

ECMI NGO Network Newsletter # 15

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

March 6th

ECMI Regional Office Skopje Training of the Technical Assistants



Technical Assistants supporting all six ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centers in Macedonia were present at a one day workshop on administrative and financial management of Resource Centers. The training was done by the personnel of the ECMI Regional Office and covered all areas necessary for effective functioning of the centers.

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March 24th

Youth Multicultural Initiatives Fourth Workshop for the Formation of Youth Multicultural Initiatives

The last workshop focused on NGO members formulating project proposals which will result in the yearly work plan for the network. The formation of the network is supported by ECMI. The issues discussed at

the workshop included: space for YMI network and its content on the ECMI web site, sustainability of the network and potential sources of financial support. At the same time YMI established criteria for membership which will apply to future members and a Coordinative body consisting of seven members was formed. The Coordinative body includes three teams responsible for the implementation of the yearly action plan, fundraising and membership development. The various plans for the network will be finalized by April 13th when the Coordinative body will hold its meeting.

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Activities of the ECMI NGO Regional Resource Centres

March 14th

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Center Tetovo Coordinator of ECMI Tetovo Center participates in Study Visit to Ukraine

Blerim Jashari, coordinator of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Center Tetovo, took part in a study



visit to Ukraine, organized by the British Department for International Development (DFID) and Technical Advise and Development Service (TADS), also from Britain, as part of the project which will be implemented in Macedonia as Citizen Information and Advice Service centers (CAIS).

The goal of the study visit was to introduce the participants to such centers and their functioning, with the expectation that such centers will be formed in Macedonia and will be available to citizens for legal advice and information. The project is expected to be implemented in Macedonia in the next four years.

E-mail: ecmitetovo@ecmingonet.org.mk

March 15th

**ECMI Regional NGO Resource Center Gostivar
Relocation of ECMI Center in Gostivar**

The Gostivar center has moved to a new location. The new address is 18th of November street, 37A, Gostivar. The new phone number is 042 212 273.

E-mail: ecmigostivar@ecmingonet.org.mk

March 24th

**ECMI Regional NGO Resource Center Stip
Open Forum “Is there Police Brutality in
Stip/Macedonia?”**

A public discussion on the prevalence of police brutality in Stip and in Macedonia was organized by the members of the Stip Regional Center and held at the Stip Municipality.

Presenters for this topic were Zlatko Sarev, lawyer and Shenaj Osmanov from the Association for protection of Roma rights. The discussion was moderated by Alexandra Bojadziska. Mr. Sarev spoke of the rights and freedoms to which all citizens are entitled to, the history of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Macedonian Constitution and the European Convention for the protection of Human Rights. In addition the current situation of police brutality in Macedonia was discussed along with mechanism and institution which can assist in preventing such incidents. In his closing remarks Mr. Osmanov presented concrete examples of incidents of police brutality directed at the Roma community. The Association is in the process of responding to these incidents. The participants were told where they can turn to for assistance in case they

are victims of police brutality and was legal help is available. The tribune was attended by representatives from NGOs, local government, other government institutions and the local media.

E-mail: ecmistip@ecmingonet.org.mk

News from the Network Members

March 6th

**Union of Albanian Women in Macedonia – Bitola
Chapter**

**Open Forum “Trafficking with people – A Dangerous
Evil”**

As part of the “Multi-ethnic women’s forum” project financed by ECMI, the Union of Albanian Women organized a public discussion on the topic of trafficking. The discussion was attended by representatives of various NGOs and people interested in the subject and held at Hotel Epinal. Among the presenters were Ms. Todorka Petrova and Mr. Pepi Simeonov from the “Hope” Crisis Center in Skopje. All those present agreed that trafficking with people, especially with women, prostitution and drugs are social phenomena that equally affect all people regardless of religion or nationality.

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March 7th

**Association for Education, Culture, Ecology and
Humanity “Millenium”**

Fourth Edition of Youth Magazine “Graffiti”

The trilingual youth magazine Graffiti (Turkish, Albanian, Macedonian) targets the youth of Gostivar region has been published with the support of ECMI.

