

ECMI NGO Network Newsletter No. 9, September 2002

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1. News from ECMI NGO Network

September 6th

ECMI NGO Network

Presentation of the ECMI NGO Network to the Head of Office of the Canadian Embassy

The ECMI Regional Representative presented the ECMI NGO Network and its activities to the Head of Office Mr. Habib Massoud. The Canadian Embassy in the past has funded projects by some of the Network members. Mr. Massoud was invited to visit the six ECMI Regional NGO Centers to meet with the members and visit their project sites.

September 11th

ECMI NGO Network

Director of the ECMI visits Macedonia Project

Mr. Marc Weller, Director of the European Centre for Minority Issues visited the ECMI Regional Office in Skopje. The visit was part of the regular field trips undertaken by the Director of ECMI to monitor and advise the field teams of the organization.

September 17th

ECMI Branch Office Skopje

Field visit of the Program Manager to the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Shtip

The meeting was held with Mr. Shenaj Osmanov, the Coordinator of the RC Shtip and the members of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Shtip.

We discussed the status of the associative members and applications for membership. The process of having associate members was explained and the importance that

the associative members need have the rights provided with the associative membership.

During the meeting a schedule for open forums in Shtip was decided upon. ECMI members identified the topics to be covered.

Regarding generating new project proposals it was agreed to increase the cooperation among all members in RC Shtip and create a team who will work on Project Proposal development. The forums are expected to generate project proposals, which will attempt to address the needs of the community.

At the end of the meeting the president of "Active for Independent Initiative" informed all members about the progress of the "Election fair play" project.

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September 19th

ECMI Branch Office Skopje

Field visit of the Program Manager to the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo

The meeting was organized with the coordinator of the RC Kumanovo, Mr. Feat Kamberovski, members of the Humanitarian Association "Majka", Association of Albanian Women "Bless", S.O.S. and the coordinator of the recently established "Youth Active" chapter of the RC Kumanovo.

Adoption of a schedule for open forums, the progress of ECO PP, and the implementation of Puzzle project by Association of Albanian Women "BLESS" and S.O.S. Kumanovo were discussed at the meeting.

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September 23th

ECMI NGO Network

Presentation of the ECMI NGO Network to the Danish Refugee Council

The ECMI Regional Representative presented the ECMI NGO Network and its activities to the Country Director of the Danish Refugee Council Mr. Troys Viktor Daalgard. He invited Mr. Daalgard to collaborate with member NGOs from the Network through the ECMI Regional Centers around the country. Many of the Network members possess experience working with refugees and IDPs and some even with the DRC.

September 24th

ECMI NGO Network

Meeting with the Macedonian Institute for Media

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss with the management of the Institute training opportunities for training for members of the ECMI NGO Network. The Media Institute has cutting edge technology at its disposal for the training in media work. The Institute organizes courses on Public Relations for different sectors. More information on the activities of the institute can be obtained at www.mim.org.mk or may be requested by e-mail mim@mim.org.mk

September 24th

ECMI NGO Network

Presentation of the activities of the ECMI NGO Network to the Anatolian Development Foundation

The ECMI NGO Network and its activities were presented to Mr. Mehmet Belul, Country Director of the Anatolian Foundation, Branch Office Skopje. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss support by the foundation for initiatives of the members of the ECMI NGO Network. The foundation is considering initiating collaboration with the Network members through the six ECMI Regional Centers. More information on the activities of the institute can be obtained at www.akv.org.tr or may be requested by e-mail akv_macedonia@hotmail.com

September 25th

ECMI NGO Network

Presentation of the activities of the ECMI NGO Network to the Austrian Embassy in Skopje

The ECMI NGO Network and its activities were presented to Mr. Mihael Pal, First Secretary of the Austrian Embassy. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss support by the embassy and the Austrian government for initiatives of the members of the ECMI NGO Network.

