-REGULATED ABKHAZ-GEORGIAN DIALOGUE.

“TO ME, THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS DIALOGUE IS OBVIOUS. DIALOGUE IS THE MOST CIVILISED FORM OF PEACE-BUILDING. THIS DIALOGUE PROGRAMME IS CONSTRUCTED IN A WAY THAT GIVES ALL PARTIES AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT THEIR POSITIONS AND INTERESTS, AS WELL AS HEAR THE VIEWS OF THE OTHER SIDE. IT HELPS IN UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEMS AND FINDING SOLUTIONS TO THEM. THE PROGRAMME ALSO PROVIDES AN EXTENSIVE THEORETICAL COURSE ON NEGOTIATING, FACILITATION AND MEDIATION, WHICH HAS A POSITIVE EFFECT ON ALL PARTICIPANTS. WITH SUCH EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE, THE DIALOGUE PARTICIPANTS CAN REALISE THEMSELVES AS YOUNG FACILITATORS. THIS IS A VERY COMPLEX, BUT NECESSARY PROCESS.”
AMIRAN MAKARADZE WAS BORN IN 1987 IN ADJARA, AND IS CURRENTLY HEADING THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT AT THE NATIONAL CENTRE OF MANUSCRIPTS OF GEORGIA. AT THE SAME TIME, HE IS WORKING AS A LEGAL ASSISTANT ONE OF THE LAW FIRMS IN TEBILISI.

AMIRAN HOLDS A BA IN LAW AND MA IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FROM THE TEBILISI STATE UNIVERSITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF TARTU, ESTONIA. HIS PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC INTERESTS ARE EU INTEGRATION, PEACE BUILDING AND CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION, HUMAN AND CIVIC RIGHTS. RECENTLY, AMIRAN HAS BEEN GRANTED DAAD/OSI SCHOLARSHIP FOR MA PROGRAM AND WILL CONTINUE HIS STUDY IN GERMANY IN THE SUMMER.

AMIRAN JOINED THE PROCESS IN OCTOBER 2010, WHEN HE PARTICIPATED IN AN ABKHAZ-GEORGIAN DIALOGUE MEETING IN MOLDOVA/TRANSNISETRIA. SINCE THEN, HE HAS TAKEN PART IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING IN FACILITATION, MEDIATION AND CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION IN CHISINAU, AND CO-ORGANIZED AND CONDUCTED A TRAINING IN CONFLICT ANALYSIS TO A PEER GROUP IN TEBILISI IN 2012. IN FEBRUARY 2013, AMIRAN WAS PART OF THE MIXED TEAM THAT RUN THE “YOUNG FACILITATORS GO REGIONAL” TRAINING IN YEREVAN, WHERE HE FACILITATED A DIALOGUE SESSION.

AMIRAN BELIEVES THAT YOUTH PEACE DIALOGUE, AND THE FACE TO FACE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN GEORGIAN, ABKHAZ AND SOUTH OSSETIAN YOUNG LEADERS THAT IT ENTAILS, CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LONG TERM. IT CONTRIBUTES TO INCREASED CONFIDENCE AND PEACE-BUILDING BETWEEN THE RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES. “THIS CAN DEFINITELY PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT AND CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION IN THE REGION. I AM SURE THAT THESE IDEAS CAN ONLY BE REALISED IN CASE OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND DEDICATION TO PEACE BY YOUNG PEOPLE ON ALL SIDES. AS THE OLD WISDOM SAYS: ‘IF YOU WANT TO GO FAST, GO ALONE. IF YOU WANT TO GO FAR, GO TOGETHER.'
LANA PARASTAEVA WAS BORN IN 1982 IN TSAKHINVALI, SOUTH OSSETIA.


LANA HAS BEEN TAKING PART IN THE DIALOGUE PROCESS SINCE 2009, WHEN THE FIRST MEETING WAS HELD IN KOSOVO. IN 2011 SHE JOINED THE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR YOUNG FACILITATORS, AND FACILITATED A MEETING OF GEORGIAN AND OSPETIAN YOUNG PROFESSIONALS IN MOLDOVA AND TRANSNISTRIA.