The goal of the publication is to improve the interethnic relations between young people both in Gostivar and throughout Macedonia through wide distribution. The content of the magazine addresses issues relevant to all young people who share common problems, dream of democracy and love sports and music.

E-mail: mngo@post.com



March 10th
Association for Progress, Education and Lobbying – NEL
Participation in Youth Activities Seminar, Italy



The Italian National Agency for Youth organized an international activities seminar with representatives from 36 NGO throughout Europe. A representative of NEL attended the seminar which took place between March 3rd – 9th in Capaccio, Italy. The goal of the seminar was to establish long term partnerships in the area of informal education between countries in Southeastern and Western Europe. The participants prepared four short term and one long term project. Email: nel@winning.com

March 30th
Union of Albanian Women in Macedonia – Gostivar Chapter
Workshops “Cervical Cancer” and “Tumors of the Uterus”

Throughout March, as part of the “Health Education for Women” project, four workshops took place in Gostivar and in the village of Dolna Banica. The workshops targeted Albanian and Turkish women with the goal of increasing their knowledge about genital cancers and other genital diseases. Dr. Hanife Sejfulani, a gynecologist, was the workshop lecturer. The workshops were attended by a total of 135 women. The Gostivar chapter of the Turkish Women’s Organization “Matukat” was a partner NGO for this project, which was financed by ECMI. E-mail: ecmigostivar@ecmingonet.org.mk

March 30th
Association for Progress, Education and Lobbying – NEL

Workshops “Family Violence? – Yes it Exists!”

As part of a project aiming to end family violence implemented by NEL in partnership with the Women’s Association “Romani Asvin” and the Stip chapter of the Macedonian Consumer’s Association, six one day seminars were held in the city and in the surrounding rural areas. The project is supported by ECMI.

The goal of the seminars is to improve the woman’s condition in the family and community in general and at the same time to prevent the occurrence of family violence. The seminars resulted in a conclusion for a need of an SOS legal hotline for victims of domestic violence and stronger lobbying in government institutions. E-mail: nel@winning.com



March 30th
Humanitarian and Charitable Roma Association “Mesechina”

Seminar “Cooperation between the School and the Family”

As one of the activities in the project aiming to improve cooperation between schools and families a two day seminar was held in Ohrid, bringing together 27 participants representing the school board, parent’s association and parents of students at the “Unity-Brotherhood” school in Gostivar. The seminar focused on the relationship between parents, children and teachers and relations within the school. Barriers to good communication were discussed and parents present distinguished themselves with the quality of suggestions and active participation in improving their cooperation with the school.

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March 30th

Balkan Association for Friendship and Cooperation

Preparation for the Opening of Youth Centers in Macedonia, Albania and Montenegro

The last stage of preparation for the opening of youth centers in Bitola, Korcha and Podgorica are taking place. The centers are part of the "Youth Mosaic" project being implemented in partnership with educational institutions in the three cities. Upon the opening of the centers students and teachers will get to know each other through internet communication, presenting their schools, cities and themselves. Afterwards various educational and informational activities will take place, in the form of seminars, interactive workshops based on project-oriented learning, public discussions, cultural and community events.

A summer camp is in the works, along with three seminars, which will result in participants producing three youth action plans, one for each city.

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News from the European Centre for Minority Issues - Flensburg

March 31th

ECMI Headquarters Flensburg

Final ECMI/EBLUL Report for European Commission on Minority Languages in Europe online

Final Report Support for Minority Languages in Europe. Research Project Leaders: Francois Grin, ECMI & Tom Moring, EBLUL. Other principal researchers: Durk Gorter, Fryske Academy; Johan Høggman, EBLUL; Donall O Riagain, EBLUL; Miquel Strubell, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya Brussels: European Commission, 242 pp.

The purpose of this report is to provide the necessary instruments for the orientation of European Union support to linguistic diversity. This issue is addressed in a broader context, characterised by the existence of other policies carried out at various levels (national, regional, local) aiming to protect and promote regional and minority languages.

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/langmin/support.pdf>

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We hope that you have enjoyed this fifteenth 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.