

ECMI NGO Network Newsletter

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

November 23

ECMI NGO Network

ECMI NGO Network Coordinating Body Meeting



The Coordinating Body of the ECMI NGO Network met on the 23rd November at the premises of the Regional Office Skopje. At this occasion members had a long agenda. Amongst others, they reviewed the activities of the Regional Resource Centers Shtip and Skopje, discussed the National Network project proposals and were introduced to the preparation work for the upcoming General Assembly.

During the meeting the Commission for relations with Donors presented the outcome of the Donor Conference in Kumanovo held on October 16th. Moreover, members of the committee were familiarized with the Round Table "Partnership between the NGOs and Media – Experiences and New Strategies" held in Bitola on 15th October. Finally, the preliminary research outcomes of the Network study done by Pajtim Saiti and Nadir Redzeqi were discussed at the Coordinating Body meeting. Besides, Coordinative Body discussed its structure and criteria for inclusion or exclusion of the NGO Network members.

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November 27

ECMI NGO Network

Meeting of the Youth Multicultural Initiatives Network (YMI)

The Youth Multicultural Initiatives Network held a meeting at the premises of the Regional Office Skopje about ensuring high quality level of implementation procedures of the Project "Local Action National Strategy".



The agenda of the meeting included definition of the criteria for election of members of the working group, research methods of evaluating results through project implementation cycle, and discussed about the Code of Conduct and some other administrative and technical procedures.

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November 20 - 22

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centers NGO Fair

The Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC) together with the Foundation 'Open Society Institute' in Macedonia (FOCIM)



and the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) organized the latest NGO Fair, the 3rd Forum of the Civil Society in Skopje.

ECMI Macedonia represented itself at the NGO Fair with six stands, one stand for each ECMI Regional Resource Center. In this way the joint work of the member organizations could be displayed fully.

A number of the ECMI NGO Network members had also separate stands where they presented their ongoing and implemented projects. Our members also attended forum activities and the social- cultural events of the NGO Fair.

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November 21

ECMI Regional Office Skopje NGO Fair



ECMI was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation on 21 November, the opening day of Skopje NGO Fair. The certificates for 8 outstanding individuals working on Roma issues were handed out by Mr. Samet Skenderi the President of Humanitarian and Charitable Association of Roms "MESECINA" from Gostivar. At



the event the President also gave a short overview of the NGO's activities in its ten years of existence and the challenges they faced during the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and the recent Macedonian conflict.

Activities of the ECMI NGO Regional Resource Centres

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November 12

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo Interview for the local Television ART

During the Consultative meeting held at the premises of the Regional Centre Tetovo, Elizabeta Markovska, Program Manager and Elvira Murtezani, Technical Assistant of the Regional Centre Tetovo gave an interview to the local TV channel Art. The ECMI Mission, Activities and Future Plans were once again clarified.

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News from the Network Members

November 11

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo

NGO "Kolo of Serbian Sisters"

Recognition of the NGO "Kolo of Serbian Sisters" with an award for accomplishment in their community

The NGO "Kolo of Serbian Sisters", member of the ECMI Network, received the prestigious November Award for their accomplishment in community work from the Advisory Board Commis-

the Kumanovo municipality.

This award coincided with the 100th Anniversary of "Kolo of Serbian Sisters", which is an additional reason for recognition of their work in the community.

The award was presented to the women's NGO at the Cultural Centre "Trajko Prokopiev" in Kumanovo.

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November 28 – 30

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Bitola Balkan Association for Friendship and Cooperation

Seminar "Access of the Ethnic groups to the Media"

At the premises of Hotel "Belvi", Ohrid a 3-day-seminar was held as part of the Project "Access of the Ethnic groups to the Media". The Project is implemented by the Balkan Association for Friendship and Cooperation together with FELIX Group, Citizens' Association for Democracy, Peace and Tolerance "AURORA", Cultural and Humanitarian Association of Turks "CHELEBIA", Association of Roms of Bitola "Bairska Svetlina" and Association of Albanian Women, all members of the ECMI Network.

Participants at the Seminar were: NGO representatives from different ethnic backgrounds, journalist from the local Media and representatives of local authorities from Bitola and Tetovo. The aim was to assess the present situation, exchange experience, find new methods for cooperation and formulate joint program for future



cooperation.

Lecturers at the seminar were: Prof. Dr. Gorge Ivanov, University for Law "Sv. Ciril and Metodij", Bujar Luma, Centre for Balkan Cooperation "LOJA" Tetovo, Pece Cvetanoski, expert in political science and journalist for the local newspaper in Bitola. Facilitators were: Zoran Ilievski, Citizens Association for Democracy, Peace and Tolerance "Aurora", Salajdin Aliu, Director of the "House of Culture" in Tetovo, Sonja Tantarova Gruevska, journalist at Radio Bitola.

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

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

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