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I. NEWS FROM ECMI NGO NETWORK

1st July

National Network

The ECMI NGO training calendar for Network members has been announced. These tailor made courses for Network members will be held at all the six ECMI Regional Centers in Macedonia. The courses cover theoretical and practical components with a focus on NGO Specifics. Application forms may be requested from the ECMI Branch Office in Skopje or through by e-mail: ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk

		Skopje	Kumanovo	Shtip	Bitola	Gostivar	Tetovo
1	Project Proposal Development Module I Introduction to Basics	10 August 2002	27 July 2002	22 July 2002	27 May 2002	06 August 2002	31 July 2002
2	Project Proposal Development Module II: Basics	11 August 2002	28 July 2002	23 July 2002	28 May 2002	07 August 2002	01 August 2002
3	Networking for NGOs	14 September 2002	16 September 2002	11 September 2002	24 August 2002	02 September 2002	26 August 2002
4	Fundraising locally and internationally	15 September 2002	17 September 2002	12 September 2002	25 August 2002	03 September 2002	27 August 2002
5	Organizational Development for NGOs	21/22 September 2002	26/27 September 2002	07/08 October 2002	05/06 October 2002	30 September 01 October 2002	23/24 September 2002

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10th July

National Network

Mr. Tome Sandevski has joined ECMI Branch Office Skopje for a month long internship. Completing his Master degree in Political Science at the Freie University in Berlin, he possesses experience working with Amnesty International in Berlin. During his stay with the ECMI, he will be working on preparing a Resource Pool Database for the members of the “ECMI NGO Network for the improvement of Interethnic Relations in the Republic of Macedonia”. This data base will consist of two components, namely Human Resources and Material Resources available to member organizations. This data base will be made available through the website of the Network and will allow members to pool their resources, thus reducing the costs of their project proposals and improving the chances of funding.

Mr. Sandevski is also compiling background information on NGO Networks currently active in Macedonia.

e-mail: Sandevski@ecmingonet.org.mk

18th July

National Network

Mr. Dimitar Spasenovski, Manager of the International NGO Council was invited by the ECMI Regional Representative Sunoor Verma to discuss the scope of collaboration between the member NGOs of the ECMI NGO Network and the International NGO Council. Mr. Spasenovski informed ECMI that the NGO Council consists of 22 International NGOs who are currently operational in Macedonia and that since its inception; the NGO Council has been delivering the following outputs: a. improvement of coordination between INGOs; b. improvement of coordination between INGOs and stakeholders in relief programs; c. encouragement of joint activities between INGOs and stakeholders; d. creation of standards for INGOs; and e. providing security information to INGOs. Mr. Spasenovski invited the Regional Representative to participate in the meeting of the Council.

19th July

National Network

Ms. Judy Harris, Health Delegate Macedonia Programs of the American Red Cross met with the ECMI Regional Representative Sunoor Verma to discuss the scope of collaboration between the ECMI NGO Network members and Branches of the Red Cross of Macedonia.

Ms. Harris also enquired whether the members of the Red Cross branches could benefit from the Capacity Enhancement Training program of the ECMI in Macedonia. Mr. Verma

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presented the Mission of the Network and the Memorandum of Cooperation adopted by its members. He proposed that the Red Cross branches meet with the Regional Coordinators of the ECMI Centers in Skopje, Kumanovo, Shtip, Bitola, Gostivar and Tetovo and discuss areas of mutual interest. It was decided that a meeting would be set up in September to discuss other possible areas of collaboration.

20th July, 2002

National Network

Five Representatives of the ECMI NGO Network depart for a four week long course on NGO Management and Development in Denmark.

Goal of this intensive training is to strengthen managerial and organizational capacity of host NGOs in order to secure their ability to survive and function in an active manner. The training is being organised and funded by the FRESTA Secretariat of the Danish Foreign Ministry. The ECMI NGO Network was offered five seats on the course by the organizers. This message was conveyed to the six ECMI Regional Centres around Macedonia, and each Centre nominated a candidate for the training. Out of the six applications five were approved for participation by the organizers. As none of the member NGOs from the Bitola Regional Centre could consider participating due to prior commitments, they gave their seat to Network member "Mesecina" from Gostivar. The participants departed for Copenhagen on the 20th July from Airport Petrovets. The participants are Ms. Mirjana Nikolovska from Union for the Culture of Vlachs in Macedonia from Skopje, Mr. Pajtim Saiti from the Permaculture and Peacebuilding Centre from Gostivar, Mr. Nadir Regepi from Humanitarian Association of Roma in Macedonia "SONCE" - Tetovo, Ms. Katerina Milenkovska from Association for Progress, Education and Lobbying from Stip and Mr. Sukri Toci from Humanitarian and Charitable Association of Roma "MESECINA" from Gostivar.]

