

ECMI NGO Network Newsletter No. 12, December 2002

- 
1. News from ECMI NGO Network
  2. Activities of ECMI NGO Regional Resource Centres
  3. News from the Network Members
  4. List of ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centres
- 

- 
1. News from ECMI NGO Network
- 

**December 8 - 9**

**ECMI NGO Network**

**Annual General Assembly of the ECMI NGO Network for the Improvement of Interethnic Relations in the Republic of Macedonia**

The ECMI NGO Network for the Improvement of Interethnic Relations in the Republic of Macedonia held its end-of-year General Assembly Meeting on 8 and 9 of December 2002 at Hotel Continental in Skopje. At the meeting, the six Regional NGO Resource Centres presented their past project activities as well as their plans for the upcoming year. The Network's newly revamped and enhanced website was unveiled at the meeting. A new Coordinating Body made up of thirteen members was elected. Since the formation of the Network's predecessor, the "NGO Roundtable on Interethnic Relations in FYR of Macedonia," membership has grown steadily from 25 members in December 2000 to near 70 members in December 2002.

E-mail: [ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk](mailto:ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk)

[www.ecmingonet.org.mk](http://www.ecmingonet.org.mk)

**December 10**

**ECMI Regional Office Skopje**

**"Minorities in Democracy" – International Conference in Cooperation with Konrad Adenauer Foundation**

On 10 December 2002, ECMI and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation co-hosted a one-day conference at the South East European University in Tetovo on the topic of "Minorities in Democracy." Conference participants included experts of international renown on minorities in various countries, representatives of

international organizations, various embassies, the media, political parties, governmental and non-governmental sectors in Macedonia, as well as by students of SEE University. In addition to the Macedonian case in particular, conference panels addressed minority protection in South-Eastern Europe and minorities in democracies at large.

E-mail: [ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk](mailto:ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk)

[www.ecmingonet.org.mk](http://www.ecmingonet.org.mk)

[www.ecmi.de](http://www.ecmi.de)

[www.kas.org.mk](http://www.kas.org.mk)

### **December 17**

#### **ECMI NGO Network**

#### **Beginning of the Project Youth Multicultural Initiatives supported by ECMI NGO Network**

First of the series workshops held on December 17-18, 2002 indicated the start of the project Youth Multicultural Initiatives aiming to establish network of Youth NGOs in the scope of the ECMI NGO Network for improvement of interethnic relations in the Republic of Macedonia. This first project on national level and supported by the ECMI NGO Network. Leading NGO is Youth Cultural Centre-Bitola in partnership with NGOs members of the Network, as well as non-members NGOs acting in the field of youth and culture.

E-mail: [ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk](mailto:ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk)

### **December 23**

#### **First Meeting of the Coordinating Body of the ECMI NGO Network**

The first meeting of the newly elected Coordinating Body of the ECMI NGO Network for the Improvement of Interethnic Relations was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> of December at the ECMI Regional Office in Skopje. The agenda of the meeting included drafting of the action plan for the Coordinating Body. The Chairperson of the Coordinating Body Mr. Pajtim Saiti presided over the meeting. Among other, issues related with election of Coordinating Body Committieess members, plan of action of the Coordinatuing Body and Regional Centres for 2003, the position of the technical assistants and the project cycle were disscuised.

[ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk](mailto:ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk)

---

Activities of ECMI NGO Regional Resource Centres

---

**December 04**

**ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo**

**Representatives of the British Embassy visit the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo**

Members of ECMI NGO Network from Tetovo presented their activities as well as the activities of the Centre to the representatives of the British Embassy in Skopje. Guests were informed in detail about the activities of the member NGOs. The visitors were impressed by the numerous successfully organized open forums, which this Centre has been organizing for a long time. An indicator of their success is the large number of attendees and facilitators of different ethnic backgrounds, contributing to the improvement of interethnic relations in Tetovo.

E-mail: [ecmitetovo@ecmingonet.org.mk](mailto:ecmitetovo@ecmingonet.org.mk)

**December 12**

**ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo**

**Exhibition "Culture – Bridge of Cooperation"**

In the premises of ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo, exhibition of artists from Tetovo region was opened. Artists presented themselves with different art works. This activity was part of the project "Culture-Bridge of Cooperation" implemented by NGOs, members of this Centre, supported by the European Centre for Minority Issues. Considerable interest and visits for the exhibition confirmed the need of Tetovo people for this type of cultural events that will enable them to communicate, learn something new and introduce to each other.

