



A MONTHLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER OF THE

ECMI NGO NETWORK FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF INTERETHNIC RELATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

April 2004, Issue no 25

This is the 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

01 April ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo Workshop "Woman and Her Health"

At the premises of the Regional Centre Tetovo a workshop was held on the issue of women's health. The Forum of the Albanian Woman, member of the ECMI NGO Network, organised the event.

Dr. Eni Gorishti – Martin from Albania was the trainer of the workshop for women from the rural areas.

The discussion was focused on the need of family planning, positive and negative aspects of abortion and contraceptive methods.

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07 April ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Bitola Press conference for the initiative "Youth and Alcohol"

At Hotel "Epinal" a press conference was held in order to promote the results of a survey carried out in relation to the "Youth and Alcohol" Initiative. The Cultural and Humanitarian Association of Turks „CHELEBIA" implemented the Initiative. Partner organisations were the Association for Open Communications (AOC), Youth Cultural Centre and

Upcoming Events

Date : 07.05.2004

Time : 14:00

Workshop for mutual understanding of the different cultures and traditional habits at the premises of the ECMI Regional Centre Tetovo, as part of the Initiative "Way to the common life".

Date : 10.05.2004

Time : 10:00 – 16:00

Workshops for developing Youth Action Plan for Tetovo and Gostivar municipalities at the premises of the ECMI Regional Centre Tetovo, as part of the Initiative "Local Action – National Strategy implemented by the Intranet-work Youth Multicultural Initiatives.

Date : 11.05.2004

Time : 10:00 – 16:00

Workshops for developing Youth Action Plan for Tetovo and Gostivar municipalities at the premises of the Association for Education and Culture "MILLENNIUM" - Gostivar, as part of the Initiative "Local Action – National Strategy implemented by the Intranetwork Youth Multicultural Initiatives.

Youth Multicultural Initiatives.



Media Artes, which are all members of the ECMI NGO Network.

Muarem Sadik, Coordinator of the Regional Centre Bitola, welcomed the representatives from the national and local media with a brief

presentation on the ECMI NGO Network for the Improvement of Interethnic Relations in the Republic

of Macedonia.

Subsequently the word was passed to Suzana Sulejman who made a presentation on the Initiative "Youth and Alcohol".

The press conference continued with the presentation of Miroslav Stojanov. He conducted the survey among 528 pupils from primary and secondary schools in Bitola and Ohrid.

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**07 April
Citizens' Association for Democracy, Peace and Tolerance "AURORA", Bitola
International Youth Exchange**



The International Youth Exchange Programme?, named "Mutual Life and Understanding" took place at the Tourist Centre "Pelister" in Bitola from 07th till 14th

of April. It is the first event of its kind in the Republic of Macedonia.

The event is organized by the Citizens' Association for Democracy, Peace and Tolerance "AURORA", member of the ECMI NGO Network, supported by the Belgian organization "PAC EVERE" and the Belgian National Agency of the EU YOUTH programme.

Fifty-two delegates from non-governmental and governmental organizations from Portugal, Belgium, Finland, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Serbia and Montenegro participated in this EU-supported International Youth Exchange.

The aim of this important event in Macedonia was to break through xenophobia and

Date : 15.05.2004

Time : 10:00 – 16:00

Two day workshops for developing Youth Action Plan for Bitola municipalities at the premises of the ECMI Regional Centre Bitola, as part of the Initiative "Local Action – National Strategy implemented by the Intranetwork

Date : 15.05.2004

Time : 10:00

Meeting of the Coordinative Body of the ECMI NGO Network at the Regional NGO Recourse Centre Tetovo

Date : 15.05.2004

Time : 09:00 – 16:00

First panel discussion for initiating dialog between the Local authorities, Business sector, Media and NGOs at "Popova Shapka" as part of the Initiative "Community Dialog and capacity building"

Date : 28.05.2004

Time : 10:00 – 18:00

Two day seminar in Ohrid for promotion of the Youth Action Plan for Skopje, Kumanovo, Gostivar, Tetovo and Bitola municipalities, as part of the Initiative "Local Action – National Strategy implemented by the Intranetwork Youth Multicultural Initiatives.

