

ECMI NGO Network

Newsletter # 18

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

June 1

ECMI NGO Network

Youth Multicultural Initiatives (YMI)

Attendance at the Seminar for Cultural Management

Aleksandar Kirkovski and Todor Ivanovski were two representatives of Youth Multicultural Initiatives Network at the seminar for Cultural Management, held in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria between 21 and 29 May 2003. Besides participants from Macedonia the seminar was attended by representatives from Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia and Bulgaria. Even though the seminar had educative character it was also used for experience exchange among NGOs members from the region. New contacts were established with Kultura Nova-Belgrade, Faculty for Drama Art-Belgrade, and Department for Culture Science from Rila University, Bulgaria. In addition, this event was used for Youth Multicultural Initiatives Network presentation.

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June 2

ECMI NGO Network

Coordinating Body of the ECMI NGO Network Meeting

The Coordinating Body of the ECMI NGO Network met from the 31st May to the 2nd June, 2003 in Ohrid to review the activities of the Network thus far and the implementation of the action plan for the following six

months.

All six Regional Centres reported on their activities, challenges and successes. The sustainability of the Network was discussed at length.

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June 15



Activities of the ECMI NGO Regional Resource Centres

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Gostivar Open Forum – Socioeconomic Situation of the Women through Direct Involvement in the Work Process with Prequalification

The Open Forum held in the premises of ECMI Regional Centre Gostivar, attended by 31 women, single mothers and users of public welfare from different ethnic communities. Wide discussion brought the following conclusions for women's needs: courses for sewing and knitting, courses for hairdressing and makeup,



fair for promotion and sale of handmade products, establishing club “Women for Women”, where women will exchange experiences from cooking. This open forum was organised by Association of Women, Union of Albanian Women and Humanitarian Association “Uniteti” with support from all members of the ECMI Centre from Gostivar.

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June 24

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Gostivar Open Forum – Socioeconomic Situation of the Women, Condition for the Improvement of Inter-ethnic Relations

Three NGOs (Organisation of Women from Mavrovo, Youth Ecological Centre “Rekanski Biser” from Rostushe and Organisation of Turkish Women “Matukat” from Gostivar), members of the ECMI Resource Centre in Gostivar organized this open forum in the premises of the High School “Pance Poposki” in Rostushe. Attendees at the open forum were 25 women from Mavrovo Anovi and Rostushe Municipalities. Issues discussed at this forum were connected with the situation of women in rural environment and the problems faced by them, as well as her needs for: courses for sewing and knitting, course for tourism professions and language courses in English and Turkish.

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June 30

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Gostivar Completed English Language Course for ECMI Network Members from Gostivar

Representatives from ECMI Resource Centre Gostivar, completed their course in English Language, which held in Vocational Centre in Gostivar. This course was supported by the European Centre for Minority Issues and 23 participants have successfully completed it from April to June 2003. The certificates will be awarded to the participants in July 2003.

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News from the Network Members

June 1

Association for Progress, Education and Lobbying – PEL, Stip

Participation in Different Seminars and Study Visits during May 2003

During May 2003, representatives of PEL participated in a study visit to Poland aiming to introduce participants with the European Volunteer Service. Furthermore, one representative participated in a study session, held in Hungary on issue about Social Exclusion and Health of Minority Women. Representative of PEL participated in the training for volunteers organized by Open Society Institute, which treated different approaches (field and practical) in recruitment and motivating new volunteers and preparation of Codex for behaviour. As part of the World Day of Women Health celebration, representative of PEL attended a meeting titled “Health for All, Health for Women” in Skopje.

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June 2

Roma Organisation of Women in Macedonia DAJA, Kumanovo

Open Forum – Tolerance-Conflicts

Following the Strategic Development Plan of DAJA, this organisation started with the realization of open forums for youth, which will take place in June, October, December 2003 and March 2004. First of this open forums was organised in the premises of ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo.

This Open Forum aimed to define the term conflict, as well as different types of existing conflicts and at the same time to contribute in raising awareness among youth Roma regarding non-violent communication, tolerance and conflict resolution. Facilitator at this Open Forum was Lidija Ilievska, Sociologist and large number of young Roma between 15 and 25 years attended this event.

