

MCIC



Bulletin

Eleventh meeting of the Consortium for Macedonia

CURRENT ACTIVITIES OF MCIC PRESENTED

Current activities of MCIC were presented at the meeting as well as the preparation of the future three year strategy of MCIC was discussed

In the period of 17–20 October, 2004, the Consortium for Macedonia held its eleventh meeting in Roskilde, Denmark. At the meeting the semi-annual report for 2004 of the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC) was discussed as well as the current activities and future plans. At the meeting were present Jørgen Thomsen, representative for Europe and president of the Consortium, Gre Cornelius, responsible for the programs in Macedonia in the Interchurch organization for Development Cooperation from Holland (ICCO), Felicitas Menz, project coordinator for the Balkans and the Caucasus of the Church Development Service (EED), Anne Caroline Tvøy, representative for the Balkans for the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Benedicte Petersen from the headquarters of the NCA in Oslo, Kate Bigley, program manager for Eastern Europe of the Christian Aid from Great Britain, Saso Klekovski, executive director of MCIC and Aleksandar Krzalovski, MCIC program coordinator.

The meeting began with the review and discussions of the semi-annual report of MCIC for 2004. On the agenda were also presentations of MCIC activities: capacity building of teams for local economic development; Together for transparency (publishing annual reports and auditor's opinions of 7 civic organizations in Macedonia in the daily media); five years of MCIC in Kosovo; announcement of the forth NGO fair – forum of the civil society in Macedonia. Saso Klekovski informed the participants about the situation in Macedonia and the region.

The second day the discussion was focused on continuous activities on the long-term assessment and preparations of the strategy of MCIC for the future three years.

The next meeting of the Consortium for Macedonia will be held in May 2005 in Skopje.



At one of the Consortiums for Macedonia

In this issue

- Current activities of MCIC presented
- Fourth forum of civil society in Macedonia
- Sixth regional advisory meeting of Civicus
- Building of the public relations skills
- Semsevo finally with healthy potable water
- Governing board

FOURTH FORUM OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN MACEDONIA

The fourth forum of civil society in Macedonia will take place from 3rd to 5th December 2004, at the Skopje Fair.

The Macedonian Center for International Cooperation, the Foundation Open Society Institute in Macedonia and the Center for Institutional Development are organizing the NGO fair – 4th forum of the civil society in Macedonia, which will take place from 3rd to 5th December 2004, at the Skopje Fair.

The aim of the event is to create room for exchange of experiences and to encourage mutual understanding and respect of civic organizations, to promote improved dialogue among civic organizations, to increase the level of their communication, coordination and cooperation, to foster the informing of the public and other actors regarding the activities of the civic organizations, as well as to contribute to the exchange of information among orga-

nizations from the region. The forum will be divided in four parts: forum activities, exhibition part, educational part and socio-cultural events. This year the main theme will be the



From last year's civil society forum

European Integration of Macedonia, while country-in-focus will be Slovenia.

European Integration of Macedonia, while country-in-focus will be Slovenia.

Civil Society Index of Macedonia – Civicus

SIXTH REGIONAL ADVISORY MEETING OF CIVICUS

Main strengths and weakness of each dimension of the civil society were discussed as well as possible actions in order to develop strengths and address weaknesses.

On October 26th this year, in Skopje, the sixth and last regional advisory meeting of Civicus – Civil Society Index in Macedonia (ICO) took place. Organizer of the advisory meeting was the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC), which has the role of national coordinator of ICO, and as previously, representatives of civic organizations, the media, enterprises and local governments from Gostivar, Kicevo, Ohrid, Struga, Tetovo and neighboring municipalities participated.

At the advisory meeting were reviewed the questionnaires filled out by the participants, for the needs of the civil society

index (ICO), which were on different topics regarding the current situation of civil society in Republic of Macedonia. After presenting the working definition of civil society for ICO and the list of categories of civic organizations, the presentation of the results from the questionnaire followed as well as the discussion for the questions that were difficult for responding or needed further explanation. At the advisory meeting were also discussed the major strengths and weaknesses of each dimension of the civil society and possible actions in order to develop strengths and to address weaknesses.