E-mail: [ecmitetovo@ecmingonet.org.mk](mailto:ecmitetovo@ecmingonet.org.mk)

**December 24**

**ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo**

**Open Forum "Youth and Their Problems"**

An open forum on youth and their problems was held on the premises of ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre. The facilitator, Mr. Vase Trpevski, a social worker, fostered an open atmosphere in which the attendees, mostly young people, had a chance to express their opinions. Furthermore, an intergenerational discussion about which issues are relevant for which generation and changes in social norms and behaviour took place.

The participants concluded that young people need help and support in many spheres of their lives with problems they face on a daily basis. The primary role for helping them falls with the school as an educational institution and the family as the place where people are first socialized.

E-mail: [ecmitetovo@ecmingonet.org.mk](mailto:ecmitetovo@ecmingonet.org.mk)

---

### 3. News from the Network Members

---

#### **December 04**

#### **Association for Progress, Education and Lobbying - Shtip Campaign against Family Violence presented in Vlach Language on Macedonian Television**

The campaign against family violence started in November and continued in December, with presentation in Vlach language. The presentation lasting ten minutes was part of the Vlach program on Macedonian Television aiming to raise awareness of this issue within the Vlach minority, by using their mother tongue.

E-mail: [nel@winning.com](mailto:nel@winning.com)

#### **December 07**

#### **MAJKA/Interethnic Network – Kumanovo Traditional Humanitarian Manifestation “Tortijada”**

Taking place for the eighth time, MAJKA held its annual fundraiser “Tortijada”. Fifteen wonderful cakes were presented and all of them were sold at the auction organized during the event. The funds raised at this festive event will be used for philanthropic purposes. A portion of the proceeds has already been allocated for buying New Year’s packages for internally displaced children in the Kumanovo region.

E-mail: [yavku@freemail.com.mk](mailto:yavku@freemail.com.mk)

#### **December 09**

#### **Association for Progress, Education and Lobbying (PEL) - Shtip Participation in Training for European Volunteer Service (EVS)**

SEEYN Network conducted training for European Volunteer Service in Montenegro between December 05-09, 2002. Representative of PEL participated

in the training, along with three other representatives from Macedonia. The training was focused on working out the details regarding youth volunteer exchange among NGOs in Europe. One of the main objectives of the training was developing a joint project in which the obligations and responsibilities of NGOs included in this process, whether they are a host or a sender, would be precisely defined.

E-mail: [nel@winning.com](mailto:nel@winning.com)

### **December 11**

#### **Forum for Roma Rights "ARKA" - Kumanovo**

#### **USAID Annual Award "Sunshine"**

Forum for Roma Rights "ARKA" was recognized for successfully implementing the project "Centre for Education and Internet Café" by the "Sunshine" Award by USAID. "ARKA" is implementing the project in the scope of the Community Self-Help Initiative Program, an USAID partner. The project supported by USAID enabled the establishment of the centre through equipment and furniture procurement.

E-mail: [arka@arka.org.mk](mailto:arka@arka.org.mk)

### **December 12**

#### **MULTIKULTURA – Tetovo**

#### **Exhibition as Part of the project Culture-Bridge for Cooperation**

Implementation of the project Culture-Bridge for cooperation led by Multikultura with other members of the ECMI NGO Network Tetovo as partners began with an art exhibit. The exhibition took place on the premises of ECMI regional NGO resource centre Tetovo. A large number of photographs and other art work by artists from Tetovo region were presented. The artists, NGO representatives and media, as well as art lovers attended the event. The coordinator of the project Agron Baftijari opened the exhibition and used the occasion to present the objectives and expected results of the project.

All present agreed that events like this should happen more frequently, with the aim of not just presenting local artwork, but of also contributing to the cooperation and co-existence among the people from the Tetovo region regardless of their ethnic background.

E-mail: [multikultura@mt.net.mk](mailto:multikultura@mt.net.mk)

[www.multikultura.org.mk](http://www.multikultura.org.mk)

**December 13**

**Youth Cultural Centre-Bitola**

**Visit to Belgrade NGOs as Part of “Bitola-Open City Project”**

In accordance with the mission of “Bitola-Open City Project” to network and exchange avant-garde musical culture between the youth of Macedonia and other Balkan states, a team from the Youth Cultural Centre-Bitola visited Belgrade on December 12-13, 2002. The goal of the visit was to connect and network with cultural and non-governmental organisations in Belgrade, which is recognized as one of best centres for avant-garde music in Europe.