E-mail: daja@mt.net.mk

June 5



Balkan Association for Friendship and Cooperation, Bitola

Centre for Sustainable Development Established

The Centre for Sustainable Development is established by the Balkan association for Friendship and Cooperation, in collaboration with the Bitola Municipality Local Government. Its establishment was supported by the Institute for Sustainable Communities and Confidence Building Initiative, both USAID programs.

This event was also used for promotion of the Regional Youth Centre for International Cooperation supported by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs Germany as part of the Stability Pact for SEE programs. The Centre is located on Stara Partizanska Street, b.b. in Bitola and they can be contacted on 047/221 251

E-mail: bafc@mt.net.mk

June 5

Youth Active, Kumanovo

Participation in Summer Camp

Youth Active set up contact with newly formed NGO "Interethnic Project Kumanovo", which expressed desire for collaboration aiming at establishing cross border cooperation between youth NGOs from Kosovo and Macedonia (Kumanovo and Gostivar). Youth Active has been invited to participate in Summer Camp in August with six representatives. The Camp will consist of workshops, training and open forums aiming in establishing Youth Centre in Kumanovo, where youth from different ethnic communities will create strong youth movement.

E-mail: ecmikumanovo@ecmingonet.org.mk

June 5

Youth Cultural Centre, Bitola

Mobile Parliament – Meeting between Citizens and Parliamentarians

Citizen Association MOST and Youth Cultural Centre-Bitola organised a meeting between the citizens and the parliamentarians from the Bitola region i.e. the fourth electoral unit. The venue of this event was the hall in Bitola Municipality and it was part of the project

Mobile Parliament, supported by the Canadian Agency for International Development (CIDA). Goal of this project is to contribute for greater transparency of the Parliament, cooperation and insight in the political processes. The issue that was discussed in this meeting were the Greek investments in Bitola.

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

June 8

Union of Albanian Woman in Macedonia, chapter Gostivar

Workshops-Breast Cancer

As part of the activities in the project "Health Education of Women", the Union of Albanian Women in Macedonia-branch Gostivar and the Organization of Turkish Women "Matukat" held three workshops about breast cancer in three different locations: villages Kaliste and Srbinovo and in the premises of ECMI Regional Centre Gostivar. Ms. Hanife Sejfulai, gynaecologist was lecturer at all three workshops and 85 Albanian and Turkish women attended all three workshops discussing about breast cancer, its treatment and prevention. E-mail: sazmgv@mt.net.mk

June 8

Millenium – Vrapchishte, Gostivar

Cultural Days in Vrapchishte

Cultural Days in Vrapchishte, village located in the mountain, Gostivar region, known for tolerance and cohabitation of its population, validated in the nearest past implemented several activities as part of the Festival during three days: cultural event, open forum,





presentation of traditional cooking, folk festival and traditional sports. Apart from this, an economic initiative and exhibition of traditional costumes was organized. For detailed information please visit the web site www.mngo.org.mk

June 10

Group Felix, Bitola

Exhibition—Auction and Promotion of Documentary Film

As previous three years, Group Felix continues with tradition to organize Exhibition of handicrafts and paintings, created by the Roma children that visited the Day Centre. This year for the first time the exhibition has auction character and it was included as part of the Campaign “I want to learn, I want to be...” The House of Culture in Bitola hosted the exhibition and citizens of Bitola could visit it for seven days. Income of the exhibition is going to be used for Roma children school supplies. At the opening, documentary film made by Group Felix was promoted in which they presented the needs and problems Roma of Bitola are facing with. E-mail: felixbt@mail.com.mk

June 12

Youth Cultural Centre, Bitola

Promotion of the Book “M” from Alekandar Kirkovski

Youth Cultural Centre-Bitola and Prokultura from Skopje promoted a new poetry book “M”, literary work of Aleksandar Kirkovski. Promotion took place in café bar “Deep” in Bitola. Publisher of this book is MKD



Prokultura from Skopje, organisation that supports young artists. For Kirkovski this is his second book of poetry.

