

CONTENT:

1. News from ECMI NGO Network
2. Activities of ECMI NGO Regional Resource Centres
3. News from the Network members
4. Other news
5. Grants
6. List of ECMI NGO Resource Centres

1. NEWS FROM THE ECMI NGO NETWORK

May 9-11

Visit of Mr. Marc Weller, Director of European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI), Flensburg, Germany

From May 09 to May 11, Mr. Marc Weller, Director of ECMI visited Macedonia. He held working meetings with Members of the ECMI Regional Centres in Kumanovo, Tetovo and Bitola. The members of the Regional Centres had an opportunity to present their past activities and future plans. In the meetings project ideas and new membership to the Regional Centres were discussed. During the meeting in the Regional Centre Bitola, Mr. Weller announced grant approval for Cultural and Humanitarian Association of Turks “Chelebija” for the project “Tuberculosis is among us”. During his visit to the Regional Centre Tetovo, Mr. Weller visited the premises of the Centre for Balkan Cooperation “LOJA” in Tetovo and Tearce, as well the premises of Humanitarian and Charitable Association of Roma “SONCE”. There he had an opportunity to see their project activities. During the visit in the Regional Centre Bitola, Mr. Weller visited the premises of Group “Felix” and Youth Cultural Association where the campaign “Xabe raboti, xabe ne sedi” (in translation..) was presented to him. Also, Mr. Weller was a guest at the presentation of the folklore group of the Cultural and Humanitarian Association of Turks “Chelebija”.

Contact e-mail address of ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Bitola is:
ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk

May 14

Web Team Meeting

Web team of www.ecmingonet.org.mk met in the Head Office of ECMI – Skopje. At the beginning, new members of the team were introduced – Marija Nashokovska, Web Content Manager and Marina Kovacic, Web Content Consultant. The importance of the web site as a tool in the development of the ECMI NGO network was emphasized. A new web design has been prepared and it should be ready by mid June 2002. It has been concluded that every NGO, member of the Network should have one person in-charge for despatching news to the Web Content Manager in order to have more efficient flow of information. A user survey has also been conducted to assess the performance of the site.

Contact e-mail address of the Web Content Manager is : nashokovska@ecmingonet.org.mk

Mau 23

Coordinative Body Meeting in St. Naum from May 31 – Jun 01, 2002 postponed

The meeting of the ECMI Network for improvement of interethnic relations Coordinative Body has been postponed for June 14, 2002 in Hotel Complex “St. Naum” – Ohrid.

ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk

2. ACTIVITIES OF ECMI REGIONAL NGO RESOURCE CENTRES

May 10

Mr. Mark Weller visited the ECMI RC Tetovo

On May 10, in the premises of ECMI RC Tetovo, Mr. Mark Weller, the Director of ECMI had meeting with the members of this Regional Center. At the beginning, the coordinator of the RC Mr. Nadir Redzeqi introduced Mr. Weller with the NGOs members of the Network. Further on, the representatives of the NGOs presented their project proposals, as well the manner of cooperation among the members. All of them emphasized the multiethnic character of the Network and good cooperation among members. The following project proposals were presented:

- “Methods of communication among minority groups and civil society” – NGO “Sonce”
- “Multimedia program” – NGO Loja
- “Confidence through songs” – NGO MOCART
- “Kindergarten” – NGO Center for democratic development
- “Center for rehabilitation of traumatized children and preparation for learning about computers” – NGO Multikultura

Contact e-mail of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo is: ecmitetovo@ecmingonet.org.mk.

May 12

Mr. Marc Weller visits the ECMI Regional Centre Bitola

On the May 12, in the premises of ECMI Regional Centre Bitola, Mr. Marc Weller, the Director of ECMI had short working meeting with Members of the Network. Ms. Dijana Gorgievska, the Regional Co-ordinator introduced Mr. Weller with the previous and planned activities of the Centre according to the Action Plan adopted by this Centre. Mr. Weller expressed his appreciation of the rapid results produced by the members of the Centre. He informed the members about grant approval for the realization of the project “Tuberculosis is among us”. This project will be implemented in the primary and secondary schools in Bitola, through lectures and survey from May 13 to June 16, 2002. Lead NGO of this project is the Cultural and Humanitarian Association of Turks “Celebija”. Also he pointed out the areas for future work of the Regional Centre. At the end he visited the premises of the NGO “Felix” and Youth Cultural Association as well the folklore group of Cultural and Humanitarian Association of Turks “Celebija”.