Civil Society Index – Civicus (ICO) is an action-research project which aims to assess the situation of the civil society in the countries of the world, with the intention to secure basic knowledge of and to contribute towards initiatives for the strengthening of the civil society, while its' aim is strengthening of civil society and increasing its sustainability, as well as strengthening the participation of the civil society in the positive social changes.

The first advisory meeting of Civicus started at the end of September, in Prilep, Kumanovo, then in Veles and continued the following month in Shtip and in Gostivar, until the last in Skopje.

Coordinators of the Civil Society Index are Daniela Stojanova and Emina Nuredinowska from MCIC.



At one of the regional advisory meetings of Civicus

BUILDING OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS SKILLS

In the framework of the program for Capacity Building of Civic Organizations (GKG), with the aim to strengthen the capacity of civic organizations to publicly present themselves and to build their own image, from September 28th to October 1st, 2004, the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC) held a public relations training. The training took place in the facilities of the Macedonian Radio and Television, in Skopje, and the participants, members of civic organizations, acquired knowledge and skills for building and sustaining the relations with the public through the media, both electronic and written, as well as through other ways and forms – brochures, newsletters, reports,

The course participants had the opportunity to practically experience the atmosphere of a TV and radio interview, ways to process a press release in a daily newspaper and simulate a press-conference.

presentations and other.

"I believe we achieved what we all came for – we understood that the strategic and organized way of information exchange with the public will significantly increase the rating of our organization, while spontaneity and not knowing the public relations can cost us a lot", stated one of the participants, Verica Grdanoska from the Youth Association "Perpetuum" from Skopje.

The members of the civic organizations at the course had the possibility to practically experience the atmosphere of a TV and radio interview, ways to process a press-release in a daily newspaper and simulate press-conference. At the course were covered also the topics on public presentation and the importance of written materials published by the associations as part of the building of their image.

"A nice opportunity for the members of the civic organizations to be introduced to this

great field of public and media relations. Otherwise, the course is even brief for those who come in touch for the first time with this area of work of a civic organization, because this is an entire science. The technology of image creation and presentation of the work done by the civic organizations is an extremely important part of their activity and it can help them or hinder them if it is not completed well", were the impressions of one more participant at the training, Chedomir Tomik from the Ecological Society "Eco-mission" from Skopje. The public relations training involved 11 participants from the following organizations: Movement for Euro Atlantic Macedonia – Skopje, Ecological Society "Eco-mission" – Skopje, Cultural center Rastak – Skopje, Youth association "Perpetuum" – Skopje, NGO "Novina" – Skopje, Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC) – Skopje, Women's Organization in the municipality of Gazi Baba – Skopje, Citizen Information Center "Spektar" – Stip, Prestige – Bitola and the Macedonian Enterprise Development Foundation (MEDF). Trainer was Gonce Jakovlevska from MCIC, exercise leader was the journalist from MRTV Zoran Trajcevski, and for the TV interview Goran Velickovski from Television channel Kanal 5.



Simulation of a TV appearance – one of the participants at the public relations training

MCIC contribution for the water-supply in rural areas

SEMSEVO FINALLY WITH HEALTHY POTABLE WATER

The initiative for the construction of the water-supply system began in 1984 when the technical documentation was prepared. Finally, shortly, Semsevo too will receive potable water.

The village of Semsevo and its 1.737 inhabitants will get clean and potable water by the end of the year. This will be the result of the terminating of the water-supply system which began on October 13th, 2004.

At present, the Semsevo inhabitants are supplying water from personal wells, mostly with hydrophoric equipment. The wells are shallow and take up the first water level. The water used does not fulfill the needs of the population. Due to the bacterio-

logical pollution, most of the wells are not to be used and lately even quantitatively lack of water can be felt. Especially critical is the situation during the summer period when the needs of the population are increased.