For more information contact: ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk.

25th July, 2002

National Network

Mr. Ryan Lorenz currently writing a dissertation on conflict prevention in Macedonia at the University of London met with the Regional Representative of ECMI Sunoor Verma to discuss the relation of ethno political conflict to the current situation in Macedonia. During the meeting Mr. Lorenz expressed particular interest in the possibilities, challenges, and constraints on the many international organizations working in Macedonia to prevent a resumption of violent conflict. Mr. Verma briefed Mr. Lorenz about the mission and aim of the ECMI NGO Network in Macedonia and gave visible and measurable examples of how

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Network members are coming together to design and implement projects which enhance interethnic collaboration and are based on wide consultations with the community and the local institutions.

For more information contact: ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk.

25th July

National Network

Mr. Rob Contractor of the British Embassy in Skopje visits the ECMI Branch Office

The British Embassy in Skopje has generously contributed to the Macedonia Program of the ECMI. Mr. Rob Contractor, Head of Commercial and Development Sections of the Embassy met with the Regional Representative of ECMI and got briefed on the development of the Program. The briefing touched on the activities of the six ECMI Regional Centers, the Meeting of the Coordinating Body of the Network, further development of the Network web site and the problems being faced by the domestic NGO sector. Mr. Contractor accepted the invitation to visit some of the Regional Centers in the not too distant future.

e-mail: ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk.

26th July

National Network

Bonn International Centre for Conversion is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the transfer of former military resources and assets to alternative civilian purposes (www.bicc.de). Their representative Mr. Hans Risser met with the ECMI Regional Representative to discuss the possibility of collaboration between the members of the ECMI NGO Network and his organization in studying the problem of disarmament in Macedonia. Mr. Risser was provided with the membership list of the Network and was invited to contact the members directly to explore collaboration.

e-mail: ecmingonet.org.mk.

July 2002

National Network

Macedonian magazine “Semeen Magazin” carried in its July 2002 issue a detailed interview with the ECMI Regional Representative Sunoor Verma on the activities of the ECMI NGO Network for the Improvement of Inter-Ethnic Relations in the Republic of Macedonia and the

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functioning of the NGO Sector in the country. In the interview, Mr. Verma emphasizes on the need for NGOs to be specialized and focused on their mission, and to engage in wide consultations with their beneficiary before undertaking activities.

Copies and Translation of the interview in English and German is available at the ECMI Branch Office in Skopje and may be requested by e-mail: ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk.

For more information contact: ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk.

II. ACTIVITIES OF ECMI NGO REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTRES

11th July

ECMI Regional Centre Tetovo

Open Forum on Ecology

An Open Forum on the topic of Ecology was held at the ECMI RC Tetovo premises. Facilitators at the Open Forum were Mr. Jovan Jovanovski, Editor of the magazine “Ekokult” and Mr. Nevzat Elezi, State Sanitary and Health Inspector and representative of the Ecology Association “Ambienti” from village Kamenjane. Mr. Jovanovski made a short presentation of the magazine and of the activities that are undertaken concerning ecology. Eco patrols are established in the primary schools and all their activities are presented in the magazine. Eco parties, cultural and other events are organized in cooperation with the Youth Informative Center.

Then Mr. Elezi made a short about the activities of his organization the Association “Ambienti” and their activities in the field of Ecology. A discussion on Ecological concerns around Tetovo followed.

Among those that attended the Open Forum were Ms. Annika Palo, Resident Development-Program Coordinator from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), representatives of the ECMI RC Tetovo member NGOs, representatives of the environmental NGOs from Tetovo, Mr. Sunoor Verma Regional Representative of the ECMI in Macedonia, Ms. Daniela Ralis Program Manager in the ECMI Branch Office Skopje and citizens of Tetovo.

For further information: ecmitetovo@ecmingonet.org.mk

11th July

ECMI Regional Centre Skopje

Meeting of the Regional Representative with Skopje based Members of the Coordinating Body of the ECMI NGO Network

The agenda of the meeting was activities of the ECMI Regional Centre in Skopje. Mr. Dragan Stisic, Ms. Mirjana Nikolovska, Ms. Suncica Milkovic participated. A numbers of projects

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developed jointly by the members of the Skopje Centre are in different stages of examination. It was decided that September onwards a series of Open Forums will be organized by the members as a tool to assess the needs of the community on which projects would be based. For more information contact: ecmiskopje@ecmingonet.org.mk.

