

ECMI NGO Network Newsletter No. 8, August 2002

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1. News from ECMI NGO Network
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**18<sup>th</sup> August**

**Training in Denmark for NGO Managers from ECMI Network**

In the period from July 20 to August 17, five representatives of the ECMI Network (Ms. Mirjana Nikolovska from Union for the Culture of Vlachs in Macedonia from Skopje, Mr. Pajtim Saiti from the Permaculture and Peacebuilding Center from Gostivar, Mr. Nadir Redzepe 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) attended the training for NGO Management and Organizational Development in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Secretariat of the Ministry for External Affairs-FRESTA, Denmark financed this training. Twenty-four Managers from South East Europe participated at this training, which was intended for Managers from the second level in the NGOs. The Nordic Consulting Group offered them set of tools for analysis of the internal organizational structure as well as methods for planned work and sustainability of the organization. Each participant prepared draft document using the offered methods for analysis. Furthermore, until the end of September each participant should prepare assessment report for the conducted activities in the organization that refer to necessary changes for efficient development and sustainability of the organization. During October, the Consulting Group is going to visit each organization when the possible solutions will be reviewed and agenda for the second training will be prepared. The solutions will be presented on this second training in December in front of the Top Managers (Directors).

In the frame of the first training, the participants visited NGOs in Denmark. In these occasions representatives of the host NGOs presented their work, financial resources, plans, experiences etc. For more information or contact with the participants, send e-mail on [ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk](mailto:ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk)

**19<sup>th</sup> August**

**Norwegian Summer Ambassador H.E. Ms. Hilde Janne Skorpen visits ECMI Branch Office Skopje**

H.E. Ms. Hilde Skorpen, the Norwegian Summer Ambassador to Skopje visited the ECMI office and discussed with the ECMI Regional Representative Sunoor Verma the experiences of ECMI in working with the NGO sector in Macedonia. The ECMI NGO Network, the ECMI Regional Centre

and projects developed by member organizations were presented to her. The ECMI Macedonia project has been co-funded by the Royal Norwegian Foreign Ministry.

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

### **23<sup>rd</sup> August**

#### **Norwegian Summer Ambassador visits the Tearce and Tetovo Babylon Centers run by Centre for Balkan Cooperation "Loja"**

On the invitation of the ECMI, H.E. Ms. Hilde Skorpen, the Norwegian Summer Ambassador to Skopje visited the "Babylon Centre"- a project being administered successfully by Network member CBC "Loja". H.E. Ms. Skorpen spoke to the volunteers working at the Centre, children and their parents. A meeting was also organized with the Mayor of Tearce Mr. Lokman Elezi who briefed the Ambassador on the problems being faced by the residents of the Tearce municipality. The Mayor underlined the importance of initiatives such as the Babylone Centre in restoring the confidence of the citizens. He also spoke extensively on the reconstruction of houses in the area, which had been damaged in the armed conflict of the year 2001. Impressed with the functioning of the Tearce and Tetovo Babylon Centers H.E. Ms. Skorpen expressed her preparedness to make a recommendation to her government for further support to this project. The Tearce Babylon Centre is funded by CIDA Canada until September 2003 whereas the Tetovo Babylon Centre has run out of funding since May 2002 (also funded by CIDA- Canada) but is being run through contributions from volunteers and sporadic private donations.

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### **28<sup>th</sup> August**

#### **Meeting with the Norwegian Football Association**

An information exchange meeting was held between ECMI and Mr. Hans Finsted of the Norwegian Football Association and Mr. Ceno Aleksandrovski of the project Open Fun Football Schools. The guests were provided with a list of ECMI Network members and were invited to contact them through the ECMI Regional Centers to discuss collaboration at the regional level.

The Open Fun Football Schools are organised on a concept originating from the Danish Football Association. Its basic idea is a "Fun Concept": What is important is the playful aspect, the joy derived from playing, rather than the results, the score, the advancing skill levels. The many exercises and small games are so designed as to make everyone feel successful repeatedly. During a whole week, the kids get to live football, concentrating and immersing themselves completely in the game and the fun.