September 27th

ECMI NGO Network

Presentation of the activities of the ECMI NGO Network to the Community Self Help Initiative (CSHI) of the USAID implemented in Macedonia by the Louis Berger Group

The ECMI NGO Network and its activities were presented to Mr. Michael Wallace, Chief of Party. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss support by the program for initiatives of the members of the ECMI NGO Network. The aim of the CSHI is to foster self-determination at the community level. The expected results of this initiative are: partner communities are using open and collaborative planning approaches to prioritize and resolve community needs; ethnic minorities within communities are well integrated into self help committees and working jointly to solve community problems; communities are able to prepare community services or small infrastructure projects, manage or implement the ensuing work, and maintain the service or facility; communities are encouraging employment and local economic growth through labor intensive service and infrastructure projects; and local contractors, preferably Small and Micro Enterprises, are benefiting from contracts generated through CSHI funding

September 27th

ECMI NGO Network

Visit by Research Fellow from the J.F. Kennedy School of Government at the Harvard University

Maria Koinova, Research Fellow at the J.F. Kennedy School of Government at the Harvard University visited the ECMI Regional Office in Skopje. The visit was part of the research activities of Ms. Koinova on the role of the International NGOs in post conflict situations. She was introduced to the ECMI NGO Network and Resource Centers project and the challenges being faced by the NGO sector in the country.

September 30th

ECMI Branch Office Skopje

Project Proposals submitted to ECMI BO Skopje

During the month of September the ECMI BO Skopje received the following project proposals:

"Vocational trainings" from the Roma Women's Organization "DAJA", Kumanovo.

Also in the month of September the ECMI BO Skopje worked on finalizing the project proposals received in the previous month:

"We and Our Prejudices" from the Association for Open Communication, Bitola.

"Narcotics- Millennium Evil" from the Association of Roma from Tikvesh, Kavadarci.

"Quiz" from Center for Culture and Constructive Action -
"NEVEN", Skopje

"Culture - Bridge for Cooperation" from MULTIKULTURA,
Tetovo.

Following the process of evaluation, ECMI has taken a
positive view on the submitted project proposals, and
they are in the process of further discussions.

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September 30th

ECMI NGO Network

**Representatives of the Coordinating Body of the ECMI NGO
Network participate at the Regional NGO Fair in Timisoara,
Romania**

Euroregional Centre for Democracy, Timisoara Romania from 26
to 29 September organized NGO Fair where 180 NGOs from
Southeast Europe presented themselves. Ms. Elizabeta
Markovska and Mr. Senat Bequiri represented the "ECMI NGO
Network for the Improvement of Interethnic Relations in
Republic of Macedonia" at this event.

On the exhibition stand all documents of the Network were
presented (Memorandum of Cooperation, Contact Lists, Network
Newsletters and Reports), as well as materials from the
NGOs, members of the Network. The attendance at the fair was
satisfactory.

Several workshops were organized on different topics too:
Regional Development, Cooperation with the Local government,
Business Sector and NGO Sector, Possibilities for Financing
in Southeast European Countries.

The representatives of the ECMI NGO Network attended the
workshop lead by Mr. Michael Miller, President of the US
Agency for International Development. The presence of the
Donors in Southeast Europe was emphasized at this workshop
as well as the possibilities for partnership and networking.

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

or Ms. Markovska emarkovska@yahoo.com, Mr. Bequiuri

mngo@post.com

Activities of ECMI NGO Regional Resource Centres

September 4th

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo

Established "Youth Active" chapter within the ECMI Regional Centre Kumanovo

Twenty-two representatives from eleven members of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo participated in the meeting where the "Youth Active" chapter was established. This chapter will function as a part of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo. Young people between the ages of 17 and 28 years are the target group for the activities of the chapter. At the same meeting, a Coordinating Body of the chapter was established consisting of eleven members including Coordinator, Deputy Coordinator and Secretary. Zaklina Stojkovska, of the Humanitarian Association "Majka" will serve as the coordinator of the chapter. The aim of the chapter is to work on the improvement of interethnic relations among young people in Kumanovo. The programs of the Youth Active chapter are in process of being prepared. For more detailed information contact ecmikumanovo@ecmingonet.org.mk with "Youth Active" in the subject heading.

September 6th

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Gostivar

Open Forum - Education, Possibilities and Conditions

Members of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Gostivar organized an open forum about opportunities and conditions present in the realm of education in Gostivar Municipality. Representatives of the NGOs were present at the Forum, as well as the ECMI Regional Representative, Mr. Sunoor Verma. After fruitful discussion a team of three NGOs that are members of the Regional Centre is forming with the task to develop a project proposal that will address the findings of the forum. The proposal will then be submitted to the ECMI Branch Office Skopje.

