

ECMI NGO Network Newsletter No. 10, October 2002

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October 2nd

ECMI Regional Office Skopje

Visit by German Delegation to ECMI Regional Office

A fact-finding mission headed by Dr. Marie-Janine Calic of the German Institute for International and Security Affairs visited the ECMI Regional Office in Skopje to discuss the work of the European Centre for Minority Issues in Macedonia and in South Eastern Europe. Members of the delegation were Mr. Ulrich Storck and Mr. Armin Hasemann. The challenges faced by the development sector in post conflict multiethnic settings were discussed. The functioning of the ECMI NGO Network and the six Regional Centers around the country were discussed in detail.

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October 7th

ECMI Regional Office Skopje

Presentation of the ECMI NGO Network to the German Ambassador H.E. Ms. Irene Hinrichsen

The Regional Representative of the ECMI Sunoor Verma met with the German Ambassador H.E. Ms. Irene Hinrichsen to present to her the activities of the organization in the country and in the region. He invited Dr. Hinrichsen also to visit the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centers around Macedonia.

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October 14th

ECMI Regional Office Skopje

Meeting between ECMI and PRONI Institute

A meeting was held between the Regional Representative of the ECMI Sunoor Verma and the Mr. Lars Olson Regional Manager of PRONI Institute of Sweden and Mr. Fadil Osmankovic, Project Manager. PRONI has recently initiated its program in Macedonia of training youth leaders in Conflict prevention and resolution. PRONI Institute works across ethnic divides in post conflict areas. In the former Yugoslavia, including Macedonia projects include work with all ethnical groups. PRONI Institute takes a three to five year view on each project in the Balkans.

The PRONI Office in Tetovo is collaborating with the ECMI Regional Centre Tetovo members. Further collaboration between PRONI and members of the ECMI NGO Network members was discussed. More information on the global activities of the PRONI Institute can be found at www.proni.se

October 22nd

ECMI NGO Network

ECMI NGO Network Coordinating Body Meeting

The ECMI NGO Network Coordinating Body met in the Regional Office Skopje to discuss about the activities of the Regional Centres, project proposals, and the coming General Assembly. Report of the meeting is available upon request.

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October 26th

ECMI NGO Network

International Conference "French-German Friendship- A Reconciliation Model for Balkan States"

Foundation Robert Schuman and Konrad Adenauer Foundation organized International Conference titled "French-German Friendship- A Reconciliation Model for Balkan States" in Belgrade, FR Yugoslavia. During the two days, four topics were treated with large number of speakers. Those topics were The Common Values of European Integration, building confidence through people, the technical process of the reconciliation and reconciliation in the Balkans: What Guidelines!

Ms. Suncica Miljkovic and Mr. Feat Kamberovski nominated by the Coordinating Body to represent the ECMI NGO Network participated at this event.

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October 29th - November 01st

ECMI NGO Network

NGO Fair - Forum of the Civil Society in Macedonia

All 43 members and 15 associative members of the Network participated at the NGO Fair - Forum of the Civil Society in Macedonia from 29th of October until 01st of November 2002, organized by Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation (MCIC), Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia (FOSIM), Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) and Catholic Relief Service (CRS).

The ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centres in Skopje, Tetovo, Gostivar, Kumanovo, Shtip and Bitola had rent stands to present the activities and membership. Furthermore, they had possibility to participate at the plenary and educative sessions as well as sector panels organized by the organizers of the event. Many members of the ECMI Network participated as key note speakers at the panel discussions on a wide range of topics related to the NGO sector. More about the fair can be read on www.mcims.org.mk

Activities of ECMI NGO Regional Resource Centres

October 4th

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo Meeting with the Representatives of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)

Ms. Sofie Berghald, Country Officer for Macedonia, SIDA Sweden, Ms. Annika Palo, Director - development Cooperation, SIDA Skopje Office and Mr. Sunoor Verma, Regional Representative, ECMI Regional Office Skopje visited the offices of several members of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre in Kumanovo.

Later they had meeting with Kumanovo members of the ECMI NGO Network.

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October 12th

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Bitola Meeting with the Representatives of the Donor Community in Macedonia

Meeting between the members of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Bitola and representatives of the Donor Community in Macedonia was held in the premises of the Centre. The members had an opportunity to meet the

representative of the British Embassy in Skopje Ms. Kristina Pota, DFID Program Assistant, Mr. Ljupco Stojanovski, Regional Coordinator for Planning and Development in United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Mr. Kim Benedict Jonsen, Program Officer in United Nation Development Program (UNDP). Present at this meeting were Ms. Violeta Nalevska, Advisor of the Bitola Mayor for cooperation with the NGO sector, ECMI Regional Representative Sunoor Verma as well as representatives of the Youth Active from the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre in Kumanovo. At the beginning, the Coordinator of the Centre Ms. Dijana Gorgievska introduced the guests with the previous and planned activities of the Centre. In addition, the representatives of the NGOs, members of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre presented their organizations and activities. The guests discussed with the Network members the functioning of the ECMI Regional Centre in Bitola, the benefits of being network members and the challenges being faced by the NGOs in Bitola. The representatives of the Donor Community informed those present about the programs and activities that are being implemented and supported by them in Macedonia.
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October 18th

**ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Gostivar
Open Forum – NGO Sector and Citizens**

The members of the ECMI RC Gostivar organized open forum on the topic "NGO Sector and Citizens" in the premises of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Gostivar. The facilitator of this open forum was Mr. Pajtim Saiti, Coordinator of the Resource Centre Gostivar. The main discussion was about the role of the NGOs in the civil society and the contribution they make in the community. All the members of the Resource Centre in Gostivar participated at the event, as well as representatives of the local government, Citizen's Information Centre, representatives of NGO's from the city and citizens. Present at the forum was Ms. Natasha Serdarevic of the Royal Norwegian Embassy.

