

# 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

January 24

#### ECMI NGO Network

##### ECMI NGO Network Coordinating Body Meeting

The Coordinating Body met at the premises of the Regional Office in Skopje. At this occasion members of the new Coordinative Body discussed about the amendments of the Memorandum of Cooperation that were adopted on the General Assembly as well as the role of the Coordinative Body.



Other issues that were on the Agenda were: the 2004 Action Plan of the ECMI NGO Network, the financial resources, development of the Coordinative Body Committees, standardization of the Project Proposal Templates.

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01 February

#### ECMI NGO Network

##### Second Workshop of the ECMI Intra-network on Education

The second two day workshop of the ECMI Intra-network on Education "Fundraising", which was organized by FELIX Group took place at the Hotel "Riviera", Ohrid.



The workshop aimed to describe the steps for Fundraising. Participants at this event were members of this Intra network of NGOs which are specialised in implementing education programs. Part of the workshop was the Quiet Auction, organized as a special event with the aim to raise money for the Educational Fund for education of Roma children.

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**February 24**

**ECMI Regional Office Skopje**

**Training for the Technical Assistants**

At the premises of the Regional Office Skopje training was held for the Technical Assistants from the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centres around the country.



The aim of this training was once again to review the procedures in the Regional Centres and to stress the need of constant flow of information between the Technical Assistants and the Regional Office on one hand and Technical Assistants and members on the other. It was also discussed for the rights and responsibilities of the Technical Assistants.

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**26 February**

**ECMI NGO Network**

**Third Workshop of the ECMI Intra-network on Education**

The ECMI Intra-network on Education held the third workshop at the Hotel "Riviera", Ohrid. The workshop was opened with a discussion and adoption of the Memorandum of Cooperation.



The participants were also discussing the methods for Lobbying and generated a Lobbying Plan for achieving the aims of the Intra-network on Education. This Intra-network on Education is developing a Project Proposal on a national level "Notebook 2000".

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

**30 January**

**ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Gostivar**

**Visit by representatives of the Centre for Psychosocial and Crisis Action**

Representatives of the Centre for Psychosocial and Crisis Action, an NGO from Skopje, visited the ECMI Regional Centre in Gostivar. The aim of the visit was introduction to the activities and ongoing initiatives of the Network members. The visitors were particularly interested in the activities related to youth and children programs.

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**February 06**

**ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Bitola**

**Development of an Action Plan**

Two day workshop for development of an Action Plan for 2004 for ECMI Regional Centre Bitola was held at the Hotel "Molika". The starting point for developing the Action Plan was reassessment of the Centre's performance during 2003 and recommendations given by Mr. Mario Velkovich, external evaluator of the Regional Centre Bitola.

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**16 February**

**ECMI Regional Office Skopje**

**Presentation of the new ECMI program kit**

At the premises of the Regional Office Skopje, Program Managers held a meeting with the members of the ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Skopje. The aim was to present and clarify the new program kit before beginning of the 2004 Project Cycles.

The new templates and guidelines presented on the meeting are in step with the modifications of the 2004 Project Cycles and are aimed to simplify the existing procedures and to enhance the capacities of the members.



The new program kit includes: Application for submitting proposed initiatives, Guidelines for the Application for submitting proposed initiatives, Criteria for proposed initiatives, Development Cycle of the proposed initiatives, Criteria for proposed initiatives on national level, Criteria for events, Application for financing of events, Guidance for Budget and Budget Application.

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**February 19**

**ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre**

**Presentation of the new ECMI program kit**

The ECMI Program Managers held presentation of the new ECMI Program Kit at the premises of the ECMI Regional

NGO Resource Centres Gostivar on 19<sup>th</sup>, Kumanovo on 20<sup>th</sup>, Bitola on 23<sup>rd</sup>, Shtip on 25<sup>th</sup> and Tetovo on 26<sup>th</sup>. The aim was to introduce and clarify the program kit before the beginning of the 2004 Project Cycles.

The new templates and guidelines that were presented are in line with the modifications of the 2004 Project Cycles and are aimed to simplify the existing procedures and to enhance the capacities of the members.

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**News from the Network Members**

**13 February**

**ECMI Regional Resource Centre Bitola**

**Citizens' Association for Democracy, Peace and Tolerance "AURORA"**

**Open Forum "Our Application for EU – Good or Bad Timing"**

An Open Forum "Our Application for EU – Good or Bad Timing" which was organized by the Citizens' Association for Democracy, Peace and Tolerance "AURORA" took place at the Hotel "Bitola".



Lecturers on the Open Forum were Mr. Dragan Tilev, advisor in the Government sector for European integration and Mr. Sasho Ordanovski, editor-in-charge in Forum. Ile Masalkovski, executive director of the Citizens' Association for Democracy, Peace and Tolerance "AURORA" acted



as moderator.

The discussion was focused on the application for integration in the EU as well as the course of reforms needed for meeting the standards of the developed countries. The Open Forum grew into an interactive debate for the prospects of Republic of Macedonia

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**February 17**

**ECMI Regional Resource Centre Kumanovo**

**Romani Women's Organization "DAJA"**

**Open Forums "Participation of the Women in Politick and Public Life"**

Seven open forums on the issue of "Participation of the Women in Politick and Public Life" were held in the cities of Pehchevo, Delchevo, Bitola, Vinica, Berovo, Kriva Palanka and Kumanovo.

The seven forums were aimed to raise the awareness among the Romani women for the need of active participation in the political and public life. Lecturer of the Open Forums was Feat Kamberovski.

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**28 February**

**ECMI Regional Resource Centre Skopje**

**Association of Roma Women "ESMA" – Skopje**

**"Opportunity to Learn in the 21 century"**

As part of the project "Opportunity to Learn in the 21 century" 70 Roma women, for the first time are learning to write and are getting acquainted with the basic of Human Rights. The project is implemented by the Association of Roma Women "ESMA" – Skopje and supported by the "Institute for Sustainable Communities".

Involved in this project are women in the age group 15 to 35 years who have not completed their primary education. Educators are three trained women from the Association of

Roma Women "ESMA" that are visiting the participants at their homes.



Once a week the participants are attending lectures for Human Rights at the premises of the Association. Those women who significantly have improved their writing skills will be prepared for taking an exam in June in the primary school for adults "AS Makarenko".

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**February 28**

**ECMI Regional NGO Resource Centre Gostivar**

**Humanitarian Organization "UNITETI" – Gostivar**

**"Health Education for Parents of Persons with Special Needs"**

The three months project "Health Education for Parents of Persons with Special Needs", implemented by the Humanitarian Organization "UNITETI" has been concluded. The project was supported by the ECMI through the Regional NGO Resource Centre Gostivar.





Twenty eight parents of persons with special needs were involved in this project through the seminars covering medical and legal issues related to the people with special needs. In the project activities also, experts in medicine, psychology, education, law and social workers were included.

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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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