"I THINK THIS PROCESS IS ONE OF THE MOST PROMISING IN THE GEORGIAN-OSSETIAN DIALOGUE. IT GIVES THE OPPORTUNITY NOT JUST TO TALK TO EACH OTHER AND LET OUT NEGATIVE FEELINGS, BUT ALSO TO WORK TOGETHER ON STUDYING ANOTHER CONFLICT, WHICH BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER AND GIVES A GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE OVERALL SITUATION."
Zarina Sanakoeva was born in 1986 in the village of Dzau, South Ossetia. At present she is working as a correspondent for Caucasus Echo, the Caucasus edition of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. She also writes for different international online publications, covering all events in South Ossetia, with a particular focus on issues related to the Georgian-Ossetian conflict.

Zarina graduated from the Faculty of Foreign Languages of South-Ossetian State University in 2007, with English as a main subject. Notwithstanding her specialisation as a philologist, during her student years she was already working as a journalist.

She took part in the “Engagement through Dialogue” process for the first time in December 2010, during a study and dialogue visit to Moldova and Transnistria. In March 2012 she participated in the Georgian-South Ossetian training in Chisinau.

“I have high hopes in this process, and especially in the strength of human relationships. As a journalist, I often write about the conflict, and in those moments, I think, it is indispensable to imagine specific people the other side, whom I already know. The same applies to all people living in both Georgia and South Ossetia: they should remember that on the other side there are people just like them. In addition, this process increases, and in the future will even further enhance the sense of responsibility among young people in South Ossetia, Abkhazia and Georgia for the solution of problems between the different nationalities.”
SHOTA SHVELIDZE WAS BORN IN 1984 IN TBILISI.

CURRENTLY SHOTA IS MANAGING HIS OWN NGO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT SOCIETY WHICH WORKS ON EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROJECTS IN REGIONS OF GEORGIA. HE SIMULTANEOUSLY, CONSECRATES SIGNIFICANT TIME TO THE COORDINATION AND FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE YOUNG FACILITATORS PROCESS.

SHOTA STUDIED HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY (BA) AND CONTEMPORARY HISTORY OF EUROPE AND AMERICA (MA) AT IVANE JAVAKHISHVILI STATE UNIVERSITY IN TBILISI, AND ALSO EARNED AN MA DEGREE IN EUROPEAN STUDIES FROM THE BREMEN UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES. HE WORKED ON THEORIES OF CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION, PEACE-BUILDING AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND IS THE AUTHOR OF PUBLICATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL POLITICS IN NEWSPAPERS AND WEBLOGS.

SHOTA JOINED THE PROCESS IN MARCH 2011 WHEN HE ATTENDED HIS FIRST A GEORGIAN-SOUTH OSSETIAN DIALOGUE WORKSHOP IN MOLDOVA/TRANSNISTRIA. HE PARTICIPATED IN THE TRAINING ON MEDIATION AND FACILITATION DURING THE PROJECT "YOUNG FACILITATORS OF THE FUTURE" AND WORKED AS A YOUNG FACILITATOR, TOGETHER WITH HIS COLLEAGUES FROM SOUTH OSSETIA, IN ONE OF THE SELF-REGULATED DIALOGUE WORKSHOPS.

SHOTA: “I BELIEVE THAT THE VALUES AND DYNAMICS OF THIS PROCESS IS THE BEST OF WHAT PEACE-BUILDING IS ALL ABOUT. I HOPE THAT WITH MY SOUTH-OSSETIAN, ABKHAZ, GEORGIAN AS WELL AS EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES THIS DIALOGUE WILL LEAD TO GREAT UNDERSTANDING, CONFIDENCE, FRIENDSHIP AND PEACE BETWEEN THE COMMUNITIES.”
ZALINA TOMAEVA WAS BORN IN 1983 IN TSKHINVAL. AT THE MOMENT SHE IS WORKING IN THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF CONSUMER RIGHTS AND HUMAN WELFARE.

ZALINA GRADUATED FROM THE MEDICAL ACADEMY, WHERE SHE SPECIALISED AS A PAEDIATRICIAN. SHE ALSO PARTICIPATED IN A SERIES OF TRAINING IN PSYCHOLOGY, SPECIALISING ON HOW TO HELP CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH GRIEF AND LOSS. SHE WAS A MEMBER OF THE YOUTH GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH OSSETIA, REPRESENTING THE HEALTH SECTOR.


