



**Agency for Peacebuilding**

**Annual report**

**2018**

# Introduction

With the end of 2018 AP has officially completed the first three years of its life. This is a reason for celebration, but also a first opportunity for reflection, on how much we have managed to do, on how we have grown, and on how and what we must do to continue contributing to the mission we have set for ourselves.

Compared to the previous year, 2018 was undoubtedly a year of growth. We have started and completed a total of five evaluations, on behalf of far larger and more established organizations than us, including Oxfam America and Search for Common Ground. In terms of monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL), we have managed to create a reputation as an innovative and reliable partner. This work, in its entirety, has also allowed us to acquire a unique and visible voice on the issue of measuring the impact of peacebuilding.

We have also grown in terms of research and partnerships. We have managed to publish articles that reflect our activities and interests on a regular basis, giving space to issues that are not dealt with by those who regularly write about peacebuilding (in Italy and abroad). In our articles we have also highlighted particular and unique opinions, with the aim of enriching discussions already underway rather than repeating things already said. On the partnership front, we have consolidated those already created, in particular with the Municipality of Bologna and Search for Common Ground. And we have started new ones, for example with the US Institute for Peace and Oxfam Belgium.

Reflecting on the three-year period, we remain active on three of the five areas of work on which we have chosen to commit ourselves (research, advocacy and MEL). We have focused on many different themes, taking advantage of various opportunities, which we have found, and cultivated, over the years. Today, we remain a small reality, in Italy and in Europe, but we are much more visible and better known than we were in 2015, when AP was created. Our investments have led us, externally, to achieve significant results, and, internally, to consolidate our ability to operate in a sustainable way.

At the dawn of our second three-year period, we can thus say that we have successfully moved past being a start-up. And that, based on our achievements to date, we can now look to the future with greater ambition, but also with a greater sense of identity regarding the role that a reality like AP can have in a world in which conflict seems to increase every day.

The annual report therefore presents the work we did in 2018. It was approved by the Shareholders' Meeting held in April 2018 and is accompanied by the annual report for the same period.

We hope that the report will serve to inform those interested in learning about AP, and peacebuilding work in general.



Bernardo Monzani  
President, Agency of Peacebuilding

# About us

The Agency for Peacebuilding (AP) is a non-profit organisation whose mission is to promote conditions that can enable the resolution of conflict, reduce violence and contribute to a durable peace across Europe, its neighbourhood and the world.

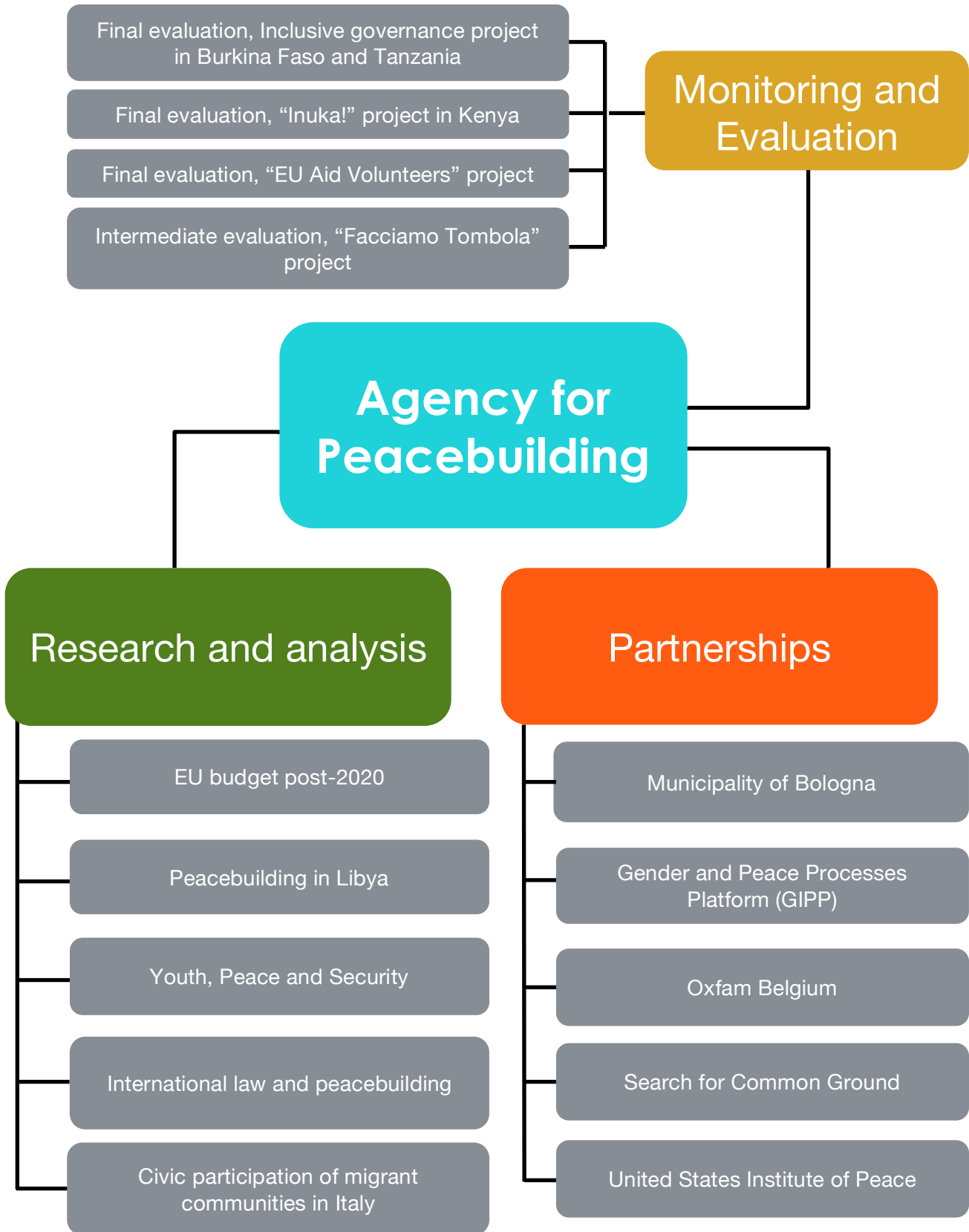
AP's overall vision is of a world where conflicts can be transformed—through the research of solutions that are innovative, non-violent and sustainable—into opportunities to promote cooperation that is based on an open and honest confrontation.

