

## **SYSTEMATIZING THE DATA FROM THE ARCA QUESTIONNAIRES FOR THE COUNTRY REPORTS**

*This report is based on the findings extracted from the responses to the questionnaire distributed in the UK. The questionnaire was distributed in early 2006, and the data collected is analysed and summarised in this report, which will then be incorporated into a report on the overall Needs Assessment in Europe.*

### **What is a country report?**

This document collates the information on the current situation, existing resources and assessment of needs in the field of Adult Training and Education for International and Intra-national Interventions for Peace Building, Conflict Transformation, Mediation and Crisis Management in the UK. This information has been collected following the distribution of a questionnaire in early 2006. Although it was distributed to more than 80 organisations, and we got responses from 21 organisations, we do believe that the respondents were representative of the organisations active in the UK.

The information about our field of work found in this report will be compared to the situation in other countries in a general report written by the ARCA co-ordinators.

### **What can country reports be used for?**

The country reports, with their focus on the national situation in the field, can serve as a basis for further development and pioneering of peace education of adults as envisioned by the ARCA project, in these European countries.

### **General profile of a country report**

This country report is based on the answers given by a variety of like-minded organisations in the UK, and analysed in relation to both the general aims of ARCA and our understanding of the situation of the field in the UK.

Build with the help of other organisations in the UK, the result of the collection of information will be shared with them when we distribute the general reports back to them. This could be the basis for more implications of organisation in the ARCA project or in bilateral co-operation with Peaceworkers UK

### **COUNTRY REPORT:**

#### **1. Organisational profile**

In the UK, 21 out of the 80 organisations contacted responded to the questionnaire sent by Peaceworkers UK. The vast majority (13) were NGOs, and declared

themselves as non-profit organisations (14). No governmental organisation answered; in Britain, most activities in our field are delegated by the government to other partners, such as NGOs, for instance. 2 respondents were academic institutions.

**Organisational**

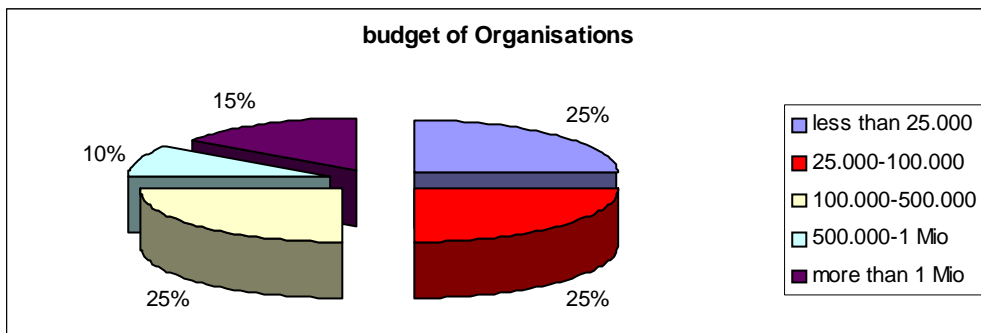
**type**

|               |    |
|---------------|----|
| NGO           | 13 |
| GO            | 0  |
| International | 4  |
| National      | 6  |
| Profit        | 0  |
| Non-Profit    | 14 |
| Academic      | 2  |
| Welfare       | 0  |
| Other         | 4  |

