

ECMI NGO Network Newsletter # 16

ECMI NGO Network for the Improvement of Interethnic Relations in the Republic of Macedonia

This is Newsletter of the ECMI NGO Network for the Improvement of the Interethnic Relations in the Republic of Macedonia. This Network is a result of a joint initiative between the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI), in Flensburg, Germany and members of this Network. This Network will enhance the co-operation of the member NGOs towards the development and improvement of interethnic tolerance, respect for differences and dialogue among all those living in the Republic of Macedonia. In particular, this NGO Network aims to strengthen the capacities of the participating NGOs to generate joint projects and other initiatives with a strong interethnic dimension and to implement such initiatives.

News from the Network

April 14

ECMI NGO Network

Coordinating Body Meeting of the Youth Multicultural Initiatives Network (YMI)



The Youth Multicultural Initiatives Network held the first of its four coordinating meetings planned for the May – December period. The meeting was held in Ohrid on the 13th and 14th of April.

The agenda of the meeting included summarizing the results achieved by the founders of the network, completion of the Memorandum of Cooperation for the Network and planning for future activities.

Elizabeta Markovska was chosen as the Network Coordinator by agreement of the members of the Coordinating Body present at the meeting. She was selected to the position to ensure the continuity of the process and

in response to her extraordinary efforts in establishing the network.

YMI Network has drafted a financial strategy covering the year 2003. The proposal corresponds to the activities planned for the year. The Network has begun to identify and approach donors who will be invited to a donor's meeting soon.

Email: yminet03@yahoo.com

April 30th

ECMI Regional Office Skopje

Projects Implemented by Members of the ECMI NGO Network

The end of April marked the completion of three projects financed by the European Centre for Minority Issues. The three projects are:

“Family Violence? Yes it Exists!”, implemented by the Association for Progress, Education and Lobbying (PEL) in partnership with members of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Shtip.

“Interethnic Women's Forum”, implemented by the Union of Albanian Women – Bitola chapter in cooperation with members of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Bitola and

“Youth Multicultural Initiatives” implemented by the Youth Cultural Centre – Bitola in cooperation with partner organizations from other ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centres, who comprise the founding members of



the newly formed sub network with the same name in the frame of the ECMI NGO Network.

For more detailed information please contact the ECMI Regional office in Skopje at ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk

Activities of the ECMI NGO Regional Resource Centres

April 16

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Gostivar



Forum on 'Education as Precondition for the Improvement of Interethnic Relations in Gostivar Middle Schools'

The ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre hosted a forum on ways to improve communication between children of different ethnicities.

The forum was attended by a large number of parents, educators and NGO members. The fruitful discussion led to the following conclusion: implementing activities that will bring children together through street drawing competitions, ecological actions, masquerades, workshops on tolerance and non-violent communication, summer camps and similar activities.

Educators suggested holding common activities in schools on non-school days in order not to overload the curricula they are required to complete. The forum was covered by local media and organized by the Women's Organization of Gostivar, Union of Albanian Women –

Gostivar chapter and the Humanitarian and Charitable Association of Roma "Mesechina" from Gostivar.

Email: ecmigostivar@ecmingonet.org.mk

April 18

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo One Year Anniversary of the Centre

The one year anniversary of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo was marked with a celebration in Hotel Kumanovo. The centre's coordinator, Feat Kamberovski introduced the many guests to the work of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo, its member organizations and their activities. Lidija Ilievska followed with a presentation on the open forums the centre plans to hold in the future and Sonja Arsovska described the projects run by the centre. The NGO member representatives showcased completed and current projects. Promotional material in the form of brochures and flyers was distributed. Mr. Sunoor Verma, the ECMI Regional Representative in Macedonia presented an overview of the ECMI Network's work in Macedonia and the successes of its members.

Email: ecmikumanovo@ecmingonet.org.mk

April 20

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo "Project Proposal Development" Training for Members of ECMI NGO Network from Kumanovo

The yearly cycle of trainings for the members of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centres began with two-day training for representatives of the Kumanovo regional centre. During the course of the two-day training twenty representatives of NGOs learned about project proposal development, a skill required for the functioning of every NGO. All participants will receive a certification of participation.