The idea for a Balkan Youth Festival was presented to Vladan Cerobic, music editor in Youth House-Belgrade and he expressed a positive reaction to the idea. In addition the representatives of YCC visited Cultural Centre-Rex, where a Rex Representative, Dusica Parezanovic introduced them with methods of work, membership management and sense of belonging as basic motivator for devoted engagement on behalf of their volunteers.

E-mail: [mkcibt@mt.net.mk](mailto:mkcibt@mt.net.mk)

**December 16**

**Consumers Organization of Macedonia – Branch Shtip**

**Open Forum “Osteoporosis and Diabetes”**

As part of their regular activities Consumers Organization of Macedonia-Branch Shtip, organized an open forum about health education in hotel “Oaza” – Shtip. The issues discussed at the forum were osteoporosis and diabetes. Dr. Snezana Markovic Temelkova facilitated the discussion.

E-mail: [opmstip@opm.org.mk](mailto:opmstip@opm.org.mk)

**December 17**

**Youth Cultural Centre-Bitola**

**Start of the Project Youth Multicultural Initiatives**

Hotel “Molika” hosted the participants of the first workshop initiating the establishment of a youth network in the frame of ECMI NGO Network. The participants included representatives of Youth Cultural Centre, Multikultura-Tetovo, Youth Active of ECMI regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo and Media Artes – Ohrid. Sunoor Verma, ECMI Regional Representative and Daniela Ralis, Program Manager in ECMI Regional Office Skopje participated and

contributed to this workshop. Dinah Zeltser, a US Fulbright Fellow conducting research on NGOs in Macedonia attended the workshop as well.

This workshop was the first in a series aiming to establish a Youth Multicultural Initiatives Network with a defined vision, mission, working directions and Memorandum for Cooperation and criteria for Network functioning. The next workshop is planned for January 2003.

E-mail: [mkcbt@mt.net.mk](mailto:mkcbt@mt.net.mk)

### **December 18**

#### **Association for Fight against Breast Cancer “New Side of Life” – Shtip Lecture “New Positions and Surgical Treatments of Breast Cancer”**

New positions and surgical treatments of breast cancer was title of the lecture held by Dr. Mitko Ristov, Head of Regional Centre for breast diseases, Medical centre Shtip. He presented new methods of breast cancer treatment. In addition he presented the techniques of surgical operations implemented in Macedonia and around the world.

Participants were very interested in this issue with lot of questions and intense discussions. The importance of early detection of breast cancer was strongly emphasized. Early detection has shown to be a contributing factor to decreasing surgical operations. One of the main tasks of the Association is to raise public awareness about breast cancer and to unite all women regardless of religious and ethnic background in struggle against this disease.

E-mail: [novastr@freemail.com.mk](mailto:novastr@freemail.com.mk)

### **December 18**

#### **Cultural Association of Turks “Chelebija”-Bitola Monodrama “Bitola Babam Bitola”**

The third activity in the project “Bitola babam Bitola” took place at the House of Culture in Bitola. The Turkish actor Selaetin Bilal performed the monodrama “Bitola babam Bitola”. The monodrama was attended by over 110 citizens of Bitola and performed simultaneously in Turkish and Macedonian. The performance was filmed and broadcast on the local station TV Tera.

E-mail: [celebi-bt@mt.net.mk](mailto:celebi-bt@mt.net.mk)

### **December 20**

#### **ORT – Association for Information, Training and Sustainable Development – Skopje**

### **Open Forums as Part of the Project “Roma Woman Has the Right to Live Without Violence”**

In December in Kicevo, in cooperation with ORM “Bela Kula” as a partner, ORT organized two open forums as part of the project “Roma woman has the right to live without violence”. Around 50 Roma women participated in both forums. In the first one titled “Women’s rights and possible solutions for solving family violence” the issue was treated from the legal aspects and all participants received brochures outlining their rights and obligations as well as contact information for centres working on family and domestic violence. The second forum was a continuation of the former titled as “Sociological treatment of family violence” where the same issue was treated from sociological aspects. The Roma women showed a lot of interest at both open forums.