Open Fun Football Schools was transferred for the first time to war-torn Bosnia Herzegovina in 1998. It is built from the memory of broken communication lines and the immobility of the war, so harmful to peace and the public's mental health. Using ball games and pure play, the schools aim to be a strategic instrument to move people, physically and psychologically, across the numerous, invisible front lines that still cut through the country. Thus, they aim to counteract the fear and

claustrophobia of war and stimulate the process of minority return by re-establishing old but broken friendships and sport co-operation among the football clubs involved, their trainers, leaders and the children.  
**For more details visit the web site [www.openfunfootballschoools.org.mk](http://www.openfunfootballschoools.org.mk)**

### **31<sup>st</sup> August**

#### **Project Proposals submitted to the ECMI Branch Office Skopje**

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

- "We and Our Prejudices" from the Association for Open Communication, Bitola and partner NGOs.
- "Narcotics- Millennium Evil" from the Association of Roma from Tikvesh, Kavadarci and partner NGOs.
- "Quiz" from Center for Culture and Constructive Action - "NEVEN", Skopje and partner NGOs
- "Culture - Bridge for Cooperation" from MULTIKULTURA, Tetovo and partner NGOs.

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

For more information, contact the Program Manager Ms. Daniela Ralis [ralis@ecmingonet.org.mk](mailto:ralis@ecmingonet.org.mk)

### **31<sup>st</sup> August**

#### **Ongoing Projects of ECMI NGO Network Members financed by the European Center for Minority Issues**

The following four projects are in the stage of implementation from the ECMI NGO Network members:

1. **"Election Fair Play"** of the Active for Independent Initiative, member of ECMI Regional NGO Resource Center Shtip. The following NGOs are included as implementing partners: Association for Progress, Education and Lobbying (PEL) Shtip, ASM "Aurora" Shtip, Association of Roma Rights Protection (ARRP) Shtip, Association of Roma from Tikvesh Kavadarci, "Romani bah" Veles, ASP "Hope" Kochani, Women organization form Sv.Nikole.

The implementation started on August 1 and will finish on September 30. The overall goal is to increase the knowledge of the electorate, especially of the marginalized groups, such as youths, women and the ethnic minorities of their rights, and obligations during the election processes.

2. **"Bitola-Open City-Youth Rock Happening"** of the Youth Cultural Center, member of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Center Bitola. Other members of the RC Bitola are included as implementing partners

The implementation started in August and it will last for five months, i.e. until the end of 2002. The aim of the project is to organize an annual Balkan Inter-Ethnic Youth Music festival in Bitola and sustain the festival by establishment of youth cultural NGOs' network in the country and broadly in the region.

3. **"Puzzle"** of the Association of Albanian Women "BLESS", member of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Center Kumanovo. Other members of the RC Kumanovo are implementing partners. The implementation of the project was three months starting in June until the end of August.

Overall goal of the project is to restore trust between the people of different ethnic groups in Kumanovo by addressing issues of common concern in the field of education.

4. **"Multiethnic Radio Kumanovo"** of the Forum for Roma Rights "Arka", member of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Center Kumanovo. As implementing partners the following NGOs are included: Serbian Community from Macedonia, Association of Vlachs "HALCA AL BROVA", Interethnic Network "MAJKA", Organization of Roma Women "DAJA", Association of Turks, Association of Albanian Women "BLESS". The period of implementation is two months and the aim of this pilot project is preparation of a technical and legal analysis of the proposed multiethnic radio station to promote interethnic understanding and tolerance.

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## **August 2002**

### **ECMI NGO Network in the National Media**

Macedonian magazine on Albanian language "Familijare" carried in its August 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 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](mailto:ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk)**.

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2. Activities of ECMI NGO Regional Resource Centres  
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### **10 - 11<sup>th</sup> of August**

#### **ECMI Regional Centre Skopje**

#### **Project Proposal Development- Training**

Two intensive modules of "Project Proposal Development- Introduction to Basics and Basics" were held for members at the Regional Centre in Skopje. Twenty-two representatives of NGOs participated actively in the training.

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### **15<sup>th</sup> August**

#### **ECMI Regional Centre Tetovo**

#### **Center for Balkan Cooperation "LOJA" and ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre, Tetovo organize farewell meeting for the Head of Office of the Canadian Embassy in Skopje H.E. Mr. Terrance L. Mooney**

In honor of the departure of Head of Office of the Canadian Embassy H.E. Mr. Terrance Lorne Mooney, Center for Balkan Cooperation "LOJA" in cooperation with the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Center Tetovo organized a farewell meeting.