Email: ecmikumanovo@ecmingonet.org.mk



April 23

**ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Gostivar
Workshop on 'Education as Precondition for the Im-
provement of Interethnic Relations in Gostivar Mid-
dle Schools'**



Thirty three children of various ethnicities, between the ages of 10 and 15, attended a workshop held at the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre in Gostivar. The workshop intended to build the children's skills for non-violent communication in multi-ethnic coexistence, strategy for communicating with children from different ethnicities and with parents and teachers. The motto of the workshop: "If we want to be in good relations with others, then we must be in good relation with ourselves." Each had the opportunity to follow the workshop in his/her mother tongue and the children's satisfaction was visible to the naked eye. The children shared the conflicts they experience in their daily lives, mostly related to their schools and brainstormed for solutions to be applied. The workshop, the forum held on April 16th, along with a surveying of parents' and teachers' opinions demonstrate a need for further work on this issue. Three NGOs, "Mesechina", Women's Organization of Gostivar and the Union of Albanian Women – Gostivar chapter are preparing a follow-up project to address the needs expressed by the participants.
Email: ecmigostivar@ecmingonet.org.mk

April 23

**ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Bitola
Site Visit by Representatives of SIDA (Swedish Inter-
national Development Agency)**

Representatives of the SIDA (Swedish International Development Agency) visited the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre in Bitola. The representatives included SIDA staff from Stockholm and the Skopje Office. The delegation consisted of Mr. Per Byman, the Senior Advisor for Human Rights and Democracy in the Central and Eastern Europe Department, Western Balkans Desk of SIDA and Ms. Annika Palo, the Director of the Development Cooperation Department. They held consultative meetings with NGO members of the regional centre Bitola and were joined by Ms. Violeta Nalevska, Mayoral Advisor on NGO sector for the Bitola Municipality. The meeting covered the work of the centre in accordance with the action plan for previous and current years, current projects and the cooperation between the NGO sector and local government.

Email: ecmibitola@ecmingonet.org.mk

April 23

**ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Shtip
Training – Project Proposal Development, Basics of
Networking in NGO Sector and Strategies for Fund-
raising**

Twenty representatives of member's organizations of the ECMI Network from Shtip had the opportunity to develop their skills in proposal writing, basics of networking in NGO sector and fundraising strategy development by participating in three-day training. A certificate of participation will be awarded to all participants.

Email: ecmistip@ecmingonet.org.mk



News from the Network Members

April 8

Association of Roma from Bitola "Bairska Svetlina" Commemoration of the International Roma Day

With the help of the European Centre for Minority Issues, the Association of Roma from Bitola "Bairska Svetlina" in cooperation with the other members of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Bitola and the Humanitarian Cultural Association "Romi" conducted a two-day campaign to mark the International Roma Day. A five team football championship, open forum on the issue "Roma language and origins" with Dr. Trajko Petrovski, an ethnologist specializing in Roma studies presenting, a cultural event and a meeting with the Mayor of Bitola took place according to plan. Part of the activities such as the peace march and the art competition were postponed due to inclement weather.

At the cultural manifestation different individuals and organizations received gifts as a token of appreciation for their support for the association.

Email: bairskasvetlina@yahoo.com

April 12

Association for Progress, Education and Lobbying

One-day Seminars held in the Course of "Family Violence? Yes it Exists!" Project

The "Family Violence? Yes it Exists!" project continued with its activities in April with three one-day seminars attended by women of different ethnicities from rural villages of Lakavica, Tarinci, Argula, Chardaklija, and Tri Cheshmi.

The goal of the seminars is to improve the position of woman in the family and community in general, and to prevent the occurrence of family violence. The main topics discussed were: What is violence, types of violence, the cycle of violence, who is likely to be an offender, who is usually the victim of family violence, types of interven-

tion, support groups, hotline for victims of family violence and communication."

The seminars led to the following conclusions: the need for stronger lobbying efforts in governmental institutions, creating a hotline for legal advice based on the SOS hotline.

Email: nel@winning.com



April 16

Roma Women's Organization of Macedonia "Daja" Workshop "Sexual Harassment in the Workplace"

The ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo hosted a workshop on sexual harassment in the workplace, organized by "Daja" and the Women's Resource Centre of the Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation (MCIC). The workshop was part of the program working on strengthening the capacity of women's non governmental organizations supported by MCIC. Representatives of Women's Resource Centre along with representatives of other NGOs attended the workshop. Jagoda Gligorovska, a Kumanovo lawyer led the workshop. She introduced the participants to the types of sexual harassment during interviewing and employment. The participants acknowledged the damage caused to women by such harassment and the need for change in laws governing sexual harassment in the workplace.

Email: daja@mt.net.mk



April 17

Felix Group

Open Forum “Notebook 2000 – From Words to Action...”

In the small hall of the Bitola House of Culture before a large number of guests representing the NGO, political and public life sectors of Bitola, students and teachers from middle and high schools that participated in the Notebook 2000 – From words to action, the work team presented the results and analysis of the project. The project demonstrated four themes concerning students: socio-economic differences, relations between students and teachers, the polarity of contemporary life between war and peace and needs of young people in their daily lives. The project took place in schools as a space that allows for equal participation of children, their initiative, cooperation, tolerance, realization of their rights and obligations regardless of their gender, religion or ethnicity. 1000 students filled out Notebook 2000 printed with trigger words such as: This is my life... What makes me happy, sad...? Things I am missing... I ask myself why... I dream sometimes that... The future... I have countless ideas about... I hope that...