E-mail: ecmibitola@ecmingonet.org.mk

May 15

Visit from Mr. Patrick Bradley and Ms. Rosemary Hawkins from Citizens Advice and Information Center (CAIC) in ECMI RC Tetovo

The aim of this visit was the introduction between the representatives of the CAIC and members of the ECMI Network, as well the activities of the ECMI RC Tetovo. The guests were interested about cooperation among the Network members during projects realization. They also offer their wide experience from working in countries in transition or in war crisis as help if needed.

ecmitetovo@ecmingonet.org.mk

May 21

Representatives of the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) visit ECMI RC Tetovo

On May 21, representatives of the EUMM have visited the premises of the ECMI RC Tetovo. The aim of the visit was to be introduced with the ECMI Network activities, members of the Network and running projects. Also they were interested about Network functioning concerning large number of different NGOs.

ecmitetovo@ecmingonet.org.mk

May 21

Computer Course

Representatives of the ECMI RC Bitola members have started attending a computer course. The aim of this course is to introduce the participant with the basic skills in the use of computers. This course will enable the NGO members of the Network to successfully their activities. The course is financially supported by ECMI.

ecmibitola@ecmingonet.org.mk

May 27-28

“Project Proposal Development- Introduction to Specifics in the NGO Sector” for ECMI NGO RC Bitola members

In the office of the ECMI RC Bitola on May 27, 28 a two day training was held on Project Proposal Development. There were 12 members of the NGOs members of the Regional Centre Bitola. These participants are active in writing project proposals in their own associations. Trainer was Mr. Sunoor Verma, ECMI Regional Representative in Macedonia. Similar trainings are foreseen for other ECMI Regional NGO Centres.

ecmibitola@ecmingonet.org.mk

3. NEWS FROM ECMI NETWORK MEMBERS

May 1

Financial support for the Association for Education, Culture, Ecology and Humanity “MILLENIUM”, Vrapchishte, Gostivar

Non-Governmental Organization “MILLENIUM” – Vrapchishte, Gostivar in May 2002 has received financial support from Confidence Building Initiative (CBI) – International Organization for Migration. This grant is for the project implementation – publishing multiethnic youth magazine “GARFITI”. The aim of the project is to emphasize the vision, needs and expectations of the youth in Gostivar and its region about society reforms and democracy. The magazine will be published in three languages that are spoken in this region in 4500 printouts. The main aim of the project is to promote communal spirit youth inter-ethnic cooperation through written media.

For further information contact: mngo@post.com

May 7

“Through employment-contribution to the community” – Humanitarian Association of Roma in Macedonia “Sonce” (HARM “Sonce”) project

HARM “Sonce” from Tetovo has received 10.000 USD grant from the U.S. organization Mercy Corps for implementation of the project “Through employment-contribution to the community”. This project has employed 9 women from different nationalities, who lost their jobs during the armed crisis in Tetovo during the year 2001. For the first three months double and single linen has been produced. “Sonce” will utilize the income generated from the sale, for the registration of a private enterprise, which will work independently in future. This project has also received the support of the Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia with 10.000 USD grant for obtaining vehicle for this mini section production transport. This is one of the first pilot projects in Tetovo from which is planned to be obtained resources for sustainability of the organization.

E-mail of SONCE is: khamnnp@sonet.com.mk

May 7

Applicable education of the Roma population – Roma Women’s Organization “DAJA”

In the future three years Roma Women’s Organization “DAJA” will work with MCIC on the project “Applicable education of the Roma population”. The aim of the project is to raise the awareness of the Roma population about the education as well improvement of the relations among community, schools and NGOs. At the moment “DAJA” is running an Adult Education Centre in Kumanovo. Also, there will be campaign in the primary schools for raising awareness about education under the motto “Education is power, join it...”