11th July, 2002

ECMI Regional Centre Tetovo

Meeting of Members of the ECMI Regional Centre Tetovo with Ms. Annika Palo, Resident Development Programme Coordinator of SIDA – Sweden. The meeting was held at the RC. The Regional Representative Sunoor Verma introduced the Members of the RC to Ms. Palo. The Coordinator of the RC Mr. Nadir Redjepi briefed Ms. Palo on the activities of the Regional Centre and to the planned initiatives. Ms. Palo was also present at the Open Forum on Ecological Problems in Tetovo organized by the RC.

E-mail: ecmitetovo@ecmingonet.org.mk; ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk.

11th July

ECMI Regional Centre Tetovo

Ms. Annika Palo, Resident Development Programme Coordinator of SIDA – Sweden (Swedish Agency for Development Cooperation) visited the project sites of the members of the ECMI Regional Centre in Tetovo. Mr. Zoran Tasevski presented the initiative of his Organization MOCART (Multiethnic Organization Centre for Association, Development and Tolerance "MOCART"; Address: Marshal Tito 122/10, Contact person: Mr. Zoran Tasevski) of support for the Honey producers in the region of Tetovo. He also introduced the initiative for holding a children's song festival in Tetovo. At the office of the Centre for Democratic Development (Address: JNA 36, Contact person: Mr. Ardit Memeti), Mr. Ardit Memeti presented to Ms. Palo the UNHCR funded project on Statelessness and Citizenship which his organization is implementing in Tetovo. He explained in detail the intricacies of the issue. CDD is an NGO with a membership of young lawyers and possesses expertise in the field of conflict resolution. To the question, why did his organization join the ECMI Network? Mr. Memeti said that by being a part of this Network he was getting access to the views of all ethnic groups in Tetovo. At the same time his organization was getting exposed a wide range of issues which concern the community, due to the diverse profile of the Network members. Upon Ms. Palo's request Mr. Memeti also explained the membership structure of his organization and their strategy for organizational sustainability. Ms. Palo then visited the office of MULTIKULTURA (JNA bb, Contact person: Ms. Ariana Sulejmani) and was briefed

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by Mr. Agron Baftijari about the activities which his organization had undertaken in an effort to bring people of different ethnicities in Tetovo closer. Multikultura publishes a bilingual monthly (Albanian and Macedonian) youth magazine “Multikulti” and organizes multi-ethnic concerts as another tool for bringing the youth of different ethnic groups together. Ms. Palo enquired about the gender structure of the membership of Multikultura. She was informed that there are 40- 45% women members and 45-50 in the executive body of the organization.

During the visit to SONCE (Humanitarian Association of Roma in Macedonia "SONCE", Address: Blagoja Toska 170, Contact person: Nadir Regjepi) Ms. Palo was briefed about the Organizational History by its current president Mr. Nezir Huseini, then by Ms. (I will check tomorrow morning) on the activities of the sector for Women within the organization and by the Coordinator for the youth sector. Then Ms. Palo visited the stitching unit run by displaced women, the computer education center for Roma children, kindergarten and the modern dance club for youth; all run by SONCE as projects funded by a wide range of donors.

Ljoya (Centre for Balcan Cooperation LOJA, Address: Ohridska 12, Contact person: Mr. Bujar Luma) is running a child care center in Tetovo and Tearce. Ms. Palo was accompanied by ECMI Regional Representative Mr. Sunoor Verma, Program Manager Ms. Daniela Ralis and Office Manager and Project Management Assistant Ms. Gordana Cvetkoska. at the ECMI Branch Office Skopje.

For more information: ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk.

21st July

ECMI Regional Centre Stip

Meeting of the Members of the ECMI Regional Centre, Shtip with the ECMI Regional Representative Sunoor Verma was held at the Centre. All members were present. The activity plan and the project proposals submitted by the member organisations were discussed. The members presented their ideas for organising open forums in the city as agreed in the Coordinating Body meeting in Ohrid in June. The issue of entry of new members was also discussed. Mr. Verma informed the members that the NGOs proposed by them have all sent detailed information as per the requirements of the Network and will be assessed by ECMI Program Manager. These recommendations will be then forwarded to the members in Shtip. Members expressed satisfaction at the progress of activities at their Centre.

22nd -23rd July

ECMI Regional Centre Stip

Project Proposal Development- Training

Tailor made trainings are an important component of the Capacity Enhancement Action Plan of the ECMI NGO Network. Two intensive modules of “Project Proposal Development-Introduction to Basics and Basics” were held for members at the Regional Centre in Shtip. Twelve representatives of NGOs participated actively in the training.

