

ECMI NGO Network Newsletter No. 11, November 2002

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1. News from ECMI NGO Network
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**November 04**

**ECMI NGO Network**

**ECMI meeting with AAR Japan**

The activities of the ECMI Network were presented to the AAR Japan. The Japanese International NGO AAR is planning to continue supporting next year small grants for projects aimed at children and health. The ECMI presented a list of members of the ECMI NGO Network and invited AAR Japan to contact the members through the Regional Centres or directly and explore scope of collaboration.

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**November 05**

**ECMI NGO Network**

**Presentation of the ECMI NGO Network to the USAID**

Regional Representative of the ECMI Sunoor Verma presented the activities of the ECMI NGO Network to Ms. Kathy Stermer and Ms. Melita Cokrevska of the USAID. Mr. Verma briefed them on the development of the Regional Centres in Skopje, Kumanovo, Shtip, Bitola, Gostivar and Tetovo. Mr. Verma suggested to the USAID representatives that the annual publication titled "NGO Sustainability Index" of the USAID be made available in Albanian and Macedonian languages, especially the sections on Methodology and Macedonia. He said that this would be a very useful document for the member NGOs of the Network. He also elaborated on the project development cycle at the Regional Centres.

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**November 06**

**ECMI NGO Network**

**Presentation of the SIDA-Sweden Strategy for Macedonia**

The ECMI NGO Network was invited to participate at the presentation of draft strategy for Sweden's development cooperation with Republic of Macedonia. SIDA is in the process of revising the development cooperation strategy with the Republic of Macedonia. The strategy in its final form, will be adopted by the Swedish Government by the end of 2002 and will be valid for the period 2003-2005. Representing Sweden were Mr. Staffan Herrström, Deputy Director General of SIDA ; Mr. Bo Elding, Head of Division, Division for Western Balkans; Ms. Sofie Berghald, Desk Officer for Macedonia, Division for Western Balkans; Ms. Britta Olofsson, Programme Officer, Division for Western Balkans; Mr. Jöran Bjällerstedt, Minister-Councillor, Embassy of Sweden, Office for Cooperation, Skopje; Ms. Annika Palo, Director of Development Co-operation, Embassy of Sweden/SIDA Skopje; Ms. Biljana Dzartova-Petrovska, Programme Officer, Embassy of Sweden/SIDA Skopje. The Coordinating Body of the Network nominated Ms. Suncica Milkovic; Ms. Yllza Ademi and Sunoor Verma to represent the Network. At the meeting many of those present applauded the open presentation of the aid strategy by a bilateral donor and expressed hope that other donors too would follow this approach.

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**November 13**

**ECMI NGO Network**

**"ARTE" TV Channel telecasts stories on the ECMI NGO Network members and their projects**

The European TV channel ARTE telecast a special story on the activities of the ECMI NGO Network in Macedonia with a special coverage of the Babylon Centre project implemented in the village of Tearce by the Centre for Balkan Cooperation "Loja" and of the project "Bitola- Open City" by the Youth Cultural Centre, Bitola. The story includes interviews with members of these organizations, and with the beneficiary of the projects. The ECMI Regional Office in Skopje provided background and coordination support to the film crew which came from the production house Kobalt in Berlin.

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**November 18**

**ECMI NGO Network**

**Presentation of ECMI activities to the War Torn Societies Project**

The ECMI Regional Representative Sunoor Verma called on the Director of the War Torn Societies Project Prof. Ferid Muhic. Initiated in early 2002 after more than one year of preparatory work, the project (implemented under the name "Project for Common Vision" - PEV) aims at supporting the peace and reconciliation process in the post-conflict period, strengthening democratic and socio-economic reforms and preventing violent conflict. The ECMI NGO Network and the Regional Centres were introduced to Prof. Muhic. The ECMI representative invited Mr. Muhic to consider approaching the Regional Centres for the hosting of discussions foreseen in the PEV project. ECMI presented a list of the Network to Mr. Muhic and invited him to contact them directly as these are resourceful NGOs experienced in bringing people together for discussion and constructive action.

