

ECMI NGO Network Newsletter # 14

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

February 9

ECMI NGO Network

Third workshop in the formation of the Youth NGOs' Multicultural Initiative Network

The third workshop in a series designed to facilitate the formation of the Youth Multicultural Initiative focused on understanding the concept of "culture" and its implications for the work of the network. The workshop consisted of five sessions led by facilitators working in the field of culture. The participants discussed questions related to the future functioning of the network in the frame of the ECMI NGO Network. Present also were Daniela Rallis, Program Manager at the ECMI Regional Office in Skopje and Eben Friedman from the ECMI headquarters in Flensburg. The next workshop will take place in March.

E-mail: mkcbt@mt.net.mk



February 26

ECMI NGO Network

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

Meeting of the ECMI NGO Network Coordinating Body held on February 26th. Consultative meetings held in the ECMI Regional Centres have been discussed as well as the ECMI NGO Network Team of Trainers. Regional Centres Action Plans have been presented by the Coordinators and the procedure for appointment of Technical Assistants. Conclusions of this meeting have been sent to all ECMI NGO Network members.

E-mail: cvetkoska@ecmingonet.org.mk

Activities of the ECMI NGO Regional Resource Centres

February 10

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Gostivar Representative of ECMI Flensburg visited the Gostivar ECMI Centre

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Gostivar hosted the ECMI Flensburg representative, Eben



Friedman, Research Associate. He has meetings with all NGOs, members of the ECMI NGO Network. Meetings with NGOs that have premises held in their offices and with others meetings were held in the Centre premises. The aim of the visit was closer introduction with the NGOs and their activities.

E-mail: ecmigostivar@ecmingonet.org.mk

February 27

**ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo
Youth Active of ECMI Regional NGO Resource
Centre Kumanovo
Promotion of ECO Phone Service Line**



The Kumanovo local TV station "NOVA" took part in promoting ECO Phone Service Line, a project being implemented by the Youth Active of ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo. A representative from the project's team, Local Government and the Public Works Company "Clean and Green" spoke about the project, arousing great interest among the public, resulting in a large number of calls to the service line. From March onward, field teams will do site

visits and identify ecological problems throughout the city.

E-mail: ecmikumanovo@ecmingonet.org.mk

News from the Network Members

February 6

**Association of Albanian Woman in Macedonia-
Bitola**

Workshop – "Folklore as Segment of the Traditional Art"

As part of the activities within the "Multiethnic Forum for Women" project being implemented by the Union of Albanian Women - Bitola chapter and partners organized a workshop on folkloric traditions of different ethnicities present in Bitola. The workshop was held in the premises of the ECMI Regional Centre in Bitola. The attendants included women leaders from the NGO sector in Bitola and citizens interested in folklore. The Turkish Cultural Association "Chelebija" and the Youth Cultural Centre are partners in this project, which has been financed by the European Centre for Minority Issues.

E-mail: sazm-bt@mt.net.mk





February 10

**Roma Women's Organisation "Daja" - Kumanovo
Vocational courses**

The prequalification project which will take place until June 2003 in cooperation with the Adult Education Centre in Kumanovo began functioning in early February. The project is supported by ECMI with the goal of reaching the unemployed and uneducated population and increasing their potential for employment. At the same time the project aims to foster new friendships and interethnic co-existence by forming multiethnic groups. In the implementation of the project "Daja" is joined by the Roma Community Centre "Drom" and the Turkish Association "Gunesh", who are also members of the ECMI NGO Network.

E-mail: daja@mt.net.mk

February 10

**Pemaculture and Peacebuilding Centre – Gostivar
Annual Report for 2002**

Pemaculture and Peacebuilding Centre is pleased to announce the release of its 2002 Annual Report. The report contains details of the activities undertaken by the Centre in the course of 2002, including activities in different fields, projects, institutional development, trainings and opportunities for knowledge transfer, sustainability, networking, coordinative activities and future plans.

The report is the result of a year-long partnership between all the members of the Centre and their partners. E-mail: ppc@ppc.org.mk

February 10

**Roma Women's Organisation "Daja" - Kumanovo
Premiere of "Before the Gates of Hell"**

The play "Before the Gates of Hell" produced by the young actor's group "Terne Cherenja", directed by

Stoje Dodevski, premiered to a large audience in the House of Youth Creativity in Kumanovo. The goal of the performance is to increase tolerance and understanding in marriages resulting in a decrease in family violence. The performance was supported by the OSCE Regional Office in Kumanovo and the IOM Confidence Building Initiative, Kochani Office.

E-mail: daja@mt.net.mk

February 20

Association for Progress, Education and Lobbying - Shtip

Campaign against Family Violence

Within the activities of the "Family Violence? Yes it Exists" project, financed by ECMI, a media campaign against family violence took place between February 1 – 20. The campaign consisted of two TV programs on local television stations – TV Iris and TV Star, one radio program on Radio Shtip, an article in a local newspaper and an open forum. Alongside with PEL as the lead implementer, two other ECMI members are taking part in the project: Association of Roma Women "Romani Asvin" and the Consumers Organisation of Macedonia, Shtip chapter.