E-mail: [ortk@mt.net.mk](mailto:ortk@mt.net.mk)

### **December 22**

#### **Association for Progress, Education and Lobbying - Shtip Seminar for Establishing Contacts**

Representative from PEL participated at a networking seminar in Portugal, December 16-22, 2002, as one of 20 NGO representatives from around Europe. European Commission supported the seminar and the participants were introduced with EC programs and worked on projects proposal developments that have already been submitted to EC for funding. The aim of developing such projects is strengthening the cooperation among NGOs in Europe.

E-mail: [nel@winning.com](mailto:nel@winning.com)

### **December 24**

#### **Group “Felix” – Bitola**

#### **Esma Redzepova Teodosievska visited the Day Centre of Group “Felix”**

The honorary representative of UNCHR and doyen of Roma music in Macedonia, Esma Redzepova Teodosievska, visited the Day Centre run by Group Felix. Around 40 Roma children come to the centre daily and the visit of Ms. Redzepova was a pleasant surprise for them. Ms. Redzepova was interested in learning about the activities of the centre and children performed in her honour as part of their activities. In addition, the kids received small presents from Ms. Redzepova and a copy of her CD album. At the end, the guest expressed her gratitude to Felix for their vital work with Roma children.

E-mail: [didi@sonet.com.mk](mailto:didi@sonet.com.mk)

[www.felixbt.org.mk](http://www.felixbt.org.mk)

**December 26**

**MAJKA/Interethnic Network – Kumanovo**

**Ten-year Anniversary of MAJKA**

The ten year existence of MAJKA was commemorated with a formal session. Local Government representatives, the Mayor of Kumanovo, NGO representatives, donors and partners and associates of MAJKA were on hand to celebrate MAJKA's achievements. Using the occasion, the president of MAJKA presented a report about MAJKA's work in the past and implemented projects, as well as what MAJKA is planning for the future. In addition, certificates of appreciation were awarded to the associates of MAJKA.

E-mail: [yavku@freemail.com.mk](mailto:yavku@freemail.com.mk)

**December 30**

**MAJKA/Interethnic Network – Kumanovo**

**New Year Packages – Humanitarian Activity**

Around New Year and Christmas holidays MAJKA distributed packages to 80 children between the ages of 1 to 7, who are classified as IDPs. Half of the packages were provided by MAJKA's donation and the rest were provided by the generosity of local companies and institutions. Santa Claus was on hand to bring smiles and joy to the children receiving the packages.

E-mail: [yavku@freemail.com.mk](mailto:yavku@freemail.com.mk)

-----  
4. List of ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centres  
-----

<b>Regional Centre</b>	<b>Contact Person</b>	<b>Telephone &amp; fax</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
ECMI Regional Resource Centre Bitola	Marija Nashokovska	047 236 874	Ul. Josif Hristovski 4/4 Bitola	<a href="mailto:ecmibitola@ecmingonet.org.mk">ecmibitola@ecmingonet.org.mk</a>
ECMI Regional Resource Centre	Nebija Ismaili	042 216 166	Ul. JNA 294 Gostivar	<a href="mailto:ecmigostivar@ecmingonet.org.mk">ecmigostivar@ecmingonet.org.mk</a>

e Centre Gostivar				
ECMI Regional Resourc e Centre Kumano vo	Elena Stoilkovska	031 425 456	Lokalitet Garnizon 1/1-2 Kumanovo	ecmikumanovo@ecmingonet.org. mk
ECMI Regional Resourc e Centre Skopje	Gordana Cvetkoska	02 391 451 02 391 452	Ul. Drezdensk a 9 Skopje	ecmiskopje@ecmingonet.org.mk
ECMI Regional Resourc e Centre Tetovo	Elvira Murtezani	044 31 486	Ul. Ilindenska 97	ecmitetovo@ecmingonet.org.mk
ECMI Regional Resourc e Centre Stip	Birgan Memedov	032 382 510	Vanco Prke 62/3-2 Stip	ecmistip@ecmingonet.org.mk

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

-----  
The ECMI Project in Macedonia has been funded by generous 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](mailto:nashokovska@ecmingonet.org.mk)

\*\*\* End of this newsletter \*\*