[www.wsp-international.org](http://www.wsp-international.org)

**November 21**

**ECMI NGO Network**

**ECMI NGO Network Presented at the Program for Democracy Leadership Seminar**

At the seminar, organized by the Alumni Network of the program for Democratic Leadership a representative of the ECMI NGO Network Coordinating Body, Elizabeta Markovska presented the ECMI and the Network. The presentation consisted of information about the work of the ECMI Head Quarters in Flensburg, Germany, the project activities of the ECMI in the Balkans and the activities of the ECMI NGO Network. In details, the following issues were covered: establishing the processes of the network, working methods of the network, tools of the network, structure of the network, membership, resources and sustainability of the network implemented, ongoing and future projects. The presentation held in the presence of 25 participants attended the presentation, among them community leaders, political scientists, NGO representatives and representatives of public institutions from European Union and South East Europe countries.

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**November 22**

**ECMI NGO Network**

**Meeting with the Open Fun Football Project Team**

The ECMI Regional Office Skopje was visited by the Open Fun Football project team from Denmark to discuss their program in Macedonia for the year 2003. Present at the meeting were Mr. Ceno Aleksandrovski - Coordinator for Macedonia, Dragan Naumovski - Project Assistant, Nikolovska Aleksandra - Administrative Assistant and Charlotte B. Gregersen - Representative from Denmark.

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Web site of Open Fun Football School:  
[openfunfootballschoools.org.mk](http://openfunfootballschoools.org.mk)

**November 26**

**ECMI NGO Network**

**SIDA sector co-ordination meeting**

ECMI was invited to attend a sector coordination meeting for implementing partners organized by SIDA Sweden in Skopje. The update on the SIDA country strategy and challenges and trends in the development sector in Macedonia were discussed.

More information on [sidask@mt.net.mk](mailto:sidask@mt.net.mk)

**November 26**

**ECMI NGO Network**

**ECMI meeting with International IDEA Stockholm**

Mark Salter of the International IDEA Stockholm met with the ECMI Regional Representative Sunoor Verma to discuss activities of the ECMI in Macedonia. Mr. Verma presented to him the ECMI NGO Network and introduced briefly the upcoming political project of the ECMI in the year 2003 aimed at the stabilization of the Framework Agreement. Collaboration between the two organizations was discussed too.

[www.idea.int](http://www.idea.int)

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Activities of ECMI NGO Regional Resource Centres  
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**November 07**

**ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo**

**SIDA Sweden meeting with Regional Centre Tetovo members**

Mr. Staffan Herrström, Deputy Director General of SIDA; Mr. Bo Elding, Head of Division, Division for Western Balkans; Ms. Annika Palo, Director of Development Co-operation, Embassy of Sweden/SIDA Skopje and Ms. Biplane Dzartova-Petrovska, Programme Officer, Embassy of Sweden/SIDA Skopje visited the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo to meet with the Network members there and to meet with the SIDA implementing partner PRONI Institute. Mr. Fadil Osmanovic, Program Manager and his colleagues at the PRONI Macedonia made a presentation about their activities. This was followed by a presentation of the activities of the ECMI in Macedonia by the ECMI Regional Representative Sunoor Verma. Mr. Nadir Redjepi, in addition to chairing the meeting presented the activities of the Regional Centre in Tetovo. Mr. Bujar Luma, President of Centre for Balkan Cooperation "Loja" presented his views on the problems facing the NGO sector in Tetovo. This was followed by an active discussion. E-mail: [ecmitetovo@ecmingonet.org.mk](mailto:ecmitetovo@ecmingonet.org.mk)

