

ECMI NGO Network Newsletter # 13

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

January 12

ECMI NGO Network

Project Youth Multicultural Initiatives - Second Workshop

On January 11-12 the second in a series of workshops planning the Youth Multicultural Initiatives network was held in Ohrid. The project is part of the activities lead by the Youth Cultural Centre-Bitola in co-operation with various youth cultural NGOs and ECMI Network members. The workshop consisted of five sessions and the following issues were discussed: defining the field of work for the Network, Network structure and bodies, decision making processes, methods for conflict resolution inside the Network and

defining the role of different bodies and procedures of work. The next workshop is being planned in the beginning of February.

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January 16

ECMI NGO Network

ECMI NGO Network Coordinating Body Meeting

The Coordinating Body met at the Regional Office in Skopje and has decided upon the following:

Ms. Mirjana Nikolovska was elected to the Deputy Chairperson position,

Four Committees were set up to assist the growing needs of the ECMI NGO Network. These committees are: Contacts with Donors, Contacts with Local Government and Institutions, Contacts with Media, Contacts with Beneficiaries and Target Groups of the Organizations. Each member of the Coordinating Body selected a committee, on which s/he will serve. At the next meeting the agenda for the committees will be decided upon.

Three members of the Coordinating Body were elected to the Committee on Project Proposals Reviews for the first cycle. These are: Feat Kamberovski,





Senat Bequiri and Dimce Todorovski.

The Coordinating Body made a recommendation to engage permanent, professional technical assistants in all Regional Centres.

This year's project cycle for financing project proposals/joint initiatives of the Network members was presented to the Coordinating Body members. In addition, a monitoring team from the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Shtip was established. It will supervise the implementation of the project "Narcotics-millennium evil" being implemented by the Association of Roma from Tikvesh – Kavadarci.

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ECMI NGO Network

Ongoing Projects from the ECMI Project Pot

The following projects are ongoing, divided by ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centres:

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Bitola

"From Words to Action – Notebook 2000"

"We and Our Prejudices"

"Interethnic Women's Forum Bitola"

"Youth Multicultural Initiatives"

"A Step to Your Employment"

ECMI Regional NGO Centre Kumanovo

"ECO Telephone"

"Stop Violence"

"Childhood without Borders"

"Without Fire Arms – Peace for All"

"Drugs or Life – The Choice Is Yours"

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Skopje

"Let's Build Confidence"

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo

"Hour of the Citizen's Protest"

"Culture – Bridge for Cooperation"

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Shtip

"Narcotics – Millennium Evil"

Summary of the projects can be downloaded from www.ecmingonet.org.mk

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Projects in the Pre-implementation Preparatory Phase from ECMI Project Pot

The following projects have status of pre-implementation preparatory phase divided by ECMI Regional Centres:

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Gostivar

"Health Education for Women"

"Cooperation Between schools And Families"

"Graffiti – Youth Magazine"

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo

"Vocational Training"

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo

"NGO Education"

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Shtip

"Education and Regular Check Up Is Saving Your Life"

"Family Violence? Yes It Exists"

Summary of the projects can be downloaded from www.ecmingonet.org.mk



Activities of the ECMI NGO Regional Resource Centres

January 24

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Gostivar Three Project Proposals Submitted by the NGOs Members of the Centre Approved

Three project proposals submitted by the NGOs, members of the Regional Centre Gostivar to the ECMI Regional Office Skopje have been approved and are in pre-implementation preparatory phase. The Association for Education, Culture, Ecology and Humanity "MILLENNIUM", Vrapchishte in partnership with three other NGOs, members of the Centre will implement the project "Graffiti-Youth Magazine". The overall goal of the project is Restoring trust between youth of different ethnic groups in Western Macedonia by addressing issues of common concern in the field of Youth and Education. Initially funded by the USAID, the Graffiti Youth Magazine is being provided support in the period where it is devising its sustainability strategy. The second approved project is "Cooperation between school and the families", where leading NGO is Humanitarian and Charitable Association of Roma "MESECINA", Gostivar in partnership with "Millennium" from Vrapchiste and the Primary School "Bratstvo-Edinstvo" from Gostivar. The overall goal of this project is to contribute to the improvement of the educational system by encouraging cooperation and communication between schools and parents. The third project is "Health Education for Women" lead by the Association of Albanian Women Gostivar in cooperation with Turkish Women's Organization of

Macedonia "MATUKAT" Gostivar. Through this project NGOs would like to contribute in health education and improvement of health culture among women in general and rural women in particular through the opening of counseling offices in primary health care facilities.

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ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Gostivar Change of premises

Starting March 15th, the ECMI Regional Resource Centre in Gostivar will move the office to new premises.

New address of the Gostivar Resource Centre will be: 18 November street. 37a, Gostivar (opposite of the main police station in Gostivar).