"I AM INTERESTED IN THESE MEETINGS. I FIND THEM VERY USEFUL; I WAS ABLE TO FIND THE ANSWERS TO SOME OF THE QUESTIONS I WAS HAVING. THE MEETINGS GIVE A CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS THAT ARE USEFUL IN DEALING WITH PEOPLE. I AM VERY GLAD THAT I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE MEETINGS. I HOPE TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE WITH YOU."
At this stage, the young facilitators have become the main drivers of the process. This was not always the case. In the initial stages of study and dialogue visits and trainings, a team of senior coordinators, both international and based in the region, played a key role in getting the people together, preparing and facilitating the meetings. The role of the senior team has evolved over time to a supporting and coaching one in the background, as the young facilitators take the front stage.
Dina Alborova is Director of the "Agency for Social, Economic and Cultural Development" in Tskhinvali, which she founded. Since 1993, she has also been working as a professor of political science and conflict studies at South-Ossetian State University.

Dina graduated from the Department of Social and Political Sciences of Belarus State University and worked with the Norwegian Refugee Council (Norway) and the International Rescue Committee (USA). She is also a coach on conflict, mediation, and negotiation, with a wealth of experience in the field of peacekeeping, refugees, work with the media, sociological research, and work with youth groups on a local and regional level. She takes part in various international networks. In addition, Dina is Chairwoman of the Political Party for Civil Dignity and a member of the Public Chamber of South Ossetia.

Dina has been the main local coach to the South Ossetian groups since the start of the process, coordinating the South Ossetian groups in the "Engagement through Dialogue" study-visits and training the young facilitators.
TINATIN ASATIANI WORKS AT THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRE ON CONFLICT AND NEGOTIATION AS AN EXPERT AND TRAINER, AND SIMULTANEINUOUSLY TEACHES AT THE BUSINESS SCHOOL (GSM) OF THE FREE UNIVERSITY IN TIBILISI.

SHE IS AN EXPERIENCED SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGIST WHO HAS BEEN ACTING AS A TRAINER AND PRACTITIONER IN TWO MAIN DIRECTIONS: MANAGEMENT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION. HER UNIVERSITY DEGREE (1978) FOUCUSED ON SOCIAL PERCEPTION AND CONFLICT (“THE PSYCHOLOGICAL DIMENSIONS OF FOREIGN POLICY”); HER PHD ON SOCIAL-PSYCHOLOGICAL PROCESSES IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT (“SOCIAL-PSYCHOLOGICAL DIMENSIONS OF MANAGEMENT IN BUSINESS”).

TINATIN IS AN INTERNATIONALLY CERTIFIED TRAINER AND FACILITATOR AND HAS SINCE 1995 CONDUCTED HUNDREDS OF TRAININGS IN COMMUNICATION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION, LEADERSHIP AND TEAM WORK, FACILITATION AND MEDIATION ETC., AS WELL AS FACILITATED MANY DIFFERENT MEETINGS. SHE HAS BEEN PARTICIPATING IN AND COORDINATING DIALOGUE PROCESSES SINCE THE 1990S AND HAS A RICH EXPERIENCE IN WORKING WITH IDPS AND PEOPLE FROM CONFLICT-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES.

TINATIN ASATIANI IS THE COORDINATOR OF “ENGAGEMENT THROUGH DIALOGUE” PROJECT AND ENSUING PROCESS FROM THE GEORGIAN SIDE. TINATIN: “I AM HAPPY TO WORK IN DIALOGUE PROCESSES, INTRODUCING NEW WAYS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OUR SOCIETIES IN THE FUTURE, AND PROVING THAT THERE ARE POSSIBILITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS WE FACE.”
DALILA PILIA WAS BORN IN THE OCHAMCHIRA REGION OF ABKHAZIA. DALILA IS ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND SOCILOGY AT ABKHAZ STATE UNIVERSITY, AND IS THE FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL-CHARITY CENTER “WORLD WITHOUT VIOLENCE” NAMED AFTER Z. ACHBA, WHERE SHE CONDUCTS TRAININGS ON CONFLICT, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND GENDER ISSUES.