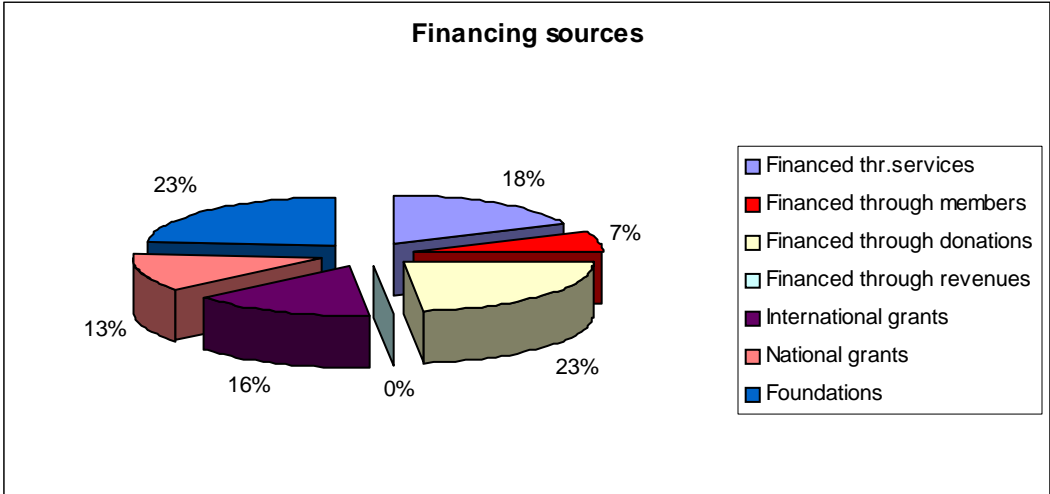
The geographical focus of the respondents seems to be balanced between international organisations (6) and national organisations (4), but the relevance of the distinction seems to be quite unclear to a large number of the respondents, which did not chose between those two options.

Most organisations provide training and peace education, with almost as many providing ‘action’.

National-focussed organisations have a smaller budget than international organisations, which reflects the existence of very large international organisations based in London, as opposed to smaller, community based organisations.

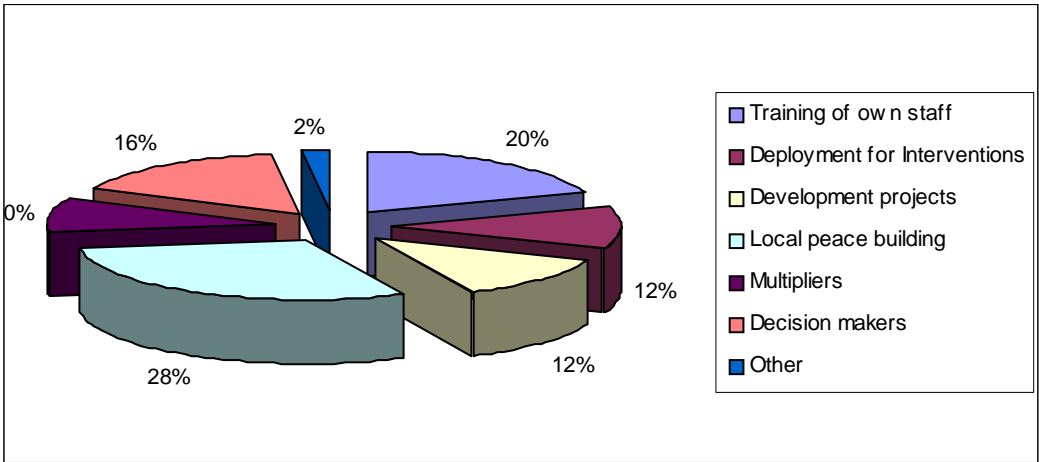


Most of the income of the organisations come from donations by individuals or foundations. The income generated by services is also generally high, and reflects the ability to market some of the peace activities effectively. The income generated through members is very low, and could be an area of prospect for future fundraising. International organisations seem to be more able to draw on funds from foundations and grants, both internationally and nationally. Academic organisations mainly finance their cost through tuition fees, which are quite high in the UK.



**2. Profile of the Training Programmes**

The trainings provided by the respondents vary a lot in their aims; however, a large number of them focus on training people for local peacebuilding in communities, as well as training internal staff. Only 12% of trainings are targeted to potential peaceworkers abroad, which is as much as training for development projects. It is also interesting to note that the academic institutions that answered to the questionnaire do not mention deployment for peace projects abroad as one of the aims of their trainings.



The repartition of the topics covered by the trainings provided seems to match the expectations from the organisations receiving trainings. However, a few points are still in high demand; such as security training, and inter-religious training.

