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I. NEWS FROM ECMI NGO NETWORK

May 30

Meeting of the ECMI Regional Representative and the Turkish Ambassador H.E. Mr. Mehmet Taser

The ECMI Regional Representative Sunoor Verma had a meeting with the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey Mr. Mehmet Taser. At the meeting the ECMI network in Macedonia was presented, as well as the problems, which the Turkish Non Governmental Organizations face. The Regional Representative stressed the need of support for the infrastructure and facilities of the Turkish NGOs which would enable them to better fulfill their goals. The Ambassador showed readiness to discuss these matters with his government and seek a support grant for the NGOs. It was decided that the Turkish NGOs, members of the ECMI NGO Network will coordinate a request to the Embassy for program support. The Representative of the Turkish NGOs in the Coordinating Body of the ECMI NGO Network and President of the Association for Education, Culture, Ecology and Humanity MILENIUM from Gostivar, Mr. Senat Bekiri, was invited by the Regional Representative to coordinate meetings of the Turkish Non Governmental Organizations within the ECMI network. **Further information is available at: ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk and mngo@post.com**

June 1-5

Training of the Trainers for the Management of Multiethnic Societies (Local Government Reform Project- Local Government Initiative),

On the basis of the recommendations of ECMI Office in Skopje members of the Coordinating Body of the ECMI Network for the Improvement of the Interethnic Relations in Macedonia, Mr. Senat Bekiri, Mr. Nadir Redjepi and Mr. Samet Skenderi participated in the Trainings of the Trainers for the improvement for multiethnic societies organized by the LGI (Local Government Initiative) in Ohrid from the 1 June until 5 June. The training was of immense use for those living in multiethnic communities. Among the topics were also “Methods for dealing with disagreements between citizens” and “Information about human and minority issues”. The Trainers at the seminars were Florian Bieber from the European Centre for Minority Issues – Flensburg, Germany, Anna-Maria Biro from Minority Rights Group International, Budapest, Zsuzsa Katona from the Local Government Initiative, OSI, Budapest, Tony Verheijen from the UNDP (United Nations

Development Program) Bratislava, Aniko Kaposvari from the Foundation for Human Rights and Peace Education and Ana Vasilache from the Partners Foundation, Rumania.

Furhter information as well as seminar materials are available at:<http://lgi.osi.hu/publications/books/>

June 13

Web Team Meeting

Web team of www.ecmingonet.org.mk met at ECMI Office in Skopje. The team discussed the progress of the new web site design. It was decided that collection of news will take place twice a month (each 14th and 29th of the month are deadlines for submitting news). The newsletter will be distributed once a month as it was done until now. Furthermore, the monthly reports from the ECMI Regional Centres will be delivered to the Web Content Manager. The action for introducing the web site to other sites as link, as well as to the members' web sites will continue in future as contribution of all web team members.

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June 14-16

Meeting of the Coordinating Body of the “ECMI NGO Network for the Improvement of Interethnic Relations in the Republic of Macedonia”, St. Naum, Ohrid.

A meeting of the Coordinating Body of the “ECMI NGO Network for the Improvement of Interethnic Relations in the Republic of Macedonia” was held from 14 to 16 June in St. Naum in Ohrid. The members of the Coordinating Body, the Regional Representative of the ECMI in Macedonia, Mr. Sunoor Verma, and the staff members of the ECMI Branch Office Skopje participated in the meeting. Questions about the functioning of the ECMI NGO Network for the Improvement of International Relations were discussed in detail. Strategies concerning the further expansion of the Regional Centres in Skopje, Kumanovo, Stip, Bitola, Gostivar and Tetovo were discussed too.

The report of the meeting of the coordinating body will soon be available at the Network's webside www.ecmingonet.org.mk or can be requested from the ECMI Branch Office in Skopje: ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk

June

Documents on Project Proposal Development, Reporting Formats, Financial Instructions for administration of projects, have been established and circulated to Network members

For more information write to Daniela Ralis: ralis@ecmingonet.org.mk

II. ACTIVITIES OF ECMI NGO REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTRES

June 7

ECMI Regional Centre Tetovo

Cultural Events in Tetovo – Open Forum

The European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) – Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo organized an Open Forum “Cultural Events in our town”. This open forum was held in the premises of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo. A large number of NGO representatives, teachers from Tetovo schools and representatives of the Tetovo library participated. Mr. Salajdin Sulejmani, Director of the Tetovo City Library was the facilitator.