**November 07**

**ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo**

**SIDA Delegation visits projects sites of ECMI NGO Network members**

Mr. Staffan Herrström, Deputy Director General of SIDA; Mr. Bo Elding, Head of Division, Division for Western Balkans; Ms. Annika Palo, Director of Development Co-operation, Embassy of Sweden/SIDA Skopje and Ms. Biljana Dzartova-Petrovska, Programme Officer, Embassy of Sweden/SIDA visited the project sites of two of the ECMI NGO Network members. They first visited the organization "Sonce" and their project activities- kindergarten; youth club; computer education; income generation for IDP women. This was followed by a visit to the Babylon Centre of CBC "Loja" in the village of Tearce. The staff members of both organizations explained in detail the challenges which they face on a daily basis in implementing their activities. The delegation was accompanied by ECMI Regional Representative Sunoor Verma

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**November 20**

**ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Shtip**

**Meeting with the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM)**

Representatives of the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) Pier Paolo Daniel and George Ekberg met the Coordinator of the ECMI Centre in Shtip Shenaj Osmanov. The guests were interested in learning about the mission and aims of the ECMI NGO Network, as well as the activities in the frame of the Network. Mr. Osmanov introduced the guests to the structure and activities of the Network as well as the future direction of operation and programming of ECMI.  
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3. News from the Network Members  
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**November 01**

**Roma Community Centre "DROM"**

**Implemented Activities in Frame of the Project - Family Centre "Mashkar Amende"**

In the frame of the project Family Centre, supported by the Initiative for Roma Culture, Institute Open Society - Budapest, Roma experts gave lectures about Roma culture, history, traditions and education. Members of the Family Centre met the pedagogues and the Coordinator of the Centre. During the consultative and information meetings, members obtained information about the present situation in the legislative, education and other fields affecting them that had been unclear to them. The project included group activities to improve family relations. The program of the Centre will last until January 2003. Since its inception the project has been promoted in local and national media (local media outlets - TV Kumanovo and TV Nova, national media outlets - MTV, TV BTR, TV Shutel and Radio Station Kanal 77).

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**November 05**

**Balkan Association for Friendship and Cooperation Bitola**

**Establishment of Centre for Sustainable Development**

The Balkan Association for Friendship and Cooperation Bitola, held a press conference to promote the Centre for Sustainable Development, located on the premises of the local community "Pande Kajzero" in Bitola. The activities

included renovation and adaptation of the building, resulting in an information-education room, three offices, a kitchenette and two toilets.

The press conference was attended by representatives of project sponsors, Mr. Paul Parks, Country Director, Institute for Sustainable Communities, Ms. Leanne Bayer, Program Officer, Confidence Building Initiative Bitola, H.E. Mr. Rafael Zerar, Canadian Ambassador in Hungary and representative of the local government D-r Nikola Kosturski.  
E-mail: [bafc@mt.net.mk](mailto:bafc@mt.net.mk)

#### **November 12**

##### **Association for Roma Rights Protection - Shtip**

##### **Project for Organizational Work**

Association for Roma Rights Protection has started initial preparation for implementing the project "Organizational Work", supported by the Danish Refugee Centre. The aim of the project is to strengthen the capacity of the association. The project foresees training for 20 members of the association as office assistants. Examples of training include introducing active volunteers to administrative procedures of the organisation, the training will last 6 days.

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#### **November 15**

##### **Youth Cultural Centre-Bitola**

##### **Start with the Youth Multicultural Initiatives Project Implementation**

Youth Cultural Centre has begun the groundwork for the project "Youth Multicultural Initiatives", supported by ECMI NGO Network in Macedonia. The aim of the project is to establish a youth network in the frame of ECMI NGO Network for Improvement of Interethnic Relations in the Republic of Macedonia that will address the cultural needs of youth. The formation of the network is a result of previous activities in the frame of "Bitola-Open City" project.

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#### **November 16**

##### **Cultural and Humanitarian association of the Turks "Chelebija" - Bitola**

##### **"Bitola Babam Bitola" Project Implementation**

November was the first month for the "Bitola Babam Bitola" project, in the frame of the Program for Improvement of Interethnic Relations, supported by the Foundation Open Institute Society Macedonia, King Baudouin Foundation, Charles Mott Foundation, with technical support from the Confidence Building Initiative Bitola and European Centre for Minority Issues.

