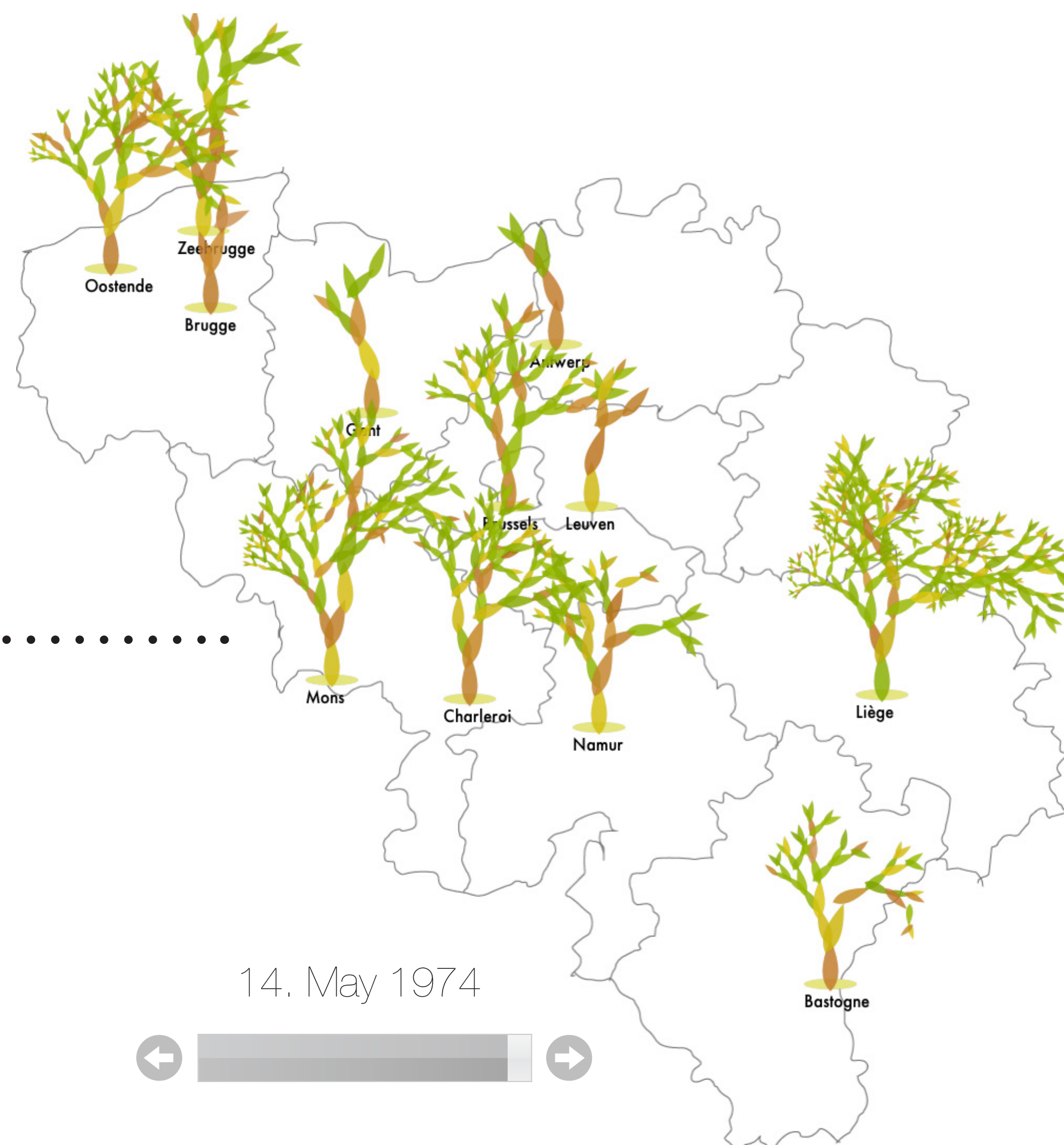



keep a green tree


Keep a Green Tree is a visualization for displaying results of many different peace activities at once. It can be used to collect together reports of peace journalism and results of several small projects. It emphasizes the good news and the progress of negotiations.


Keep a Green Tree displays the will for peace as a tree that grows with every message. The messages are either **Things we agree about**, **Things we disagree** or **Conflict topics**. In every conflict, most of the people still agree about most of the things, and with time, these agreed things — the green leaves — will overthrow conflict topics.