Representatives of Diplomatic Missions in Macedonia - Norway, Sweden, Austria, the Netherlands attended this event. Furthermore, the Mayors of Tetovo, Tearce, Dzepchishte, Vratnica and Jegunovce were present as well and expressed their gratitude for the work done by H.E. Mr. Mooney in the Tetovo region before during and after the armed conflict of 2001. Among the other present at the event were the representatives of International Organizations and agencies- Mercy Corps, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and International Organization of Migration (IOM), representatives of the ECMI Branch Office Skopje, local NGOs and media.

Mr. Bujar Luma, the Executive Director of CBC "LOJA" officially opened the event with a brief review of the cooperation between "LOJA" and the Office of Canadian Embassy. He pointed out that this Embassy enabled the friendly cooperation among children from different ethnic background in the Babylon Center. The idea of opening such a Centre in Tearce was a natural extension of the Tetovo initiative. According to Mr. Luma, these Centers operate in a best possible manner and have large influence on the development of children's psychophysical condition. Then, Sunoor Verma Regional Representative of ECMI spoke on the importance of the NGOs coming together in coalitions to address community based interethnic needs. He emphasized also on the importance of close interaction with the donors, so that grass root concerns can be heard by the funding agencies. He thanked H.E. Mr. Mooney for always being accessible to the grass root NGOs at all times.

At the end, Mr. Mooney discussed about the role of NGOs in the development of Civil Society. He spoke about the importance of NGOs being mission and beneficiary oriented. He also elaborated on the contribution made by his government in improving the post conflict situation in Macedonia. A modest cocktail followed the speeches. The full text of the speech of Mr. Mooney will be soon available in Albanian, English and Macedonian on the web site [www.ecmingonet.org.mk](http://www.ecmingonet.org.mk)

**E-mail: [cbcloja@yahoo.com](mailto:cbcloja@yahoo.com)**

### **23rd August**

#### **ECMI Regional Centre Tetovo**

#### **Meeting of the Regional Representative Tetovo members of the ECMI NGO Network**

The Tetovo members of the ECMI NGO Network met with the Regional Representative Sunoor Verma to discuss the drafting of new project proposals, which have been based on the findings of the three Open Forums organized by this Centre on local issues related to the topics of Unemployment, Culture and Ecology. Through these for a the common citizens of Tetovo as well as experts in the respective field have had the opportunity to voice their concerns, hence basing projects on these ideas would ensure that they address the needs of the community. At the same time members underlined that, this objective beneficiary orientation would ensure the sustainability of the initiative.

**[ecminkd@ecmingonet.org.mk](mailto:ecminkd@ecmingonet.org.mk)**

### **29<sup>th</sup> August**

#### **ECMI Regional Centre Kumanovo**

#### **Field Visit of the ECMI Program Manager to the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Center Kumanovo**

The Program Manager Daniela Ralis visited the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Center Kumanovo. She had meeting with Mr. Feat Kamberovski, the Coordinator of the ECMI RC Kumanovo and the members of the Resource Centre with the aim to discuss the possibility of encouraging the young members (participants of the Project Proposal Development training) to participate more actively in the process of writing proposals.

Furthermore, the idea of the Kumanovo members of initiating a Youth NGO Activists' Network within the Regional Centre was discussed.

During the meeting, it was decided that computer lessons, organized and kindly provided to members by "Daja" would commence from 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2002 and each organization will be able to enroll two participants.

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## **29<sup>th</sup> August**

### **ECMI Regional Centre Tetovo**

#### **Representative of OSCE Mission in Tetovo visited the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Center Tetovo**

Mr. Joshua Bloom visited the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Center Tetovo where he had short meeting with Mr. Nadir Redzepe, Coordinator of the Center. Mr. Bloom was interested about the organizational structure of the Network, as well the structure of the NGOs members in the ECMI RC Tetovo. Furthermore, Mr. Redzepe introduced the guest with the tendency expanding the membership in ECMI RC Tetovo. In addition, Mr. Bloom was introduced with implemented and ongoing projects of the members as well as with the beneficiaries. Mr. Bloom suggested some issues that can be included in projects like confidence building, governing of a law, family violation and other actual issues.