AP works on the basis of five guiding principles:

- 1) The use of civil capacities and tools;
- 2) The primacy and leadership of individuals and groups who are directly affected by violent conflict;
- 3) Reciprocity as a precondition for establishing relationships that are truly equal between the individuals, communities and agencies that are engaged in finding solutions to conflict;
- 4) An appreciation of the diversity that exists among people, communities and institutions; and
- 5) A peacebuilding approach that is concrete, results-oriented and open to confrontation, innovation and creativity.

AP is the first Italian organisation specialising on peacebuilding. This allows us to occupy a unique role in the European landscape: on the one hand, we interpret and synthesize relevant topics for the benefit of Italian agencies and institutions working on peace and security; on the other, we highlight the experiences, capacities and resources specific to the Italian system, which can contribute to the resolution of violent conflict.

# Activity map 2018



# Research and analysis



In 2018 AP launched an important research project, focused on the role of young people in decision-making processes related to peace and security. Specifically, the project looks at how the US Institute of Peace (USIP) has supported projects dedicated to promoting efforts by or for young people, and how effective these have been in promoting the role of young people on peace and security issues. The research therefore focuses on more than fifty projects that USIP has implemented or funded between 2011 and 2018 – projects that have taken place in about eighteen countries, including Afghanistan, Kenya, Myanmar, Pakistan and Tunisia.

The project, which started at the end of 2018 and will be completed in 2019, is part of AP's commitment to promoting the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda formally launched by the approval by the UN Security Council of Resolution 2250 in December 2015. This Resolution highlighted what young people are already doing to promote and build peace, and invited governmental and non-governmental actors to engage more proactively in involving them in decision-making processes.

Indeed, our efforts to monitor and analyse the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda started already in 2017. At the beginning of 2018, we then published an article on this issue, entitled "[The European Consultation on UN Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security](#)". The project with USIP thus allows us to build on this base and to use our skills to contribute to the implementation of the Agenda both indirectly (i.e. by helping USIP), and directly, by creating a series of tools that can be useful for organizations that want to engage, in Italy and abroad, in promoting the role of young people in building peace.



In 2019 AP continued to publish monthly analytical articles on various peacebuilding issues, in relation to the activities of the organization, as well as others. The articles were written by the members of the Agency, by advisors, and by external authors.

At European level, AP published two articles on the negotiations relating to the new budget of the European Union (EU). The first, entitled "[The EU budget post 2020 and the future of peacebuilding](#)", analyzes the status of the negotiations while the positions of the various actors involved in them were not yet known. The second, "[Keeping peace at the heart of the EU: a political challenge](#)", updates the analysis after the publication of the official position of the European Commission, highlighting in particular the risks related to EU peacebuilding policies.