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October 20th

**ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centres Bitola and Kumanovo
Participation at the Fair "Lifelong Learning Days"**

Members of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centres Bitola and Kumanovo participated at the fair "Lifelong Learning Days"

from 17 to 19 October. This fair took place at the Army Hall in Skopje and was jointly organized by Institute for International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association - project office Skopje and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. World - wide conducted Lifelong Learning Festival is aiming to introduce the idea of lifelong learning to the population of different countries as well as to the organizations that might be interested in further promotion of the idea of the lifelong learning.

All members of the Bitola and Kumanovo Centres were presented on the stands with their promotional materials. The number of participants at this fair was 68 organizations from Macedonia and abroad working in different fields.

For more information contact ecmibitola@ecmingonet.org.mk or ecmikumanovo@ecmingonet.org.mk

October 24th

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo

Open Forum - De-politicisation and Education of the Children in the Family

The topic on De-politicisation and Education of the Children in the Family was discussed at the open forum organized by the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo. Facilitators at the forum were Gulumsere Kasapi PhD from the Teachers` Faculty in Skopje and Vesna Damcevska Ilievska, psychologist. Both facilitators emphasized the role of the family, environment, media and schools in the politicisation of children. Prof. Kasapi also emphasized that this phenomenon has seen dramatic rise in the Republic of Macedonia, which can create unforeseeable consequences. According to Ms. Damcevska Ilievska, the family plays the most important role in de-politicisation of the children. Large number of people were present at the forum as representatives of the NGOs, International Organizations and citizens participated in the lively discussion. The local media were present at the forum as well.

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3. News from the Network Members

October 12th

Youth Cultural Centre - Bitola

Rock Happening in Bitola - "Bitola Open City"

Youth Cultural Centre in cooperation with partner NGOs, members of the European Centre for Minority Issues Network, Regional NGO Resource Centre Bitola organized Rock Happening on October 12, 2002. The concert was realized with support of European Centre for Minority Issues, Swiss Foundation for Culture Pro Helvetia, Confidence Building Initiative Bitola Office and the Council of Bitola Municipality. The initiative also received support from the private internet service provider - MT Net.

Prior to the concert a press conference was held at 11 a.m. Representatives of the media, local government, international donor community and many young people attended this press conference.

In the frame of the project, "Bitola Open City" a Network for Youth Multicultural Initiatives is being established with Youth NGOs as its members. Now the following ECMI NGOs are members of this Network: Youth Cultural Centre - Bitola, Multikultura - Tetovo, Millenium - Vrapchishte, Gostivar, CBC Loja - Tetovo, Youth Active of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo. Approximately 4000 young people attended the concert and spent several hours enjoying the multilingual, multiethnic rock music.

The concert is implemented as part of the Project "Bitola - Open City". This project started with implementation in July 2002 and all activities will be completed by the end of December 2002. For more detail information about the concert and the Youth Multicultural Initiatives Network, visit www.ecmingonet.org.mk contact mkcbt@mt.net.mk or contactecmi@yahoo.com

October 16th

S.O.S. - Kumanovo and Association of Albanian Women "BLESS" Presentation and Strategic Plan from the project "Puzzle"

The presentation took place in the Hotel "Kumanovo" in Kumanovo at 13:00 p.m. The lead NGOs for this project were S.O.S.-Kumanovo and Association of Albanian Women "BLESS" from Kumanovo. Other members of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo were partner organizations in implementation of the activities.

The aim of the project "PUZZLE" is restoring trust between the people of different ethnic groups in Kumanovo by addressing issues of common concern in the field of education. The presentation was very well attended by citizens, representatives of the local government, media and representatives of the donor community.

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October 31nd

"Step Forward for the Roma in the New Millennium" - Project implemented by Roma Organization of Women in Macedonia "DAJA"

Starting from the year 2000, DAJA implements the project - Education Centre and Legal Advice "Step Forward for the Roma in the New Millennium", supported by the Dutch Foundation NOVIB.

The Education Centre is long-term project through which generations of women, young girls and children will pass. Now, 3000 attendees visit the Education Centre.

The following activities are implemented in centre: English language courses with 100 visitors, computer courses with 98 visitors, kindergarten with 40 children, tailoring and sewing courses with 28 participants, hairdresser courses with 32 participants and library.

Main aim of the Office for Legal Advice is to help women in achieving human and citizen rights, especially the Roma women and women that are socially weak. For more detailed information, contact ROWM "DAJA" on daja@mt.net.mk

October 31

"Different, but equal" - New Project of the Youth Cultural Centre Bitola

The project "Different, But Equal" is supported by the Council of Europe, Program for Youth and Sport. The main activities are survey among 2000 young people from high schools and faculties in Bitola, Prilep and Ohrid in order to find out the level of education that young people have about human rights and three workshops for 20 young NGOs members from the above-mentioned cities.

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4. List of ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centres

Regional Centre	Contact Person	Telephone & fax	Address	E-mail
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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
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We hope that you have enjoyed this tenth issue of the
ECMI NGO Network Newsletter.

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contributions from the
Royal Danish Foreign Ministry, the British Embassy, Skopje
and the Royal Norwegian Foreign Ministry

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 ***