Date : 29.05.2004

Time : 09:00 – 16:00

Second panel discussion for initiating dialog between the Local authorities, Business sector, Media and NGOs at "Vodno" as part of the Initiative "Community Dialog and capacity building"



prejudices, and to build bridges of friendship, cooperation and trust between youth from the EU member states and applicant countries.

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April

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Kumanovo

Your Rights in Police Procedures

The Initiative "Your Rights in Police Procedures", implemented by the Forum for Romany Rights "ARKA" in association with the Regional Agency for Development, Ecological Society "NATYRA", and Environmental Society "IZGREV" came to its finishing stage.

This project was aimed at increasing awareness of law and human rights. Moreover, the partner NGOs were working on trust building in the judicial system through education and information distribution to target groups, as well as on improving the relations between policemen and citizens through open communication. Around 500 people, aged 18 – 50 years from the cities of Kumanovo, Sveti Nikole and Kriva Palanka, have been reached and trained on human rights.

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08 April

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Bitola

Association of Roms of Bitola "Bairska Svetlina"

Celebration of the International Roma Days

The five days program for celebrating the International Day of Roma was organized by the Association of Roms of Bitola "Bairska Svetlina", member of the ECMI NGO Network.

The celebration started on 04 April with a football tournament with eight teams from Bitola and continued on 05 April with exhibition of Roma Youth drawings, photos from "Bairska Svetlina" activities since October 2001 till March 2004, and an exhibition on the topic



"Bair settlement is part of Bitola" at the local community "Dimitar Vlahov". On 06 April part of the "Bairska

Svetlina" activists visited the Muslim graves in Prilep in honour of the martyrs. The day continued with the conference

The "Dimitar Vlahov". The broadcasting of the Documentary Film "Karorman 111, street without exit" produced by Felix Group, together with a lecture on the historical, cultural and linguistic characteristics of the Roma population marked the fourth day of the celebration. The celebration on 08 April started with the presentation of Roma music in Bair settlement, continued with the concert on the "Magnolia" square and came to end with an awards ceremony

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08 April Romani Women's Organization "DAJA" Kumanovo



Celebration of the International Roma Day

With performance of the Roma anthem "Xhelam, Xhelam" the celebration of the International Roma Day started in front of the

House of Culture "Trajko Prokopiev" in Kumanovo. This event, aimed to enlighten the meaning and importance of this day for the Roma population, was organized by the Romani Women's Organization "DAJA", member of the ECMI NGO Network.

The event continued with recitals performed by the children from the Romani Women's Organization "DAJA" playschool. Afterwards, performances of the Folklore Group "Srna" the Folklore Ensemble "Amalipe", and many more followed. The distributed leaflets to the Roma and non-Roma citizens attending this event were informing about the importance of the resolutions presented on this day.

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April 09
ECMI NGO Network



Developing a Strategic Plan for sustainability of the ECMI NGO Network

A two-day workshop was held to develop a Strategic Plan for the sustainability of the ECMI NGO Network for the Improvement of Interethnic Relations in the Republic of Macedonia at Hotel "Riviera" in Ohrid.

The workshop was organized for the Commission for Strategic Planning of the Network, which is composed of six representatives of the Coordinative Body and six representatives of the Regional Centres. It plans to have drafted an initial version of the Strategic Plan by mid-September. To reach this goal three workshops on the issue of "Where we want to be" are planned to be held through the Regional Centres.

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April
ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo

Let's do something more

The three-month initiative "Let's do something more" was implemented by the NGO "Youth Alliance" in partnership with all members of the ECMI Resource NGO Resource Center Tetovo.

Relevant information about the needs and problems of the citizens in Tetovo and its region are gathered through the four open forums in the field of education, anticorruption, economical development and integration of the EU. The Open Forums gave the possibility to discuss the four topics and identify emerging issues.. Problem resolution and creative approaches are anticipated spin-offs of the meetings.

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April 15
ECMI NGO Network
Meeting of the Coordinative Body

The Coordinative Body of the ECMI NGO Network met at the premises of the Regional Office Skopje to discuss the Activity Plans of each Regional Centre and to evaluate their work during 2003. Other issues on the agenda were the financial



resources of the Network and its Regional Centres for 2004, the outcome of the two-day meeting of the Commission for Strategic Planning, the second General Assembly planned for June, submitted initiatives on national level, and their budgets.