E-mail: ecmigostivar@ecmingonet.org.mk

September 10th

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo

Open Forum - Women and their Position in the Society

The Open Forum "Women and their Position in the Society" was organized on the premises of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo. Ms. Simka Delevska, president of the NGO "Happy Life" Supervisory Board facilitated the discussion. The forum was opened with the recitation of the poem "For Women" from the famous Macedonian poet Gane Todorovski. Encouraged by the message of the poem the women present at

the Open Forum were actively participating in the discussion. They listed reasons, which keep women in the lowest positions in the society as well as disrespect and disregard their rights. The position of women in all spheres of life was discussed touching the field of family and home, social life, politics and NGO sector. In conclusion, the need for continuous education was emphasized as a way to extract prejudices that keep women from reaching their fullest potential.

Participants at this forum were representatives of NGOs, Forum of Albanian Women, Local Governments from Zelino and Dzepchishte and local media.

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September 17th

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo

Meeting between representatives of PRONI Institute and the members of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo

The representatives of the PRONI Institute had meeting with the members of the ECMI RC Tetovo. The guests introduced the representatives of the NGOs with the project that will be implemented in the following year. It will be training and the members of the ECMI Network can participate in accordance to the conditions set for participation.

ecmitetovo@ecmingonet.org.mk

September 27th

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Shtip

Open Forum – Drugs, Alcohol and Prevention from AIDS

NGOs members of the ECMI Network in the Regional Centre Shtip organized an Open Forum on the issue of "Drugs, Alcohol and Prevention from AIDS". This forum held in the premises of the Local Government Shtip. Speakers presenting at the Open Forum were: Dr. Dijana Shishkova-Gajdardziska, Mr. Riste Arizankov - inspector in the Ministry for Internal Affairs Shtip and Ms. Lence Coneva - psychologist.

The forum was attended by a lot of people, accomplishing the goal of reaching a wide audience with accurate information and facts regarding drugs, alcohol and prevention from AIDS.

ecmistip@ecmingonet.org.mk

September 28th

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo

OSCE Representatives visited the Regional Centre

Mr. Bill O'Neil, Trainer for Human Rights and Mr. Joshua Bloom, representatives of the OSCE Mission in Tetovo meet with the Coordinator of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo Mr. Nadir Redzepi. Mr. Redzepi introduced the guests to the activities of the center. The guests were especially interested in the manner of organizing Open Forums and topics that are discussed. They expressed their interest in participating in future Open Forums as well as in helping in their preparation.

ecmitetovo@ecmingonet.org.mk

3. News from the Network Members

September 1st

New Edition of the Youth Magazine "Graffiti" - Association for Education, Culture, Ecology and Humanity "Millenium" Vrapchishte

The Association for Education, Culture and Lobbying "Millenium" with financial support from the Confidence Building Initiative (CBI - IOM) has published the second edition of the Youth Magazine "Graffiti".

mngo@post.com

September 1st

Implemented Project "Educational Campaign for the Voters from Vrapchishte" of the Association for Education, Culture, Ecology and Humanity "Millenium" Vrapchishte

During August, the Association "Millenium" implemented activities in the frame of the project "Educational Campaign for the Voters from Vrapchishte". The aim of the project was to educate the voters from Vrapchishte about the upcoming parliamentary elections in order ensure the fairness and transparency of the elections.

The project was supported by the Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia.

mngo@post.com

September 3rd

Association of Roma Women "ESMA" Premiers Play

The play titled "Me sijumcaj, romni taj daj" (transl. "I am a girl, a woman and a mother") was performed by the Association of Roma Women "ESMA". The V-DAY World Campaign against Violence on Women supported the project. The showing

took place at the Macedonian National Theatre and was enjoyed a large audience.

esma@mt.net.mk

September 5th

Open Forum "Priorities of the Citizens" organized by Youth Cultural Centre

Open Forum "Priorities of the Citizens" is one of the ten open forums, which are part of the project "Platform for Peace and Stability". The Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia and the British Government, through the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Department for Conflict Prevention are supporting the project. The aim of the project is to attract the attention of the politicians to the priorities and views of ordinary citizens. Five priority areas were included in the Open Forum with presentations by five key speakers:

Legal State - Mr. Zoran Karadzovski, Lawyer

Economic and Social Priorities - Ms. Pavlina Jankulovska, MA Management

Post-conflict Priorities - Mr. Miroslav Stojanov, MA Human Resources Management

International Status of Macedonia - Mr. Pece Cvetanovski, Political Scientist

Local Government - Ms. Elizabeta Markovska, Program Manager, Community Based Organization

For more information contact mkcbt@mt.net.mk

September 14th

Concert with the motto "Hey! Come Out and Vote! It is Important!!!" held on Bitola Square

As part of the project "Actual 2002", Youth Cultural Centre in cooperation with the NGO Coalition "Mozaik" organized a large concert on the Bitola Square. The Confidence Building Initiative and Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia supported the project. Local musicians and bands such as the "Fluor", "Promasena Investicija" and "Pampers", as well as Iskra Trpeva, Olgica Hristova, Vlado Janevski and Karolina Goceva performed as a way to get out the vote.

Approximately, two thousand people of different ages attended the concert.

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September 15th

Youth Cultural Centre - Coordinator of the Election Monitoring in Bitola and Demir Hisar

The non-governmental coalition "Most" organized monitoring of the parliamentary elections 2002 on the national level. Youth Cultural Centre as part of this coalition coordinated monitoring at 100 polling stations in the Municipalities of Bitola and Demir Hisar. 150 volunteers were trained for independent monitoring and contributed to fair and democratic elections.

E-mail: mkcibt@mt.net.mk

September 28th

Newsletter – Local Newspaper of the Municipality Vrapchishte, Project of the Association for Education, Culture, Ecology and Humanity "Millenium" Vrapchishte

The first number of the newsletter, which will cover local news and events, will be published in next six months. It is part of the project being implemented by "Millenium" and supported by Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation (MCIC). The activities of the Local Government, Local Community and "Millenium" will be covered in the newsletter. The aim is to provide more objective information for the population of Vrapchishte.

mngo@post.com

September 29th

Members of the Association for Progress, Education and Lobbying (PEL) Participants in the Training "NGOs Management"

Two representatives of the Association for Progress, Education and Lobbying (PEL) from Shtip participated in the first part of the training "NGO Management", held in Berovo, organized by Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia. The second part of the training will take place in November. The aim of the training was strengthening the capacities of the NGOs through obtaining skills for leadership, business and professional communication and NGO organization.

For more details contact nel@winning.com

September 30th

Humanitarian and Charitable Association of Roma "MESECINA" Continues with Implementation of the Projects

Three projects that were previously approved are continuing with their implementation. In the first phase the project "The Framework Agreement Possibilities Plus" includes organizing a seminar for 30 participants from NGOs and Political Parties. During the seminar comparison was made

between the Framework Agreement and the Framework Convention for National Minorities. In conclusion, recommendations were suggested about segments where the NGO sector could have more successful and complete implementation. The second project "Applicable Education for Roma", supported by Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation (MCIC) started with help for the children included in regular process of education at the beginning of the new school year. The activities that will follow include visits to other schools for exchanging experiences and contacts between pupils. The final phase of the third project "We are also for respecting and practicing the Human Rights", supported by the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights included preparation of the brochure and the report. E-mail: mesečina@mt.net.mk

September 30th

Computer Course for the members of the Association for Progress, Education and Lobbying (PEL) Shtip

In a two-month period nine members of the Association for Progress, Education and Lobbying (PEL), member of the ECMI Network participated in Computer Course, supported by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

All participants received certificates acknowledging newly acquired computer and Internet skills after successfully completing the final exam.

E-mail: nel@winning.com

 4. 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	Nebija Isnmaili	042 216 166	Ul. JNA 294 Gostivar	ecmigostivar@ecmingonet.org.mk
ECMI	Lidija	031 425	Lokalitet	ecmikumanovo@ecmingonet.org.mk

Regional Resource Centre Kumanovo	Stojanovska	456	Garnizon 1/1-2 Kumanovo	rg.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

We hope you have enjoyed this eight issue of the ECMI NGO Network Newsletter.

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If you have any comments or suggestions for improvement of this newsletter, please contact Marija Nashokovska at: nashokovska@ecmingonet.org.mk

*** End of this newsletter ***