At the Italian level, AP continued to write about Italy's role in promoting conflict resolution and peace building, with particular attention to Libya. The first article, "[Italy's contributions to peacebuilding: one step forward, two steps back](#)", is a contribution to a series of articles on national peacebuilding policies, promoted and published by the network of German NGOs FriEnt. The second article, "[On the right track: peacebuilding in Libya after Palermo](#)", analyzes instead the prospects for peace immediately after the conclusion of the peace conference held in Palermo and sponsored by the Italian government.

Other articles touched on AP's work in two different areas: "[The case for conflict sensitivity](#)" talks about conflict sensitivity – what it is and how it can help NGOs working in fragile or conflicting countries to increase their positive impact; "[Tanzania, when statistics become the enemy](#)" touches the role of social research in a country, Tanzania, where it is becoming a politicized issue.

Additional articles concerned the use of force in Syria ("[The Announced Withdrawal of the United States from Syria: Reactions and Perspectives on the Peace Process](#)") and the participation of migrant communities in the city of Bologna ("[Local participation and migration: the role of the countries of origin](#)").

# Partnerships



During 2018 AP built relationships and partnerships at local, national and international level, with institutional and non-governmental actors.

At **the local level**, AP concluded an innovative partnership with the Municipality of Bologna, within [AMITIE CODE \(Capitalizing On Development\)](#), a development education project coordinated by the Municipality, which involved partners in six European countries. After managing, at the end of 2017, the validation process of the local action plan (PAL), developed by the Municipality, and whose purpose was to improve services and relations with new citizens, in 2018 AP carried out research on the forms of participation of migrants and new citizens in Bologna.

AP also continued to build partnerships with other local-based entities, including the NGOs CEFA and GVC-WeWorld, and the Foundation for Worldwide Cooperation, for which the President of AP, Bernardo Monzani, facilitated a public seminar on Libya that involved, as speakers, Romano Prodi, former President of the Council of Ministers, and Giampiero Massolo, President of the Milan-based Institute for International Political Studies (*Istituto per gli studi di politica internazionale*, or ISPI).

At **the national level**, AP continued to participate and contribute to the efforts of the Gender and Peace Processes Platform (GIPP) to influence the implementation of Italy's National Action Plan (PAN) on Women, Peace and Security 2016-2019. GIPP gathers representatives of various NGOs active on gender and peacebuilding issues and regularly interfaces with Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to monitor the implementation of the PAN.

Finally, at **the international level**, we highlight again the work done with FriEnt, a network of German organizations dedicated to peacebuilding, which, in addition to the article mentioned above, also led to the participation of AP to a seminar on peacebuilding in Europe organized in Berlin; and with Oxfam America in the context of the evaluation of their inclusive governance initiative in Burkina Faso and Tanzania.

# Monitoring and evaluation



In 2018, AP completed five evaluations.

The first evaluation was completed in collaboration with Oxfam America and focused on an inclusive governance initiative in Burkina Faso and Tanzania. The evaluation sought to verify the success of an awareness campaign that the organization had launched to promote the role of women in the agricultural sector of the two countries. The evaluation found the initiative to be effective, especially in Burkina Faso, where the relationships that Oxfam had managed to create with the government had been particularly positive, but it also identified limitations, particularly in the way that grassroots voices were involved.

A second evaluation looked at the effectiveness and impact of the "Inuka!" project in Kenya. Implemented by Search for Common Ground, the project wanted to increase the involvement of communities in defining peace and security policies in the Coastal Region of the country, with particular attention to the dynamics related to radicalization. Working together with Search staff, AP found that the initiative was relevant and effective, in particular in involving grassroots organizations and building a relationship with representatives of the police.

AP then completed the final evaluation of the European project "EU Aid Volunteers", managed by the Italian NGO GVC-WeWorld, and the mid-term evaluation of the "Facciamo Tombola" project, by the NGO CEFA Onlus. These evaluations revealed both positive and critical aspects, and allowed the reinforcement of the partnership between AP and the two organizations.

Finally, at the end of 2018 AP began working on another evaluation, of two projects carried out by Search for Common Ground in Tanzania with the aim of contributing to the fight against radicalization and violent extremism, phenomena that are on the rise in the country. This evaluation will be completed in 2019.



# Partners and supporters

For all the activities completed in 2018, AP wants to acknowledge and thank all of its partners and supporters:

Municipality of Bologna

CEFA

Centro Studi di Difesa Civile (CSDC)

Fondazione per la Collaborazione tra i Popoli

GVC-WeWorld Onlus

Johns Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS Europe)

Oxfam America

Oxfam Belgium

Oxfam Great Britain

Peaceful Change Initiative (PCI)

Search for Common Ground (SFCG)

Scuola Superiore di Sant'Anna

United States Institute of Peace (USIP)



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