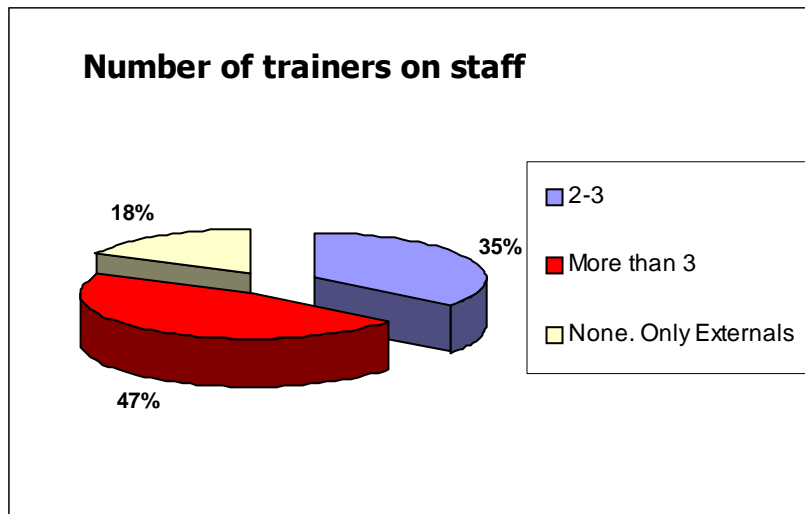
The trainings use a large variety of training techniques. E-learning only is not widely used, and simulations are not extremely common either (8 organisations use them). Group outputs have not been chosen by any organisation.

The trainings are on-site or off-site in equal numbers. There is a clear preference for housing the participants together, which might be a way to increase the team building skills. Most trainings do not exceed 5 days however, with a very large proportion only lasting 1 or 2 days. These very short trainings make for 40% of the total of trainings provided. Only 14% last between one and 2 weeks, and even fewer last longer.

In addition, a third of the organisations provide an alumni network, which can be extremely useful for operating a link between training and the field, both in term of employment and in terms of updating the content of the training.

### 3). **Trainers and Staff** (for training institutions only)

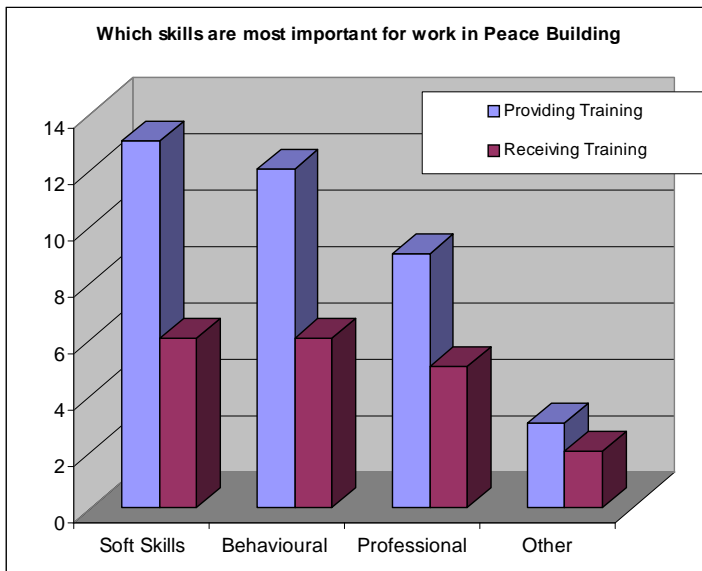
Half of all the respondents declare that they have more than 3 in-house trainers, and 35% have 2 or 3 in house trainers (18% have none). This surprisingly high number of in-house trainers is compensated by the 38% of respondents who declare that they have no administrative support, which might indicate that the trainers are responsible



for the organisation of their own training in a large number of organisations.

Overall though, the fact that 47% also have organisational support means that training organisations have a reasonably high number of staff dedicated to organising and running the trainings.

This high number of trainer and staff is particularly remarkable in the organisations dedicated to local, national peacework, while those turned towards international work only have 1 in-house trainer. The fact that national focussed NGOs usually have a smaller budget than organisations working towards international peacework probably



means that a number of trainers in national organisations are volunteers, or paid much less than in international NGOs.

#### 4). **Materials used in training**

Many amongst the responding organisations adapt their training material to the target trainee group. Some others also use their research papers, or already developed manuals and adapt them to use in their trainings.

Finally, a last group uses a large variety of documents and types of materiel, ranging from personal experiences, to research papers, to films and games.