"The initiative for the construction the water-supply has began since 1984 when the technical documentation was prepared", the president of the neighborhood unit Rahman Aliti told us. Yet, due to lack of funds, little was done for water-supply. "In the end of

2001", Aliti says, "we received 8 million MKD from the Ministry of Local Government for the construction of the water-supply system. The funds were realized during 2002 and 2003, however the whole



Festive moments for the Semsevo inhabitants – from the official inauguration of the water-supply system building

With the finalizing of the construction of the water-supply system a complete pump station will be procured together with the hydrophor facility of 13 square meters, a main supply pipeline of 300 meters will be implemented and part of the complete water-supply network through the village in the length of 2.265 meters.

system was not completed, and that's why we asked the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation to assist us".

The total budget of the project was 3.500.000 MKD. MCIC participated with 2.900.000 MKD, and the inhabitants of Semsevo and the municipality of Jegunovce with 300.000 each.

"I must underline that MCIC is quite present in our region and Semsevo is the 9-th project realized with their assistance", stated Petre Antovski, Mayor of the municipality of Jegunovce. "With MCIC the municipality fully transformed in the sense of access to clean and healthy potable water", he added.

The initiative board from Semsevo is responsible for the realization of the project for water-supply. Members of the board are representatives from both the Albanian and Macedonian community.

"The success of the neighborhood unit in motivating the inhabitants, locating funds and starting the finalization of the construction of the water-supply system, is the result of their cooperation and persistence to resolve the problem because the problem is theirs and they are the ones that feel it most", said Saso Klekovski, executive director of MCIC. "The success is the result of the engagement of the local government, because this is a local gov-

ernment which is close to the population and which is capable of understanding the citizens. The Ministry of Local Government, the Diaspora, all links were connected and MCIC could not say no. After two-year communication this phase was realized. This should be an encouragement as to how one should work in order to overcome problems.

The water-supply system after its putting into operation will be maintained by the Public Enterprise "Jegunovce" - Jegunovce. The local population agreed to install measure instruments (water-meters) and to pay for the water spent.

Organs and bodies of MCIC

GOVERNING BOARD

The ninth session of the governing board of MCIC took place on October 4th 2004.

After the adoption of the minutes of the 8th regular session, the governing board of the MCIC established the proposals for the members of the Council (individual members) and adopted the decision for the verification of urgent approval of the project "Water-supply for the village of Kostinci DLN", no. 04 08 BC3 107. The governing board at this session approved the projects "Building the capacity of youth organizations - phase 2", no. 04 10 GKG 202 and "Training for EU funds and advocacy", 04 12 BNT 103. At the same session the governing board of MCIC approved the final reports of the projects: "Let's learn to build a better youth - 3", no. 03 08 POR 105; "Education of young Roma in Bair - 3", no. 03 08 POR 108; "Education - bright future for the young Roma - 3", no. 03 08 POR 111; "Education is power, join in - 3", no. 03 08 POR 117; and, "Better future - 3", no. 03 08 POR 119.

Founder and publisher: MCIC

- President of the Publishing Board: **Zoran Kostov**
- Editorial Office of the MCIC Bulletin: **Saso Klekovski** (Editor in Chief); **Gonce Jakovleska** (editor), **Daniel Medaroski** (deputy editor, secretary & proof reader), 300 Copies.
- Design by "Koma lab." - Skopje.
- Printed by "Borografika" - Skopje.

A privileged tax rate is paid for the publication "MCIC Bulletin", conform to the opinion of the Ministry for Culture of Macedonia No. 08/1-4/354 dated 21.03.1997
ISSN 1409-6927

Innovations at Reseaux Pour le Developpement

(IRED) **КОШТАРИНАТА Е ПЛАТЕНА**
3 rue de varembe, CP 116
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland



MACEDONIAN CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

"Nikola Parapunov" bb, P.O. Box 55
MK-1060 Skopje

tel.: 02/3065-381, fax: 02/3065-298

E-mail: mcms@mcms.org.mk