The first activity was held on November 06 on the premises of the University Library "St. Kliment Ohridski". An exhibition of Turkish books published in Macedonia was enriched by a poetry evening organized for the occasion with the poets Todor Chalovski and Fahri Kaja reading their work. Ninety people attended the opening and in the following seven days 700 visitors saw the exhibition.

A recital performed by the actress Sabina Ajrula, co-sponsored with the Bitola House of Culture was held on November 15<sup>th</sup>. The recital was held both in Turkish and Macedonian. It was attended by over a 100 people and broadcast on the regional station "TV Terra".

The project will continue with other events in December and January. For detailed information about previous and future activities, please contact [celebi-bt@mt.net.mk](mailto:celebi-bt@mt.net.mk)

#### **November 19**

##### **MAJKA/Humanitarian Association - Kumanovo**

##### **Open Forum "Police Challenges in New Millennium"**

In cooperation with the Centre for Open Communication, Skopje, the multiethnic NGO network MAJKA organized an open forum in hotel "Kumanovo" on the issue of "Police Challenges in New Millennium". Prof. Dr. Trpe Stojanovski opened the event and Prof. Dr. Ljupco Arnaudovski and Ms. Dijana Tafcioska, a practicing lawyer made presentations.

Guests from local government, NGOs, state institutions and local media attended the open forum.

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#### **November 24**

##### **Association for Progress, Education and Lobby (PEL) - Shtip Participation in the Workshop - NGO Structure, Culture and Ethics and the Training for Family Violence**

Representatives of PEL participated in the workshop "NGO Structure, Culture and Ethics", organized by the Centre for NGOs Support, Shtip. 32 participants, representatives of NGOs attended the workshop. Among the presenters were Mr. Konstantin Petkovski PhD, Mr. Metodija Stojanovski PhD and

Ms. Pavlina Jankulovska, MA. The topics discussed were organizational structure, culture and ethics, determining factors affecting organizational culture, as well as the relationship between culture and subculture.

In addition, other representative of PEL participated in a training program about family violence. It is expected that after this training members of PEL will be included in combating family violence as trained and qualified personnel.

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### **November 30**

#### **Association for Progress, Education and Lobby (PEL) - Shtip Participation in the South East Europe Youth Network Conference (SEEYN)**

Representatives of PEL participated in the SEEYN Conference held in Ohrid on November 27-30. Representatives of more than 60 NGOs from the Balkans and beyond participated in the conference. The aim of the conference was the admission of new members and main discussions were about volunteer exchange and organizing work camps. At the end of the conference, PEL was invited to participate in training and volunteer exchange with the Network members.

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### **November 30**

#### **Youth Cultural Centre - Bitola, Associative Member of the South East Europe Youth Network Conference (SEEYN)**

At the autumn conference of the SEEYN, held in Ohrid from 27 to 30 November, attended by a representative of Youth Cultural Centre-Bitola, YCC became an associative member of the network. During the coming year YCC will be an associative member with no decision-making capacity. The South East Europe Youth Network is attempting to overcome the differences among the societies emerging from conflict situations by uniting young people in working together. The Network started with the idea that young people are future leaders of the society and its aim is to enable development of strong and lasting connection among youth organizations from the region in order to break prejudices and to build a culture of understanding, tolerance, equality, openness among young people from different countries in South Eastern Europe. More details about SEEYN can be found at [www.seeyn.org](http://www.seeyn.org).

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 4. List of ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centres  
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<b>Regional Centre</b>	<b>Contact Person</b>	<b>Telephone &amp; fax</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
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ECMI	Birgan	032 382	Vanco	ecmistip@ecmingonet.org.m

Regional Resource Centre Stip	Memedov	510	Prke 62/3-2 Stip	k
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We hope that you have enjoyed this eleventh 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](mailto:nashokovska@ecmingonet.org.mk)

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