

# ECMI NGO Network

## Newsletter # 17

### 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

May 31

##### ECMI Regional Office Skopje

##### Projects Approved for the First Project Cycle of 2003

Four project proposals were approved within the first project cycle of 2003. The contracts for the projects are to be signed shortly.

- "Social Inclusion of Youth from Different Ethnicities" Lead NGO – ORT Organization for education, information and sustainable development, ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Skopje

- "Organized is Easier" Lead NGO – Association of Paraplegics and Childhood Paralysis "Handicap", ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo

- "Let's Return the Trust" Lead NGO – Association of Vlachs "Halcho al Brova", ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo

- "Different, but Nevertheless the Same" Lead NGO – SOS Kumanovo, ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo

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#### Activities of the ECMI NGO Regional Resource Centres

May 9

##### ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Bitola

##### Consultative Meetings with Members of the Centre

The ECMI Program Managers from the Regional office of the ECMI in Skopje, Daniela Ralis and Kushtrim Hoxha visited the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre in Bitola and held meetings with the NGO members of the centre. A

number of the meetings were held in the office of RC Bitola and the rest in the offices of the NGOs. Separate meetings were held with NGOs implementing projects financed by ECMI. The program managers also had a chance to visit the camp being held as part of the "We and Our Prejudices" project between May 8 and May 11 in the Strezhevo recreational center in Bitola by the Association for Open Communications.

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May 13

##### ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Gostivar

##### Consultative Meetings with Members of the Centre

The Program Managers from the Regional Office in Skopje, Daniela Ralis and Kushtrim Hoxha visited the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre in Gostivar, for the purposes of holding consultation meetings with the NGO members of the center and the teams currently implementing projects funded by the European Center for Minority Issues.

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May 16

##### ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Skopje

##### Training on Project Proposal Development, Networking in the NGO Sector and Fundraising Strategies

In the course of four days representatives of members of the ECMI Network in Skopje had the opportunity to develop their skills in writing project proposals, foundations of networking in the NGO sector and preparing strategies for financial resource development. Participants will receive certificates of completion.

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**May 17**

**ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo  
Petition against Increase in Prices by the Macedonian  
Telecommunication Company**

In response to the decision by the Macedonian Telecommunication Company to raise prices for ground line phones, officially by 25% and in actuality by over 40%, ECMI Regional NGO resource center Kumanovo has decided to initiative a civil action with the goal of reversing the decision of the Macedonian Telecommunication Company and returning the prices to the previous levels including the free 80 impulses.

As a way of reaching their goal the members of the center collected signatures on the main town square in Kumanovo on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. The Youth Active took a lead role in this action and in the course of the two days 2,208 signatures were collected.

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**May 18**

**ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Gostivar  
Training on Project Proposal Development**

Two day training on project proposal development for the representatives of the NGO members of the ECMI Regional NGO resource center Gostivar was held at motel "Ignatia". Twenty participants took part in learning how to write good project proposals, a required skill for the functioning of every NGO. All participants will receive a certificate of completion.

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**May 20**

**ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo  
Celebration of the One Year Anniversary of the Centre**

The first anniversary of the ECMI Regional NGO resource center in Tetovo was celebrated at the center. A large number of representatives of international and local organizations, local government and the media attended the event. Marc Weller, ECMI Director and Eben Friedman, Senior Research Associate of ECMI, both from Flensburg Germany attended the anniversary along with representatives from the ECMI Regional Office in Skopje. Blerim Jashari, the center's coordinator shared the previous and future activities of the center with the guests. The anniversary celebration included a photo exhibit, which was the last activity in the "Culture – bridge to closeness" project

done by the NGO "Multikultura", supported and financed by ECMI. The evening closed with a dance performance by volunteers from the Center for Balkan Cooperation "Loja" on the theme of love.

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**May 25**

**ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo  
Training on Project Proposal Development**

Two day training on project proposal development for the representatives of the NGO members of the ECMI Regional NGO resource center Tetovo was held at the center. Fifteen participants took part in learning how to write good project proposals, a required skill for the functioning of every NGO. All participants will receive a certificate of completion.

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**May 29**

**ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Bitola  
Training on Project Proposal Development, Basics of  
Networking in the NGO Sector, Strategy for Fundrais-  
ing**

In the course of four days representatives of the members of the ECMI Network in Bitola had the opportunity to develop their skills in writing project proposals, networking in the NGO sector and forming strategies for financial resource development. The third and fourth module were attended by representatives of local government – Violeta Nalevska, mayor's advisor on NGO sector and Evgenija Bektash-Josifovska, mayor's advisor on culture. The training hosted guest monitors -Rob Grooneman, representative of the Washington based Freedom House and Dinah Zeltser, a Fulbright Fellow. Participants will receive a certificate of completion.

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**May 30**

**ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Shtip  
Series of Open Forums on issue "Needs of the Youth"**



NGOs, members of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Shtip organized series of open forums in the Hall of Veteran's in Shtip, aimed to set the needs of youth included in the educational process aged between 14 and 23 years. Large number of high-school students from Shtip attended the three subsequent open forums. Method of focus groups was used in all open forums. Facilitators to all of them were Sashko Shterjov and Aleksandra Bojadzieva. E-mail: [ecmistip@ecmingonet.org.mk](mailto:ecmistip@ecmingonet.org.mk)

**News from the Network  
Members**

**May 1**

**Permaculture and Peacebuilding Centre  
Initiative for Public Library Centre in Gostivar**

Permaculture and Peacebuilding Centre has raised the initiative for the creation of a public library in Gostivar. Currently there is no public library in Gostivar or the surrounding eight municipalities. The center is expected to house the library, which would host activities attracting young people of various ethnicities, a place where they can come for friendship, work and learning. All help is welcome in making this initiative come to life – contacts with institutions who can donate books and individual gifts of books. Every book is a good book!