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News from the Network Members

January 13

Association of Serbs in Macedonia – Kumanovo Saint Sava Holiday Gathering

Traditionally, the Association of Serbs in Macedonia – Kumanovo helps in organizing the gathering in honour of Saint Sava Day, a religious holiday considered to be a celebration of education. St. Sava was the first Serbian educator and founder of the Serbian Orthodox Church. The gathering was held in the primary school "Svetozar Markovic" in Staro Nagorichane, with a large audience in attendance. The celebration was opened by a performance prepared by students from



several schools in the Kumanovo regions. Literary creations on the theme of "To St. Sava with love" done by middle school students were recognized with awards. In addition, students received holiday packages sponsored by donors with the help of the Association. A similar performance was organized in the village of Tromejja and held in the middle school.

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Association of Serbs in Macedonia – Kumanovo Serbian Evening

The twelfth annual "Serbian Evening" was organized on the occasion of the Orthodox New Year. The evening was graced by the presence of the Ambassador of Yugoslavia H.E. Ms. Biserka Matic-Spasojevic, as well as members of the Parliament, Mayors of Staro Nagorichane and Kriva Palanka, Mr. Dejan Koshutic, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications, Prof. D-r Dushan Veljkovic, President of the Serbian Community in Macedonia and other community representatives from Kumanovo and other regions. Traditional Serbian entertainment was the highlight of the evening.

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January 21

Roma Women's Organisation "DAJA" - Kumanovo Theatre Performance "In front of the gates of hell"

Roma Women's Organisation "DAJA" – Kumanovo has begun preparing for the performance of "In front of the gates of hell", a play that will be acted by the Youth Actors Group "Terne Cherenja" and directed by

Stoje Dodevski. OSCE Regional Office Kumanovo and Confidence building Initiative Kocani are supporting the performance. The show is planning to go on the road to eight cities: Vinica, Bitola, Veles, Delcevo, Berovo, Kriva Palanka, Skopje and Kumanovo. The premiere will take place on February 10, 2003 in Kumanovo.

The goal of the play is to empower women to take a stand against family violence, to make women aware that they do not need to tolerate violence because of traditionalism and promote dialogue and communication within families.

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Roma Community Centre "DROM" – Kumanovo "Unfilled Promises" – Reaction in Puls Magazine Regarding Roma Settlements Floods in Kumanovo

... The state does not have the ability to provide suitable accommodations for the Roma flooded out of their homes until the end of the crisis, so they are forced to live 15 persons to a 10m² rooms, increasing the danger of spreading diseases... Their living conditions are substandard. There are no opportunities for providing for personal hygiene and it looks that they will be forced to return to their homes and live in humidity and ooze. This was also confirmed with the information from the authorities in the crisis headquarters of the local community centre who said that the situation was being stabilized and that some families were returning to their homes...

...Until when will the Roma live in substandard



homes, be respected only before the elections and be left to their own destiny to forget the worst and to believe that tomorrow will bring a new and better day for them. It will certainly bring them a new day, but whether it will be better?

You can read the complete statement on the web site :www.ecmingonet.org.mk



January 29

Association for Progress, Education and Lobbying – PEL, Shtip

Representative of PEL Participated in the Training for Communication, Prevention and Conflict Resolution

Between January 27th - 29th, PEL representative participated in training on communication, conflict prevention and resolution held in Strumica. The training covered issues of communication as change agent and transaction analysis as methodology for understanding and transforming interpersonal communication. The idea of “groups” and “teams” as concepts were analyzed as well. Facilitators for the training were Zorica Serfimovska-Arsovska and Stanislav Petkovski.

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Youth Cultural Centre-Bitola

Open Forum – The Problem of Unemployment - Challenges and Strategies for a Solution

An open forum addressing youth unemployment was held at Hotel Epinal – Bitola. The speakers addressing the issue were Dr. Konstantin Petkovski, Deputy Director at the Development Agency of Macedonia and Dr. Dragan Damjanovski, Director at the NEPA-Agency for Small and Medium Enterprises. The forum is part of the project “I Want Work” being implemented by the Youth Cultural Centre-Bitola in cooperation with Mala Scena of Bitola.

The main activity of the “I Want Work” project is support and information for the unemployed youth of Bitola through the web site www.sakamrabota.com.mk which consists of job advertisements.

More information can be found on:

www.sakamrabota.com.mk or e-mail:

mkcibt@mt.net.mk.





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MULTIKULTURA – Tetovo

Falling rain did not stop the citizens of Tetovo from taking part in the Street Theatre, organized for the first time in Tetovo. The performance was organized by ECMI NGO Network member “Multikultura” in partnership with MOCART, Centre for Balkan Cooperation “Loja”, Humanitarian Association of Roma “Sonce” and Centre for Democratic Development, all members of ECMI Regional Centre Tetovo. The performance included young citizens of Tetovo from different ethnic groups and is one of the activities planned in the project “Culture-Bridge for Cooperation”.

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

If you have any comments or suggestions for improvement of this newsletter, please contact Marija Nashokovska at:
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