The project was supported by the European Centre for Minority Issues and the IOM/CBI office of Bitola, in partnership with other members of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Bitola. Email: felixbt@mail.com.mk

April 16

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo Roma Women’s Organization of Macedonia “Daja” Training on “Gender Relations and Development”

“Daja” and the Women’s Resource Centre in Delchevo organized a two-day training on “Gender Relations and Development”. Nineteen representatives of NGOs and political parties attended the training. The trainers covered the use of words such as gender and sex, practical gender needs, strategic gender needs and other issues linked to the topic. The training demonstrated the need for further treatment of this issue.

Email: daja@mt.net.mk

News from the European Centre for Minority Issues - Flensburg

April 05

ECMI Flensburg

Panel on "Ethnopolitics and Elections"

ECMI sponsored panel on "Ethnopolitics and Elections", Association for the Study of Nationalism Annual Convention, New York. Chair Graham Holliday (ECMI), Stefan Wolff (University of Bath), Florian Bieber (ECMI), Eben Friedman (ECMI). Discussant: Shale Horowitz (University of Wisconsin) Panel presentation, "Minorities and Conflict in Postcommunist States: The Role of International Norms and Governance", Association for the Study of Nationalism, Annual Convention, New York. Chair: Sally Cummings (University of Edinburgh), Neil Melvin (University of Leeds/HCNM OSCE), Gwendolyn Sasse (London School of Economics/Free University, Berlin), Graham Holliday (ECMI). Discussant: James Hughes (London School of Economics)

www.ecmi.de

April 30

ECMI Flensburg

Minority Ombudsman Project at ECMI

The Ombudsman Project supports the strengthening of minority protection through the use of specialized minority Ombudsman institutions. It aims for the creation of new specialist Ombudsman institutions for the protection of national minorities as well as the effective support of such bodies where they already exist, including specialized sections devoted to minority issues within the structures of existing national Ombudsman institutions.

The project will realize these goals in three ways:

1. Providing Expert Advice Support of the national legislative and executive bodies of relevant states in the establishment of specialized minority Ombudsman institutions.



2. Making Resources Available ECMI will assist with the establishment of specialized Ombudspersons for ethnic minority issues by making available to the responsible national authorities sources of information, both legal and practice-oriented, relevant to creating a specialized institution, such as, amongst other things, its organizational form, the competencies it is to be given and the method of its integration into the constitutional structure of the country in question.

3. A Specialized Ombudsperson's Network Existing and emerging Ombudspersons and their associates will be linked together in a Network.

Last but not least, the project aims also at providing specialized training for staff of the newly established institutions by way of two one-week training seminars. Contact: Project Director: Dr. Alexander H. E. Morawa, Senior Research Associate, morawa@ecmi.de
www.ecmi.de

The ECMI project in Macedonia has been funded by generous contributions of :



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

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

ECMI REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTRES

ECMI Regional Centre Skopje
Address: Drezdenska # 9, Skopje
Telephone: 389 (0)2 391 451
E-mail: ecmiskopje@ecmingonet.org.mk
Contact person: Gordana Cvetkoska

ECMI Regional Centre Kumanovo
Address: Lokalitet Garnizon 1/1-2, Kumanovo
Telephone/ Fax: 389 (0)31 425 456
E-mail: ecmikumanovo@ecmingonet.org.mk
Contact person: Elena Petkovska

ECMI Regional Centre Bitola
Address: Josif Hristovski 4/4, Bitola
Telephone/ Fax: 389 (0)47 236 874
E-mail: ecmibitola@ecmingonet.org.mk
Contact person: Snezana Damcevska

ECMI Regional Centre Gostivar
Address: 17 Noemvri 37a, Gostivar
Telephone/ Fax: 389 (0)42 212 273
E-mail: ecmigostivar@ecmingonet.org.mk
Contact person: Nebija Ismaili

ECMI Regional Centre Stip
Address: Vanco Prke 62/3-2, Stip
Telephone/ Fax: 389 (0)32 382 510
E-mail: ecmistip@ecmingonet.org.mk
Contact person: Tatjana Nikolovska

ECMI Regional Centre Tetovo
Address: Ilindenska 97, Tetovo
Telephone/ Fax: 389 (0)44 339 031
E-mail: ecmitetovo@ecmingonet.org.mk
Contact person: Elvira Murtezani

European Centre for Minority Issues

Regional Office Skopje

Drezdenska # 9, 1000 Skopje

Telephone: +389 (0)2 3091 451; 3091 452

Fax: +389 (0)2 3091 453

E - mail: ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk

www.ecmingonet.org.mk

www.ecmi.de