#### 5). **Value of the Training Practice**

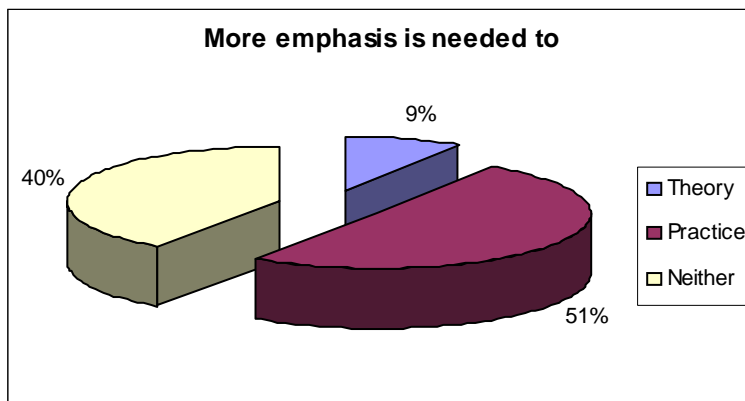
In Britain, the training organisations seem to follow quite closely the requirements of the deploying organisations, in terms of the balance, in their trainings, between soft skills, professional skills and behavioral skills. Both types of organisations consider soft skills and behavioral skills as more important then professional or other types of skills.

In addition, we can denote that all the types of skills proposed in the questionnaire are believed to be best developed by practice-oriented training methods, such as role plays, case studies, team work and practical exercises.

The deploying and recruiting organisations, amongst the respondents, have also added another type of skills, which seems very important to them: cultural sensitivity, as expressed in local knowledge, ability to understand other cultures, and the value of difference.

Both types of organisations, receiving and providing training, generally agree on assessing the existing trainings as 'satisfactory', which in actual facts denotes a room for improvement in the quality of training. There is a particular dissatisfaction with regard to training aimed towards multipliers, development workers, and potential field peaceworkers abroad.

The respondents have also pointed out some ways to improve training. Half of the organisations believe that more emphasis is needed on ‘practice’ in the training, in contrast to only 9% who would like more emphasis on theory. Practice seems to be mainly seen as important in some topics, such as crisis prevention, intercultural dialogue, rehabilitation, stress management and training for trainers. However, for other activities such as conflict analysis, conflict mapping, nonviolent action, and team communication, theory is still viewed as an important tool.



## 6). Cooperation with Other Organisations

Cooperation between organisations seems widespread in Britain. 40 % of respondent declare cooperating with more than 5 partners in their activities. However, a third of the partners only cooperate with 1 or 2 partners, which means there are still some prospects for further co-operation in our field.

Moreover, international organisations all declare cooperating frequently. This seems to be an important part of their work. As well as the international focus of the work, the financial capacities seem to play a role in enabling the organisations to forge partnerships. The less able financially the organisation is, the more likely it is to only have infrequent relations with other organisations.

The investment of capacities into co-operation is explained by the fact that all organisations evaluate their co-operation as either ‘effective’, or ‘somewhat effective’. Even though they evaluate the communication systems within the network as being a possible target for improvement (half of the respondent are only ‘satisfied’ with the existing communication methods within their networks). One particular demand, made by a few organisations, was for the creation of a database of existing capacities, and practices, with a common focal point, such as a website. The ARCA project can answer those needs, with the creation of the web-portal, and of the guide. There is also a strong demand for a definition of training standards on a European-wide basis

## 7). Impact Assessment

British organisations use a large variety of tools to ensure their activities meet their ends: through internal evaluation by using questionnaire and feedback from users, but also by incorporating elements of external evaluation: hiring external evaluators, or asking other organisations on how useful their service has been.

### **Conclusion**

The respondents to this questionnaire present an image of a relatively strong sector existing in Britain. These organisations are relatively large in size, engage in networking activities, and use a very large number of tools to ensure their activity is of quality and meet needs on the ground. However, they also underline the difficulty for smaller organisations to make use of the full potential of their activities: those NGOs do not have the resources to engage in full networking activities, share their experience and benefit from others. ARCA could be of very great benefit to them, if they were encouraged to take an active part in it.