At the end, Mr. Bloom wished successful future work of the ECMI RC Tetovo and its members.

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3. News from the Network Members  
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## **1<sup>st</sup> August**

### **Roma Community Center "DROM" - Kumanovo opened the Family Center for the History, Language and the Tradition of the Roma People**

On August 1, Roma Community Center "DROM" started with the realization of the project "Family Center Maskar Amende (in translation "Between Us").

The center will be open for all citizens of Kumanovo of all age groups, to people that are interested to learn and share their personal knowledge for the Roma culture, history and origin.

The lectures will be organized once in a week with presentations of eminent experts that promote the Roma culture, tradition and the habits. The center has multi-language library with information about the issues that will be addressed in the lectures.

Interested people can visit the center to read daily newspapers and interesting literature on Roma language. The library will have printed, video and audio material.

**Appeal:** All individuals who have any kind of material considering Roma culture, tradition, history etc, may donate for enrichment of the Family Center Library. In addition, for all interested we can provide materials via mail.

**For more information about the regular activities, please contact Asmet Elezovski and Suzana Memedovska on [drom@soros.org.mk](mailto:drom@soros.org.mk)**

**1<sup>st</sup> August**

**The first phase of the project "Through Employment-Contribution to the Community" implemented by Humanitarian Association of Roma in Macedonia "Sonce" Tetovo completed**

The first phase of the project "Through Employment-Contribution to the Community", which has lasted three months was completed at the end of July. Nine women from different nationalities fulfilled the production plans for linen, which were distributed through outlets in Macedonia. The employees received their monthly honorariums on time. After one-month vacation, they will start their work again in a new registered company for linen production if the Donor Agency Mercy Corps continue their support for the program.

Through this project, 600 linen sets are produced monthly. The income from the sale is used for honorariums of the employees, for raw materials, running costs and contributes to the sustainability of the Association.

**For more information, please contact: [khamnrrp@sonet.com.mk](mailto:khamnrrp@sonet.com.mk)**

**16<sup>th</sup> August**

**"Citizens Education for the Election" - Open Forum organized by "Multikultura" Tetovo**

In the premises of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Center Tetovo, member of this Center and member NGO "Multikultura" organized an Open Forum about informing and educating citizens for the election process. Ms. Svetlana Jordanovska, Graduated Lawyer and Mr. Ilir Huseini, Advanced University Student at the Law Faculty in Skopje were facilitators of this Forum. Particular attention was paid to the Election Law, especially the part on the rights and responsibilities of the voters. Large number of the present citizens from NGOs, Local Community and Media joined the discussion. They were interested about the procedures when the voters' rights are violated. In addition, Mr. Vulnet Zenki, Executive Director of "Multikultura" responded to certain questions asked by those present.

**More details on: [multikultura@mt.net.mk](mailto:multikultura@mt.net.mk)**

**19<sup>th</sup> August**

**Start of the Project "Superficial Reconstruction of the B.Toska Street" - Humanitarian Association of Roma in Macedonia "Sonce" Tetovo**

HARM "Sonce" has started the project for reconstruction of a street where Roma population lives. The UNHCR Program for Quick Impact Project finances this project costing \$ 7.884. This project foresees superficial digging and installation of concrete cubes on 450 m<sup>2</sup>. The implementation of this project is the first larger reconstruction success in ninety years existence of this street as well as contribution in providing basic conditions for life and movement of the population.

Gratitude to the International Community, UNHCR and Local Government for approval of this project on behalf of the local Roma population.

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#### **21<sup>st</sup> August**

**Group "Felix" opened an exhibition "I want to learn, I want to be..." paintings and handmade creations by street children visitors of the Day Center**

In the exhibition hall of the House of Culture in Bitola, on August 21, Group Felix opened the exhibition "I want to learn, I want to be..." This exhibition was organized for the second time and has the tendency of becoming an annual feature. More than 300 drawings and handmade creations on different subjects were presented. The street children, primarily Roma that visited the Day Center of the Felix created all of them. The exhibits were on display for ten days, until August 31.