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**May 5**

**Youth Cultural Center – Bitola  
New Issue of "The Kult" Magazine**

The newest issue of "The Kult", a magazine for culture and mental decontamination, published by the Youth Cultural Center – Bitola, came out on May 5<sup>th</sup>. "The Kult" covers the life of young people in Bitola, the gods and heroes of subculture, local young artists, culture and subculture, hackers... The next issue of "The Kult" will be published in September at the start of the new school year.

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**May 11**

**Association for Open Communication  
Children's Rights Camp "We and Our Prejudices"**

The winter/summer recreational center in Strezhevo was the site of a camp focusing on children's rights between the dates of May 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. The camp was part of the "We and our prejudices" project, financed by the European Center for Minority Issues and AOC. The target group and participants in the camp were 24 high school students from Bitola (4 participants for each ethnicity: Roma, Macedonian, Vlach, Albanian, Turkish and Serb, as well as one representative from each of the partners in the project). The camp was visited by representatives from the ECMI Regional Office in Skopje and the Bitola mayor's advisor on NGO sector, Ms. Violeta Nalevska. The participants worked intensively on issues of human rights and conflict



resolution, which is a logical result of violation of those rights. Special attention was paid to addressing prejudices as the source of not honoring human rights. The organizers employed a variety of techniques and methodologies in order to reach their goals. The instructors for the camp were Miroslav Stojanov, Nurten Sulejmani, Dragan Gruevski and Ludmila Popovska.  
E-mail: cangal@mail.com.mk

**May 13**

**Consumer's Association of Macedonia – Shtip chapter  
Open Forum for Nutrition**

The Shtip chapter of the Consumer's Association of Macedonia held an open forum on the topic of nutrition at the hotel Oaza. Kalcho Mitev and Elizabeta Spirindova of the Consumer's Association of Macedonia were the guest lecturers. The tribune served as an occasion to present the brochures "Choosing and keeping food products for correct and safe nutrition" and "Household items"  
E-mail: opmstip@opm.org.mk

**May 15**

**Group Felix  
Promotion of Anthology "Notebook 2000 – from Words  
to Action"**

The implementation of the "Notebook 2000 – from words to action" project was complete with the promotion of the anthology under the same name, which documents the results of the survey done for the project. The promotion was held in the entrance hall of the House of Culture in Bitola, with the presence of students and teachers from middle and high schools of Bitola that participated in the project. Muarem Sadik, a member of the project's team and Kenan Hasani, an outside monitor, shared their impressions of the project.  
E-mail: felixbt@mail.com.mk

**May 17**

**Youth Cultural Center – Bitola  
Jazz as a Metaphor for American Culture**

In collaboration with the library of the "St. Kliment Ohridski" University and the American Embassy in Skopje, the Youth Cultural Center helped to organize a lecture by Bradley Strahan, Fulbright Visiting Professor at the Philosophy Faculty in Skopje on the topic of "Jazz as a metaphor for American culture". The lecture was held at the library and

focused on the roots of jazz and blues in the early '20s of the past century and the giants who made it the most influential musical movement in the US at the time. Professor Strahan stressed the different sources for jazz which are a result of the multicultural nature of America.  
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**May 26**

**Multicultural—Tetovo  
Open Forum – United Nations System for Protection of  
Human Rights**

The ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre hosted the open forum discussing human rights within the framework of the United Nations, which was attended by a sizable number of citizens and representatives of non-governmental organizations. Professor Zejnula Gruda was the guest lecturer for the tribune, which was supported by the Open Society Institute in Macedonia  
E-mail: multikultura@mt.net.mk

**News from the European  
Centre for Minority Issues - Flensburg**

**May 26**

**ECMI Director Marc Weller went on a Fact-finding Mission to the Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo**

Director Marc Weller went on a week-long fact-finding mission to the Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo. During the first part of the trip, he addressed the first anniversary celebration of the ECMI Tetovo Centre, visited the ECMI Gostivar Centre, and held consultations with senior members of the government of the Republic of Macedonia, the Parliament, and independent experts. In Kosovo, the ECMI Director met with the President of the Kosovo Assembly, the leaders of the Kosovo political parties, as well as senior officials of PIRG and UNMIK. As a result of these meetings, new ECMI regional initiatives are now being developed. In addition to the above-mentioned activities, Mr Weller was also a principal contributor to a 45-minute BBC programme on International Law and Criminal Justice.  
<http://www.ecmi.de>

**May 28**

**ECMI Annual Report 2002**

ECMI Annual Report 2002 now is available on-line for download.  
[http://www.ecmi.de/doc/about\\_annual\\_report.html](http://www.ecmi.de/doc/about_annual_report.html)



**May 29**

**ECMI launches joint initiative with Council of Europe in Kosovo**

A Schools of Politics initiative in Kosovo, jointly run by the European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI) and the Council of Europe, will be launched on 31st May with an inaugural meeting in Ochrid, Macedonia. This initiative aims to enhance the ability of a new generation of decision-makers in Kosovo to promote practices of democratic governance based on common European values of human rights, minority protection and the rule of law. The two-day meeting brings together a multi-ethnic group of political party representatives, policy-makers and NGO leaders from Kosovo to engage in seminars and discussion with international experts on public policy development and administration. To read the press release visit the ECMI web site <http://www.ecmi.de>

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



British Embassy  
Skopje



Royal Danish Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs



The Royal Norwegian  
Foreign Ministry



Swedish International  
Development  
Cooperation Agency

We hope that you have enjoyed this seventeenth 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](mailto:nashokovska@ecmingonet.org.mk).

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