E-mail address of DAJA is: daja@mt.net.mk

May 7

Theatre Workshops and Summer School

Youth Cultural Association – Bitola, in cooperation with Sasho Ognenovski, professional actor, is organizing two months course and summer school for acting. The school is intended for young people between 15 and 20 years old. The school will start on July 1, 2002 in the premises of Art Gallery – Bitola.

Contact person: Todor Ivanovski tel. 047/23 30 20 e-mail: mkabt@yahoo.com

May 7

Philosophy Evenings

Youth Cultural Association Bitola in cooperation with French Alliance has organized cycle of philosophy evenings in hotel “Epinal” Bitola on the following topics:

- „Spirit and sensibility” - Doc. D-r. Ana Dimushkovska-Trajanovska, 19.04.2002
- „Voltaire on optimism” – Prof. D-r. Vera Petkova-Gorgieva, 09.05.2002
- „Pythagorea, Decartes and Bill Gates” – Prof. D-r. Zlatko Zoglev, 16.05.2002
- „Michel Fucault, philosophy of the postmodern society” – Prof. D-r. Ferid Muhic, 24.05.2002

E-mail: mkabt@yahoo.com

May 13

Volunteer Campaign

Youth Cultural Association – Bitola during May has realized the volunteer campaign „Џабе работи, џабе не седи, (Translation..). Two presentations have been organized on May 14 and 17 in the secondary schools in Bitola. The presentations were lead by Mr. Mario Veljkovic. Brochure and poster were printed with the same motto, as well radio clip with motivating content. The last activity will be TV presentation on the following issues: experiences from the work with volunteers, leading volunteer campaign and experiences from work as a volunteer. Guests will be: Mr. Vladimir Pran, Mr. Valentin Soklevski, representatives-volunteers from NGOs and guests that never have been volunteers.

E-mail: mkabt@yahoo.com

May 15

Launch of the Production Arm of Permaculture and Peacebuilding Centre

Permaculture and Peacebuilding Centre – Gostivar, has officially opened the “Production Arm of Permaculture”, space for organic production of food. Mr. Steven Haynes, Director of USAID-Macedonia, opened the new facility. A number of activities are foreseen such as arranging parks, yards, seminars, and courses.

This project is supported by the USAID.

E-mail: pajtim@ppc.org.mk, Web site: www.ppc.org.mk

May 20

Campaign “I want to learn, I want to be...”

Group “Felix” – Bitola implemented its second campaign within the frame of the Fund for Roma education titled “I want to learn, I want to be..” from May 20 to August 2002.

The promotion of the fund will directly target the increased awareness and access to education for the Roma, increase the awareness of the wider community towards the issues that Roma as victims of severe social exclusion, are facing in Macedonian society.

The campaign with the motto “I want to learn, I want to be...” will be promoted through printed materials, regional media campaign and postcards.

The fund will provide school supplies that will enable the regular involvement in the primary school.

For more detail information visit the web site www.felixbt.org.mk

May 22

General Assembly and Election at the Youth Cultural Association

Youth Cultural Association – Bitola on May 22, 2002 in hotel “Epinal” held the regular, annual and election Assembly with the following agenda: election of the working Presidency and Chairman, election of the credentials and election committee, changes in the Statute of the association, annual report and election of the Executive and Supervisory Board. With the vote of 27 delegates Executive Board has been elected: Marija Nashokovska – president, Sasho Korunovski, Maja Petkova, Valentin Soklevski i Danail Solakovski – members. Also Supervisory Board has been elected: Toni Jovanovski, Maja Petrovska and Anica Tantarova. After the voting for the changes and supplements of the Statute, Youth Cultural Association has been transformed in new institution Youth Cultural Centre.

e-mail: mkabt@yahoo.com

May 25

Coordinative meeting of the Roma NGO

Forum for Roma Rights “ARKA” – Kumanovo in the premises of ECMI RC Kumanovo organised a coordinative meeting of Roma NGOs in Macedonia (RNGOs). Memorandum for Cooperation has been accepted on this meeting, as well a codex for RNGOs .

e-mail: arka_kum@yahoo.com

May 28

Representative of “Mesecina” – Gostivar, Counsellor in the Program for Improvement of Inter Ethnic Relations in the Republic of Macedonia

Mr. Samet Skenderi, Chairperson of the Coordinating Body of the ECMI National Network has been appointed as one of the six Counsellors in the Program for Improvement of Inter-Ethnic Relations in Macedonia, supported by King Boudouin Fondation and Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia. He will help Roma and Turk NGOs in developing project proposals.