E-mail: nel@winning.com

February 20

**Forum for Roma Rights "Arka" – Kumanovo
Press Conference on Police Brutality towards Roma**

The Forum for Roma Rights "ARKA" in Kumanovo held a press conference to address the brutal treatment and abuse of two Roma men by the Kumanovo police. The two Roma men were beaten up, abused and left with serious wounds. "ARKA" denounced the actions of members of the Kumanovo police department, which were clearly outside the boundaries of



the law and are requesting transparent and appropriate measures from the authorities responsible against the policemen who enacted vigilante justice.

“ARKA” also criticized the Ministries responsible for reconstruction following the floods for their lack of response to the urgency of the problem.

E-mail: arka@arka.org.mk



February 23

Association for Progress, Education and Lobbying - Shtip

Participation in “Training for Trainers” in Mitrovica, Kosovo

A “Training for Trainers” organized by the Balkan Youth Project in Mitrovica, Kosovo, took place between February 18 -23. The goal of the training was to bring together young people from South Eastern Europe working with other youngsters to exchange information and gain new skills and knowledge to be shared in their communities and organizations. The larger goal is to strengthen the youth sector in South Eastern Europe. The PEL representative was one of three people from Macedonia taking part in the training.

E-mail: nel@winning.com

February 25

**Centre for Balkan Cooperation “Loja” - Tetovo
Promotion of Projects**



“Loja” had the opportunity to promote its various projects and activities to a large number of guests on the premises of its Centre. The guests at the event were greeted by Ms. Anika Pallo, Director for Development Cooperation at the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA). The following projects were presented: Multiethnic Centre for Children and Youth – Babylon Tetovo, supported by the Norwegian Royal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Multiethnic Centre for Children and Youth – Babylon Tearce, supported by SIDA – Sweden, Strengthening Multiethnic Youth Participation in Macedonia through Organization Development and International Networking, supported by K. Wustrow – Germany and “Hour of Citizen’s Protest”, supported by ECMI. The web page of “Loja” and a documentary film made through the “Hour of Citizen’s Protest” project were presented at the event.

Web site of the Centre for Balkan Cooperation “Loja” is: www.cbcloja.org.mk



February 28

Youth Cultural Centre- Bitola

Sixth Anniversary of the founding of the Youth Cultural Centre

The 6th anniversary of the founding of the Youth Cultural Centre was celebrated with a three day program, which started with a press conference on February 26th promoting the publicity materials of YCC and the newly published issue of "The Kult" magazine. That evening at the café bar "Belvedere" the sound and light equipment donated by the USAID-CSHI program to YCC had a chance to show itself with the help of The Cross Road Blues Band. The next day YCC held a debate on the theme of "Culture/Subculture" at the "Stage" café bar. The debaters included the director Sasho Milenovski, Goran Trajkovski from the musical group "Anastasija" and Tihomir Spirovski from Channel 103. The evening finished with a showing of the movie "The Doors." On the last day of the anniversary the Oratory Club held a debate to show the success of its work for the last three months. The event was held at the Officer's Club and highlighted the oratory skills gained by the club's members.

E-mail: mkcbt@mt.net.mk



News from the European Centre for Minority Issues - Flensburg

February 13

ECMI Headquarters Flensburg

ECMI Report #42

Perry, Valery

"ECMI Civil Society Project in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Supporting Annex 8 of the Dayton Peace Agreement: Development of a Cultural Heritage Association and a Education Programme", 14. December 2002, Sarajevo,

February 2002, 63 pp., appendix

http://www.ecmi.de/doc/download/report_42.pdf

February 26

ECMI Headquarters Flensburg

JEMIE Special Focus; EU Enlargement and Minority Rights

At the Copenhagen meeting of the European Council in 1993, the European Union committed itself not only to future enlargement but also to ensuring the respect for and the protection of minorities in its candidate states. To achieve this, EU initiated a process of accession based on fulfilling a plethora of membership criteria, explicit and implicit conditionality, and adherence to international norms and instruments of minority protection. But how effective have these various conditions and incentives been and do they amount to a coherent 'European' policy on protecting minority rights? To avoid the charge of double standards does the EU need its own 'Charter of Minority Rights' that applies to current member states as much as new members? And what implications will this have for minority protection after the present wave of enlargement?



This Special Focus explores some of these questions, looking at current models and mechanisms to ensure minority protection, and examining a number of case studies. As with all Special Focus sections, the Editors encourage further contributions to this timely issue, especially from younger academics and practitioners. <http://www.ecmi.de/jemie/specialfocus.html>

February 28

ECMI Headquarters Flensburg

ECMI Report #43

Bieber, Florian and Emilija Stefanov

"ECMI Montenegro Negotiation and Capacity-Building Project: EU Accession and Minority Rights in Serbia, Montenegro and Sandzak / Sandzak as Part of a Euro-Region?", Training Workshop 5-8 December 2002, Kotor. March 2003, 32 pp., appendix. http://www.ecmi.de/doc/download/report_43.pdf

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We hope that you have enjoyed this fourteenth 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)2 391 451; 391 452
Fax: +389 (0)2 391 453
E - mail: ecmimkd@ecmingonet.org.mk
www.ecmingonet.org.mk
www.ecmi.de