E-mail: ecmistip@ecmingonet.org.mk

27th – 28th July

ECMI Regional Centre Kumanovo

Project Proposal Development- Training

Tailor made trainings are an important component of the Capacity Enhancement Action Plan of the ECMI NGO Network. Two intensive modules of “Project Proposal Development-Introduction to Basics and Basics” were held for members at the Regional Centre in Kumanovo. Twenty two representatives of NGOs participated actively in the training. Present as observers at the training were Ms. Annika Palo, Resident Development Programme Coordinator from SIDA-Sweden (Swedish Agency for Development Cooperation), and Ms. Magdalena Ginste , Head of Administration at the SIDA-Sweden (Swedish Agency for Development Cooperation).

ecmikumanovo@ecmingonet.org.mk.

III. NEWS FROM THE NETWORK MEMBERS

2nd July

Youth Cultural Center Bitola – new premises

The Youth Cultural Center Bitola has new premises located in the Business-Housing Center Pelagonka 2, Kliment Ohridski St. Lamella 2, and Floor 3 in Bitola. Please note the new contact details Tel/ Fax: 047 23 30 20 e-mail mkcbt@mt.net.mk

3rd July

Association of Roma Women “ESMA” host a study visit

Organized by the Center of Roma from Skopje, the Association of Roma Women “ESMA” hosted the NGO “Better Future” from Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the meeting experiences were exchanged between the two NGOs. The meeting started with the presentation of the vision, mission, and target groups as well the structure of the two NGOs. At the end of the visit ESMA organized a short walk through Shuto Orizari for the guests.

For more details contact: esma@mt.net.mk

10th July

Final implementation phase of the project “Project for old and young” –Humanitarian Association “MAJKA” Kumanovo

During the last two years with financial support of the Dutch donor NOVIB, the humanitarian association “MAJKA” implemented a project for old and young people of Kumanovo. Four groups of activities were implemented in the project.

- collecting information, monthly reports, publishing brochure and contacts with the media;
- medical check up for old people;
- shelter for victims of violence and temporally displaced persons, medical help, food preparation and contact with the Center for Social Work;
- Knowledge and skills for children with different ethnic background, aged between 7 and 14 years for better social inclusion in the society.

For further information, please contact Ms. Lidija Ilievska, Project Coordinator: vavku@freemail.org.mk

12th July

Network Members

“Family Center Tetovo” presentation of the project implemented by Center for Democratic Development and Multikultura

In the premises of the ECMI RC Tetovo presentation of the project “Family Center Tetovo” was held. This project was implemented by two NGOs - Center for Democratic Development and Multikultura with financial support of UNICEF and Nansen Dialogue Center.

Large number of mothers and children participants in the project attended this presentation. At the beginning Ms. Gezime Hajredini made a short introduction of the project emphasizing the goals that should be accomplished through its implementation. Afterward the children

presented two ballet performances. The mothers presented handicrafts and cooked food for the cocktail at the end of presentation.

For more information contact: centerdd@hotmail.com or multikultura@mt.net.mk

15th July

Project for recreation of the children refugees and welfare cases implemented by Association of Roma Women “ESMA”

Financially supported by the Swiss Embassy in Macedonia, the Association of Roma Women “ESMA” implemented activities for the children refugees and social welfare cases. All activities were implemented between June 26 and July 15, 2002. Some of the activities were: walk through Skopje, visits to the museum, Luna Park, ZOO, McDonald, as well as party in the ESMA premises.

150 children participated in the project aged between 7 and 13 years old.

For further information: esma@mt.net.mk

18th July

Meeting for Improvement of Inter Ethnic Relations through Education and Confidence Restoring organized by NGO “Multikultura” Tetovo

NGO “Multikultura” from Tetovo in cooperation with Nansen Dialogue Center from Skopje organized a meeting with the teachers from High schools in Tetovo. The contents of the meeting were multiethnic issues. It was held in the premises of ECMI Regional Resource NGO Center Tetovo. Facilitator of the training was Katherine Stoessel, consultant and trainer for peace building in the Karuna Center for Peace Building.

The aim of the meeting was confidence restoring and improvement of the interethnic relations through educational system. Large number of questions and solutions for certain problems that need to be done by the school teachers were discussed.

The conclusion was that in September/October a seminar should be organized on topics like democracy, human rights, education and other similar topics.

For further information: multikultura@mt.net.mk

IV. 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	Vesejl Saiti	042 216 166	Ul. JNA 294 Gostivar	ecmigostivar@ecmingonet.org.mk
ECMI Regional Resource Centre Kumanovo	Xeladini Mendu	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	Emilija Puzderlieva	032 382 510	Vanco Prke 62/3-2 Stip	ecmistip@ecmingonet.org.mk