The ineffectiveness of the local authorities to address this issue was pointed out by some participants. It was proposed that the NGO sector should influence the Local Government for solving many of the cultural problems in the city related to infrastructure. The necessity of establishing a Youth Centre was emphasized as a need for young people regardless of their ethnic background. Mr. Sulejmani highlighted the need for permanent location of the City Library and establishing reading rooms. He stressed that this can be achieved in cooperation with NGOs from this region.

e-mail: ecmitetovo@ecmingonet.org.mk

June 8

ECMI Regional Centre Skopje

Presentation of the program for the Improvement of Interethnic Relations of the King Bodoïn Foundation and the Open Society Institute

On June 8 a presentation was held about the three year program “Improvement of Interethnic Relations” by the Open Society Institute and the King Bodoïn Foundation at the facilities of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre in Macedonia. The present members of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre were informed about the main needs and aims of the program, target groups, activities that can be supported by the program, application procedures and possible applicants. The program was presented by the program advisor Aneta Vojnovska.

Detailed information and applications can be found on www.ierse.org.mk

June 11

ECMI Regional Centre Tetovo

Confidence Building Initiative– Tetovo Representative of IOM visits the European Centre for Minority Issues- Regional Resource NGO Centre (ECMI-RC) Tetovo

The Confidence Building Initiative (CBI) Tetovo Program Officer, Ms. Diane Johnson visited the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo. At the beginning the Coordinator of the Centre presented the ECMI Network for Improvement the Interethnic Relations in the Republic of Macedonia, as well as the members from this Regional Centre including the activities that are

implemented by members of the Centre. Members of the RC presented their projects ideas. Scope of collaboration between the ECMI Regional Centre and the CBI initiative was discussed.

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June 17

ECMI Regional Centre Kumanovo

Meeting between ECMI RC Kumanovo NGO members and Educational institutions in Kumanovo

A meeting between ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo members and representative of the Ministry of Education and Science-Kumanovo, as well with the Directors of the primary and high schools was held in the premises of ECMI Resource Centre Kumanovo. At the beginning a short presentation of the project “Puzzle” was made. NGOs, members of the ECMI Resource Centre Kumanovo expressed their desire for cooperation with schools from Kumanovo to overcome misunderstandings and prejudices among school going children of different nationalities that live in Kumanovo. It was agreed that at the beginning neutral surroundings should be chosen for the activities. The representatives of the schools were kindly requested to place their premises and employees at the disposal of the project team for successful project implementation. All participants were satisfied with the project activities and confirmed their participation in the implementation. **For further information, please contact Project Coordinator Sonja Arsovska (sarsovska2001@yahoo.com), or ECMI RC Kumanovo (ecmikumanovo@ecmingonet.org.mk)**

June 19

ECMI Regional Centre Bitola

Implementation of the project “Tuberculosis is among us”

The Open Forum “Tuberculosis is among us” was the last activity in the project implementation supported by European Centre for Minority Issues and Industry for Dairy Products-“Mlekara”, Bitola. Leading NGO for this project was Cultural and Humanitarian Association of Turks “Celebija” in cooperation with Group “Felix”, Association for Open Communication, Association of Albanian Women and Youth Cultural Association. The activities implemented with this project (10 lectures in primary and high schools in Bitola and Bistrica municipalities where mixed ethnic population lives, survey of 300 pupils and the open forum) took place from June 03-19, 2002.

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June 21

ECMI Regional Centre Kumanovo

“Trafficking of Human Beings” – Round Table

Trafficking of Human Beings was the topic of the Round Table organised in the premises of the European Centre for Minority Issues – Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo. Representative of the International Organisation of Migration (IOM), Ms. Stacy Scarpone gave a lecture about trafficking of Human Beings. A detailed discussion followed the lecture about the situation in Kumanovo and Macedonia, as well as the means that should be used for decreasing this

phenomenon. All NGOs, members of the ECMI Resource Centre Kumanovo expressed interest in being included in this campaign that is going to start after the elections in Macedonia.

E - mail: ecmikumanovo@ecmingonet.org.mk

June

ECMI Regional Centre Stip

In the month of June a members meeting of the Regional Centre was held in the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Stip, where the Associate Members of the ECMI Regional Centre were introduced. The current activities of the Regional Centre and planned activities, the procedures of submitting project proposals to the Regional Centre and those already completed and submitted of the ECMI Branch Office Skopje were presented to the new members.

E-mail: ecmistip@ecmingonet.org.mk

June

ECMI Regional Centre Gostivar

In the month of June two meetings of the members were held at the Regional Centre in Gostivar. The topic of the meeting was projects proposals submitted by the members of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre in Gostivar to the ECMI office in Skopje. As a part of the agenda the members of the Regional Centre Gostivar were informed about the meeting of the Coordinating Body of the ECMI in St. Naum from 14-16 June and the results of the meetings.

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III. NEWS FROM THE ECMI NGO NETWORK MEMBERS

1-2 June

“Better Future for Young Roma” – Open Forum and Humanitarian Concert

As a part of the project “My Invested Labour, My Right” implemented by the local NGOs “Romani Asvin” (Roma Tear), “Sao Roma” (All Roma), “Vesta” and “Roma Cinti Union”, an open forum has been organized titled “Better Future for Young Roma”. Main topic at this open forum was the use of narcotics and its prevention. Large number of young Roma attended this open forum.