DALILA HAS BEEN INVOLVED THE PROCESS SINCE 2009 AS A SENIOR COORDINATOR ON THE ABKHAZ SIDE, COORDINATING THE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS’ MEETINGS IN MOLDOVA/TRANSNISTRIA AND KOSOVO AS WELL AS INSURING LOCAL PREPARATION, FOLLOW-UP AND TRAINING.

CINTA DEPOND'T IS SENIOR PROGRAMME OFFICER CAUCASUS WITH IKV PAX CHRISTI IN UTRECHT, NETHERLANDS. SHE IS COORDINATING IKV PAX CHRISTI'S INTERNAL LEARNING PROCESS ON MEDIATION AND FACILITATION AND DELIVERS GUEST LECTURES ON THE CONFLICTS IN THE CAUCASUS AT UNIVERSITIES IN THE NETHERLANDS AND GERMANY.

CINTA STUDIED RUSSIAN AND GEORGIAN AT THE INSTITUTE FOR EASTERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES IN PARIS AND HOLDS A DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE FROM THE PARIS INSTITUTE FOR POLITICAL STUDIES AND STUDIED AT THE MOSCOW STATE INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. SHE HAS BEEN WORKING IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS SINCE 2003, FIRST IN DEVELOPMENT AID AND FROM 2005 IN PEACEBUILDING, COORDINATING AND CONDUCTING NUMEROUS PROJECTS, WORKSHOPS, AND DIALOGUE MEETINGS. CINTA IS AN EXPERIENCED PRACTITIONER AND TRAINER IN MEDIATION, FACILITATION, PROJECT DESIGN, PROJECT CYCLE MANAGEMENT AND CONFLICT ANALYSIS.

THROUGHOUT THE YOUNG PROFESSIONS’ DIALOGUE AND STUDY VISIT PROJECT “ENGAGEMENT THROUGH DIALOGUE” CINTA WORKED AS AN INTERNATIONAL FACILITATOR AND ORGANISER WITH THE FORMATION OF THE YOUNG FACILITATORS GROUP CINTA BECAME A COACH AND SUPERVISOR FOR THE MIXED GEORGIAN-ABKHAZ AND SOUTH-OSETIAN-GEORGIAN TEAMS.

“IT STILL FEELS LIKE A PRIVILEGE TO WATCH (AND HELP) THESE YOUNG PEOPLE GROW AND DEVELOP FROM INTERESTED PARTICIPANTS TO ACTIVE AND MOTIVATED GROUPS, FROM INITIATIVE GROUPS ON ONE OF THE CONFLICTING SIDES TO SMOOTHLY OPERATING CROSS-CONFLICT TEAMS. DESPITE DIFFICULTIES THIS PROCESS HAS GENERATED TREMENDOUS POSITIVE ENERGY AND GENERATED CHANGES THAT ARE SMALL-SCALE, BUT STRUCTURAL.”
Oliver Wolleh is Programme Director for the Caucasus at the Berghof Foundation in Berlin, Germany. He also conducts trainings in negotiation and mediation at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Accra, Ghana and at the International Peace Support Training Centre in Nairobi, Kenya.

Oliver holds a MSc in Politics from the London School of Economics and Political Science and a PhD in Political Science from the Free University in Berlin. He is an experienced trainer in mediation, facilitation, non-violent communication, confidence-building strategies, conflict analysis, and conflict sensitive programme planning, having taught intercultural conflict management and mediation at university for 11 years. Oliver has been working on various dialogue formats in the South Caucasus since 2000.

Since 2009, Oliver has been the main international facilitator of the dialogue and study-visits of the “Engagement through Dialogue” process and trainer of the “Young Facilitators of the Future”. His role lies now more in coaching and steering the process and the young Abkhaz, Georgian and South Ossetian facilitators.

Oliver: “If someone had told me in January 2009 that I will be working with a group of Abkhaz, Georgian, South Ossetian young devoted peace-builders and facilitators I would not have believed it. Without strong local ownership and team spirit peacebuilding has not much of a future. That is why I believe that this process will find answers to all political challenges that there are.”