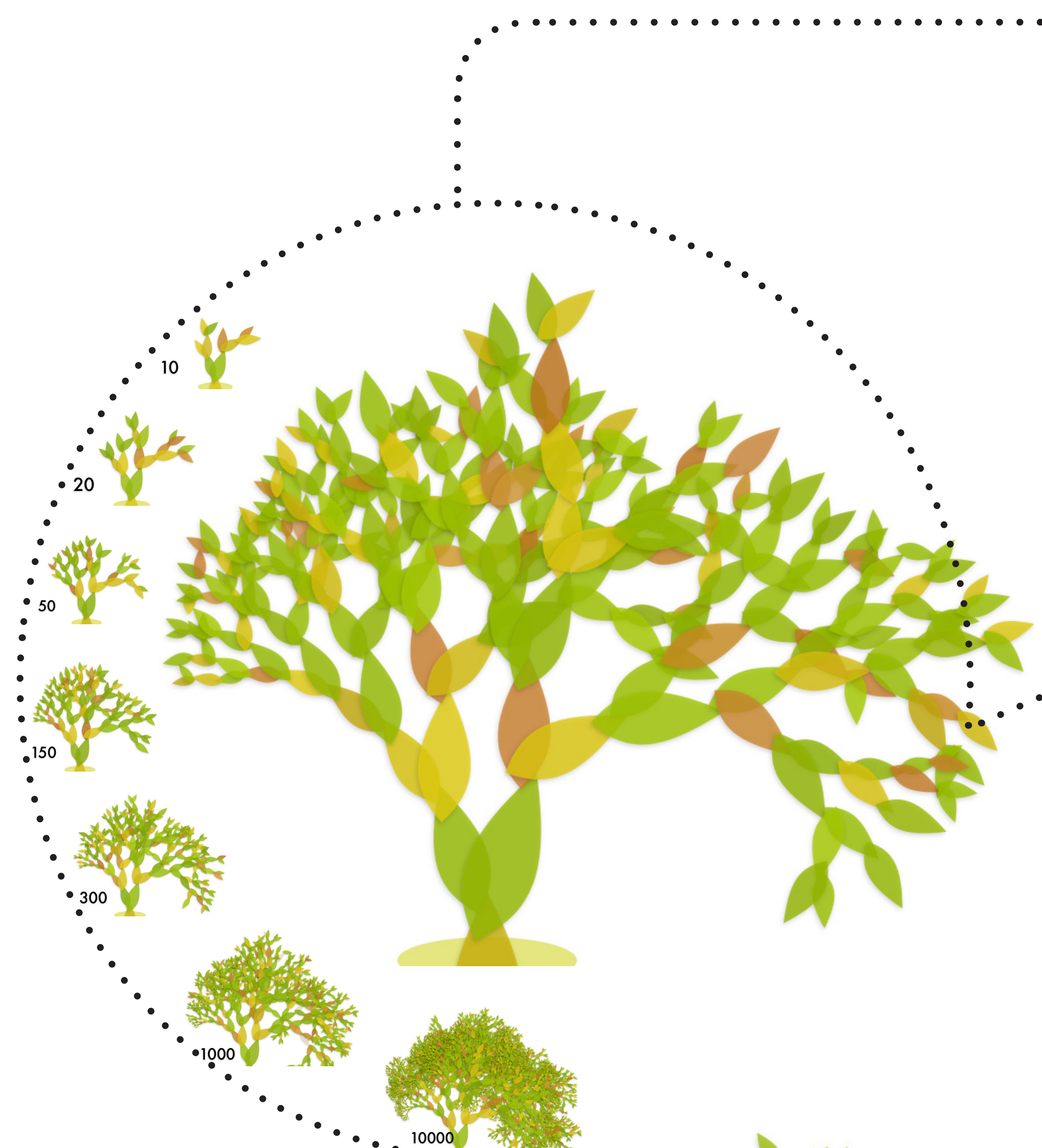
Messages collected into the visualizations can come from any source. It is designed to have very few demands about form or content of the messages. The only requirements are that the message has a time of origin, a place or an area where it comes from and a categorization to **agreement**, **disagreement** or a **conflict topic**. They can be SMS messages sent to radio show, video clips collected by NGO project, newspaper articles, blog posts, reports or official agreements.



 Things we agree can be everyday things, even obvious ones, and the things that everyone wants from future nation: safety, healthy, food, families and care.

 Things we disagree are the disagreements that belong to the fabric of a normal society. People disagree about politics, religion, football teams and their preferred foods. Often the crisis mediation is about recognizing disagreements and letting them exist instead of letting them be reasons for conflicts.

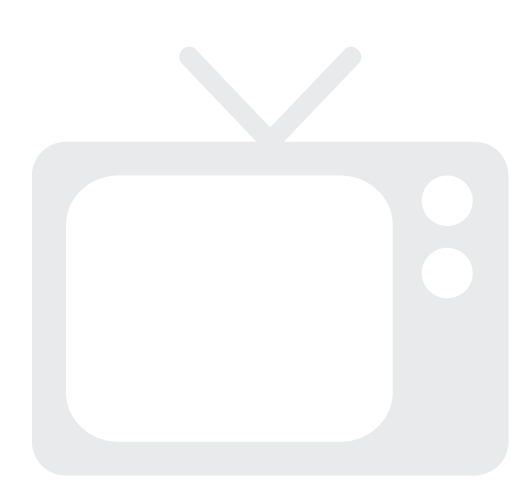
 Conflict topics are the disagreements that have become sore spots for the society and which are often entwined with several other long-standing grudges and perceptions of injustice. Peace process can be seen as a gradual change of conflict topics to things we disagree. This gradual change can be supported by recognizing the great amount of agreement behind the conflict participants.



*One generation plants the Trees; another gets the shade.
Keep a green Tree in your heart, and perhaps a singing bird will come.
— Chinese proverb*



- AS A STATIC IMAGE OR POSTER**
- Several local trees can be overlaid on a map to give an overview of projects' results in the whole country. The places that have created many messages will be displayed as leafier trees.
 - The ratio of green, yellow and blood red leaves gives an impression of the sentiments of the people.
 - Several maps from different date points can be used to show the progress.
 - A customized tree focusing in one area can show several projects with each having their own branch.
 - Some of the leaves can be opened to show the actual messages within.
 - Some leaves can have dates or titles to link them to an event.



- AS AN ANIMATION**
- The growth of the tree visualizes overall activity.
 - Movement towards peace is seen as green growth over the old conflicts.
 - Timeline can be used to find major events.



- AS AN INTERACTIVE VISUALIZATION OR A WEB PAGE**
- Leaves can be clicked open to view/listen/read the original message.
 - Clicking a branch can zoom in and focus on it, and bend surrounding branches away from it, to ease finding messages amongst thick overlapping branches.
 - Timeline can be used to find messages from a certain time.

This concept has been designed for CMI at Aalto University school of Art and Design Media Department course New Media Concepts for the Third Sector.

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Icons: The Noun Project