Next day, on June 02 a humanitarian concert has held with aim to increase the young Roma awareness about the need for education. Larger number of young artists participated, as well as the Cultural-Artistic Society “Roma Tear”.

A tournament in small football has held too as part of the celebrations.

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June 8

Meeting with the new members of the Permaculture and Peace building Center (PPC) in Gostivar

On June 8, 2002, at the PPC office in Gostivar, a meeting was organized with the new PPC members from different municipalities of Macedonia. This meeting was organized based on the long term strategy of PPC's Board of Directors for institutional development as well as establishment of branch offices and at the same time spreading its own activities wider in the territory of the Macedonia.

The meeting was characterized as very successful from all the participants, who unanimously agreed on the following conclusions:

1. To establish PPC's branch offices in the following towns of Macedonia: Kumanovo, Skopje, Tetovo, Gostivar, Kicevo, Debar, Struga and Ohrid.
2. To organize the Foundation Assembly of the PPC branches in all above mentioned towns, latest to the end of September 2002.
3. Until the establishment of the branches, the new members will implement the foreseen activities with a direct assistance from the PPC Headquarter in Gostivar.

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

June 16

"We are also for protecting and practicing Human Rights" – TV Broadcast

Humanitarian and Charitable Association of Roma "Mesecina"- Gostivar, organized one-hour broadcast titled "We are also for protecting and practicing Human Rights" on the local TV Station "Kiss"-Tetovo. This broadcast was part of the fourth phase in implementing project supported by the European Commission for Democracy and Human Rights. Participants in the TV broadcast were: D-r. Mirjana Najcevska, President of the Macedonian Helsinki Committee; Mr. Muhamed Toci, Coordinator of the Sector for Interethnic Relations in "Mesecina", Gostivar; Mr. Nadir Redzeqi, Coordinator of the Humanitarian Association of Roma in Macedonia "Sonce", Tetovo; Mr. Dzemailj Arifi, President of the Municipality Court, Tetovo and five students from the Law Faculty, Skopje. In the frame of this fourth phase there will be also 4-5 Round Tables on national and local TV and radio stations. In the other phases of the project the following activities were or will be implemented:

The first phase consisted of printing pamphlets and posters in four languages (Roma, Macedonian, Albanian and Turkish) and press conference for introducing the public with the start of the second phase.

In the second faze 10 educational Open Forums were held in 10 cities.

The third phase consisted of two seminars for the administrative employees from the Centres for Social Work, teachers, school directors and pedagogues from the primary schools, where Roma children are educated.

In the last, fifth phase 6000 educational brochures about Human Rights will be printed and distributed to the target group.

E-mail: mesecina@mt.net.mk

June 23

Foundation Assembly of the Permaculture and Peacebuilding Centre (PPC) branch in Ohrid

According to the conclusions from the meeting held on June 8, 2002 in Gostivar, a foundation assembly of the PPC branch in Ohrid was organized with the new PPC members from Ohrid region on June 23, 2002.

The branch office in Ohrid is the first one from seven branches that will be established. By the end of June two other foundation assemblies and establishment of branch offices will be organized in Kumanovo and Skopje or Tetovo. Other four (Debar, Kicevo, Struga and Skopje or Tetovo) foundation assemblies and establishment of the new branch offices are going to be organized from the second part of August to the end of September 2002.

Above mentioned activities are parts of long term strategy of PPC's Director's Board for institutional development as well as establishment of branch offices and in same time spreading its own activities wider in the territory of Macedonia.

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

June 27

The Humanitarian and Charitable Association of Roma in Macedonia "Mesecina", Gostivar awarded the Award for Civil society and Democracy, for Contribution in Civil Society and Democracy for the year 2001

Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation awarded the Humanitarian and Charitable Association of Roma in Macedonia "Mesecina", Gostivar with the Award for Civil Society and Democracy, for contribution to Civil Society and Democracy during the year 2001.

"Mesecina" was awarded for its contribution in the education, training and increasing awareness for human rights, as well for the struggle against discrimination and xenophobia and protection of minority.

"Mesecina" has contributed to the above mentioned by organising more than 40 open forums for human rights and advocacy in larger number of cases for protecting rights against discrimination. Many members of the ECMI National Network gave support to the nomination of Mesecina for this award.

E-mail: msecina@mt.net.mk; Web site: www.msecina.org.mk; www.mcms.org.mk

June 27

Launching of the website of the Polish Association POLONIJA

On June 27 the website of the Polish Association POLONIJA was presented in the City Museum of Skopje. The website was introduced by Tereza Saurek, who is a member of the association. The site is still under construction, but it will be completed in two languages, Macedonian and Polish and will contain much information in the area of culture and education in Poland and Macedonia.

More information available at: www.polmak.org.mk and polonia_mak@informa.com.mk.

IV. LIST OF ECMI REGIONAL NGO RESOURCE CENTRES

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