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June 16

Consumers’ Organisation in Macedonia, Chapter Shtip

Participation in Several Lectures and Training

Representatives of the Consumers’ Organization in Macedonia-chapter Shtip have participated in different lectures and training in June 2003. Representative of the organisation participated in training for institutional development of NGOs obtaining new knowledge and directions for developing strategy for financial sustainability of the NGOs and mobilizing local resources needed for this achievement. In addition, representative of the organisation attended lecture on issue “Public Advocacy and Lobbying” held in Skopje. During this period, organisation was included in the public discussion regarding new draft of the Law for Environment, held in Shtip. E-mail: opmstip@opm.org.mk

June 16

Millenium – Vrapchishte, Gostivar

New E-mail Address, Promotion of the Web Site

NGO Millenium from Vrapchishte promote the web site of the organisation, which can be visited on www.mngo.org.mk, and at the same time the e-mail address of the NGO has been changed. From now on Millenium can be contacted through

E-mail: mngo@mngo.org.mk

June 20

Association of Tikvesh Roma for Human Rights, Kavadarci

Open Forum – Drug as Motive for Criminal Behaviour

In partnership with the Active for Independent Initiative-Shtip and as part of the project “Drug-Millennium Evil” in the Kavadarci Municipality premises, Association of Tikvesh Roma for Human Rights organised



open forum aiming to sensitize the citizens about drug problem that exist in Kavadarci and the importance of prevention. Large number of citizens attended this event, as well as representatives of the local institutions and government. Judges from Kavadarci and Shtip Ms. Violeta Dimitrova and Ms. Mirjanka G. Stefanovska facilitated at this open forum.

E-mail: ecmistip@ecmingonet.org.mk

June 21



Youth Cultural Centre, Bitola Celebration of the Music

The longest day of the year, June 21 in Bitola was celebrated as Music Holiday like it is in some Mediterranean cities. Manifestation started at 19.30 and the main street in Bitola-Shirok Sokak was turned into one huge scene of music. Different musicians from Macedonia and France presented themselves: Jakov Drenkovski, Tomislav Neshkovski, Philip Berto, Foltin, Perunika, Jazz Strip Trio, Duo Flouts...

This event was organised in collaboration with French Alliance from Bitola and in partnership with the Confidence Building Initiative, Bitola.



E-mail: mkcibt@mt.net.mk

June 23

New E-mail Address of the Humanitarian Association "Uniteti", Gostivar

Humanitarian Association "Uniteti", member of the ECMI NGO Network in Gostivar Centre has new e-mail address. You can contact them on e-mail: uniteti@mt.net.mk

June 27

Kolo of Serbian Sisters, Kumanovo 100th Anniversary of the Organisation

In the premises of Hotel Lav in Kumanovo, Kolo of Serbian Sisters organised hundred anniversary of their establishment marked with a party in traditional costumes. This type of party was organized also in memory of previous activists of the organisation that has organised such events until 1941. The intention is that this will become traditional gathering where visitors will promote their traditional costumes. This year, 180 guests attended the event.

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30 June

News from the European Centre for Minority Issues - Flensburg

ECMI Flensburg

Complex Power-Sharing Project

This project seeks to both present and analyse novel ways of overcoming self-determination conflicts through complex power-sharing arrangements. Situated at the interface between international law and politics, this project considers recent cases of attempted settlements: Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Gagauzia/Moldova, South Ossetia/Georgia, Bougainville/ Papua New Guinea and Mindanao/Phillippines. The overarching aim of the project is to gain an understanding of how complex



power-sharing operate and what their success and failure depend upon. On the basis of these conclusions, the project hopes to generate practical policy recommendations for future negotiators of complex power-sharing arrangements. The project also aims to advance existing power-sharing theory beyond the traditional consociationalist-integrationist divide and highlight the multi-level complexity of contemporary power-sharing practice.

For further information, see the project website at the following internet address: <http://www.ecmi.de/cps/>

ECMI REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTRES

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



British Embassy
Skopje



The Royal Norwegian
Foreign Ministry



Royal Danish Ministry
of Foreign Affairs



Swedish International
Development
Cooperation Agency

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

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