**For more detailed information visit [www.felixbt.org.mk](http://www.felixbt.org.mk) or send an e-mail on [didi@sonet.com.mk](mailto:didi@sonet.com.mk)**

#### **21<sup>st</sup> August**

**Meeting between the President of the Humanitarian Association of Roma in Macedonia "Sonce" Tetovo and Mr. Joshua Bloom, Representative of the OSCE Mission in Tetovo**

In the premises of HARM "Sonce" Tetovo, two hour meeting has held between Mr. Joshua Bloom, Representative of the OSCE Mission in Tetovo and Mr. Nezir Huseini, President of the HARM "Sonce". The situation of the Roma population in Tetovo was discussed, as well as possibilities for future cooperation in the field of Human Rights. Mr. Bloom was very pleased by the activities and equipment of the Association. He pointed out that these visits are very useful for OSCE Mission regarding relevant information and impression for the real capacities of NGOs in Tetovo.

**For more information: [khamnrrp@sonet.com.mk](mailto:khamnrrp@sonet.com.mk)**

#### **28<sup>th</sup> August**

**Conference on Education of Roma in Macedonia organized by the Roma Community Center "DROM" Kumanovo**

The Roma Community Center-DROM organized a conference on the Education of Roma in Macedonia from 25 to 27 August, in cooperation with the Macedonian Ministry for Education and Sciences

Experts from the Education Ministry and the Education Development Bureau, representatives of the NGOs that work on education matters, donors, media representatives, and foreign monitors attended the conference, which was financed by the Roma Participation Program.

This is a first conference in Macedonia organized by a Roma NGO in cooperation with the Education Ministry. So far, Roma were only participants at similar conferences organized by international organization.

At the conference, draft programs were prepared for future joint work for solving the Roma population's problems in the education area.

The participants worked in four groups: for kindergartens and primary schools, for secondary schools and universities, for adults' education, and a media group.

Moderators from the Roma NGOs, the Education and Sciences Ministry and the Education Development Bureau led the groups.

For more information contact [drom@soros.org.mk](mailto:drom@soros.org.mk)

### 31<sup>st</sup> August

#### **Youth Cultural Center-Bitola, Leader of the Regional NGO Coalition "Mozaik"**

During August a Regional NGO Coalition "Mozaik" has been established with motto "Hej! Come out and vote... It is important". This Coalition consists of twenty-five NGOs from Bitola, Prilep, Krushevo, Demir Hisar, Ohrid and Resen coordinated by Youth Cultural Center Bitola. Confidence Building Initiative, Bitola Office finance the activities and the beneficiaries are young voters from this region.

In the frame of the project "Aktuel 2002", this coalition organized two concerts in Prilep and Krushevo on August 30-31, 2002. Jazz Band "Chetkar" performed its music on these concerts and large number of young people from the region visited these concerts because of organized transportation.

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

### 31st August

#### **Youth Cultural Center - Regional Office for the Project "Internal Monitoring of the Parliamentary Election 2002"**

Youth Cultural Center is functioning as one of the 16 Regional Offices in Macedonia for the implementation of the project "Internal Monitoring of the Parliamentary Election 2002", financed by the National Democratic Institute in Macedonia. On the national level, the Citizen Association "Most" conducted this project.

The aim of the project is to provide fair and regular elections, while the main activities are directed toward increasing citizen awareness for their vote rights, as well as the need for registration of all citizens in the Uniform Election List.

The volunteers from Youth Cultural Center and other NGOs from the region will lead these activities. Stands on public places for distribution of the election materials are also foreseen as well as presence to the public performance of each political party.

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

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4. List of ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centres  
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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	<a href="mailto:ecmibitola@ecmingonet.org.mk">ecmibitola@ecmingonet.org.mk</a>
ECMI Regional Resource Centre Gostivar	Vesejl Saiti	042 216 166	Ul. JNA 294 Gostivar	<a href="mailto:ecmigostivar@ecmingonet.org.mk">ecmigostivar@ecmingonet.org.mk</a>
ECMI Regional	Xeladini Mendu	031 425 456	Lokalitet Garnizon	<a href="mailto:ecmikumanovo@ecmingonet.org.mk">ecmikumanovo@ecmingonet.org.mk</a>

Resource Centre Kumanovo			1/1-2 Kumanovo	
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

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

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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  
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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 \*\*\*