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15 April

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Gostivar

Organization of Turkish Women in Macedonia "MATUKAT"

Exhibition of old Traditional Costumes and souvenirs from the Gostivar Region



As part of the Initiative "Reviving the Tradition for Producing old Traditional Costumes from the Gostivar Region" an exhibition of old traditional costumes and

souvenirs was held at the premises of the Regional Centre Gostivar. The Organization of Turkish Women in Macedonia „MATUKAT“ implements the Initiative in partnership with the Association of Albanian Women and Women's Organization.

A large number of citizens, representatives of the local authorities and media from Gostivar and Tetovo visited the exhibition.

Three days after setting this exhibition the implementing NGOs were visited by a Turkish delegation, among whom were the representatives of the Institute for Folklore of the Faculty for Sociological Research from Izmir, Turkey. They showed great interest in the exhibition and offered support in finding foreign markets to sell the exposed traditional dresses and souvenirs.

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April

ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Shtip

"Prevention of underage marriages"

The Association of Roms of Tikvesh in association with the Women's Organization, both members of the ECMI NGO Network, concluded the three-month initiative "Prevention of underage marriages".

The Initiative included 23 educational



workshops for 230 young girls from Kavadarci and Rosoman aged 12-17 years. The aim was to educate young girls on marriage, its duties and its consequences. In that way, the implementing NGOs want to prevent underage marriages in the municipalities of Rosoman and Kavadarci and to actualize the existence of this problem within the local community.

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21 April
Romani Women's Organization "DAJA"
Kumanovo
Debate on the issue of Emancipation



The Romani Women's Organization "DAJA" organized 5 debates on the issue of Emancipation in the towns of Vinica and

Berovo on 21 April, Pehchevo and Delchevo on 23 April and Bitola on 24 April.

These debates were aimed to raise the consciousness about the need of Emancipation among the young Roma as the most vulnerable group.

The lecturer on these debates was Feat Kamberoski, the coordinator Nuriya Jumerovska, and the assistant Alisa Tairovska.

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April
ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo
"Way to the Common Life"



Three workshops on the issue of non-violent communication were held as part of the initiative "Way to

Common Life". The workshops were held in three villages in the Tetovo region: Rogachevo on 2nd April, Glogi on 08th April and Shipkovica on 20th April.

The Initiative is implemented by the NGO "Happy Life" in cooperation with the Forum of the Albanian Woman and the Humanitarian Association of Roms in Macedonia "SONCE", all



members of the ECMI NGO Network. Seventy-six adults and youngsters from different ethnic backgrounds attended these workshops. In order to achieve the aim of this initiative, different methods for non-violent communication were explored through games and interactive discussions.

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28 April
ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo
NGO "MULTIKULTURA"
Workshop "Stop the Drug"

At the premises of the Regional Centre Tetovo the NGO "MULTIKULTURA" in partnership with the Forum of the Albanian Woman and the NGO „Happy Life" held a workshop as part of the Initiative „Stop the Drug".

The workshop was aimed to inform the youth on the existence of difference kind of drugs and their consequences. Participants also discussed the idea for initiating a massive anti-drugs campaign.

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April
ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Tetovo
NGO Youth Alliance
"Weapons Never Again"



The three months initiative "Weapons Never Again" implemented by the NGO Youth Alliance in partnership with the Humanitarian Association of Roma in Macedonia "SONCE", the Centre for Democratic Development and NGO Handicap, came to its end.

The aim of the initiative was to provide the NGO sector with information, possible directions and suggestions for further action in the demilitarization process. Moreover, the initiative had examined the public opinion in Tetovo and the region on the possession and illegal use of weapons. With the conducted survey and established Focus Groups, which are part of the initiative, 250 people from Tetovo and its region and NGOs were involved.

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**23 April
NGO Golden Generation
Cultural Manifestation**

The Cultural Event held at the "House of Culture" Tetovo was aimed to mark the "Children's Day", one of the most important feasts in Turkey. Among the several participating NGOs, NGO Golden Generation, member of the ECMI NGO Network took part. Also primary schools peoples with songs and games contributed to this exceptional event.



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

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