E-mail: samet@ierse.org.mk

Web site of the project is: www.ierse.org.mk

4. OTHER NEWS

May 9

Cultural Manifestation – Concert

The Association “Romani Asvin” (transl. “Roma Tear”) was organizer of a concert held in Shtip City Square, May 9, 2002. The occasion for organizing this concert was first day of the summer according to the Roma tradition. Numerous Roma artists participated, as well as Roma Cultural Artistic Society with traditional Roma dances. At the end the President of the Association Ms. Enise Demirova-Brashnarska sent a message to all citizens of Macedonia with wishes for health and peace in future.

E-mail: romaniAS@freemail.com.mk

May 14

Multi Ethnic Media Agency to open in Former Macedonian Crisis Area

The OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje on May 16, start with the implementation of a multi-ethnic media project in Tetovo. The "Media City Desk" is managed by the Association of Local Media in Tetovo, a non-governmental organization set up by a consortium of Albanian and Macedonian TV and Radio stations. The project was facilitated by the OSCE Mission's field station in Tetovo and has been supported financially by the International Organization for Migration, the Canadian International Development Agency, and the U.S. organization Mercy Corps.

http://www.osce.org/news/generate.php3?news_id=2454&uid=2

May 18

Cocktail organized by Swiss Embassy in Gostivar

The Swiss Ambassador in Macedonia organized cocktail on May 18, 2002 at hotel-restaurant “Ignatia”-Gostivar. The aim of this cocktail was meeting with the representatives of the NGOs, Local Community and media from Gostivar. In the frame of this meeting a monologue play was performed. Present were Members of the ECMI National NGO Network and of the ECMI Regional NGO Centre Gostivar, representatives of NGOs, the Mayor of Gostivar, and representatives of the local media at the meeting.

5. GRANTS

Freedom House's Regional Networking Project

The project encourages cross-border cooperation and communication between Central and Eastern European (CEE) NGOs, particularly public policy institutes or think tanks. The project began as a

component of the Democracy Network Program launched in 1995 by the United States Agency for International Development. The project offers a range of grant making, training, information-sharing and networking opportunities. NGOs from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, FYR Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Yugoslavia and selected Newly Independent States are eligible for support.

For more details please contact or visit them on the below shown links, fh@freedomhouse.hu ; www.freedomhouse.org

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Department for International Development Cooperation – Finland

The department's NGO unit is active in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Slovenia and Yugoslavia. In 2001 there was only one environmental NGO project in these countries, namely Albania.

Contact: matti.kiisseli@formin.fi ; More details on: <http://global.finland.fi>

6. LIST OF ECMI REGIONAL NGO RESOURCE CENTRES

Regional Centre	Contact Person	Telephone & fax	Address	E-mail
ECMI Regional Resource Centre Bitola	Marija Nashokovska	047 236 874	Ul. Josif Hristovski 4/4 Bitola	ecmibitola@ecmingonet.org.mk
ECMI Regional Resource Centre Gostivar	Saranda Imeri	042 216 166	Ul. JAN 294 Gostivar	ecmigostivar@ecmingonet.org.mk
ECMI Regional Resource Centre Kumanovo	Tanja Nikolovska	031 425 456	Lokalitet Garnizon 1/1-2 Kumanovo	ecmikumanovo@ecmingonet.org.mk
ECMI Regional Resource Centre Skopje	Gordana Cvetkoska	02 391 451 02 391 452	Ul. Drezdenska 9 Skopje	ecmiskopje@ecmingonet.org.mk
ECMI Regional Resource Centre tetovo	Elvira Murtezani	044 31 486	Ul. Ilindenska 97	ecmitetovo@ecmingonet.org.mk
ECMI Regional Resource Centre Stip	Birgan Memedov	032 382 510	Vanco Prke 62/3-2 Stip	ecmistip@ecmingonet.org.mk