



**Newsletter – No. 15 August, September, October 2003**  
**First Children's Embassy in the World-Megjashi 1992 – 2003**  
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***Mission of the organization:***

The FCEWM is International non-governmental organization which works on the respect of the child's personality through protection of the children's rights, support of their best interest and through making the childhood safe and creative. Strengthens the NGO movement for children's rights, encourages volunteerism and cares for implementation of the Convention of children's right.

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**1. Training for nonviolent elaboration of the conflicts-Mavrovo**

Form 17.08 to 24.08.2003 in the hotel Radika-Mavrovo and from 10.10 to 12.10.2003 in the resort of the Red Cross-Struga, there were trainings for non violent elaboration of the conflicts, organized by the First Children's Embassy in the World-Megjashi. The same group of Macedonian and Albanian teachers of the secondary medical school "D-r Pance Karagozov" took part in two trainings. The important thing was that they had a high level of cooperation and readiness to work on themes which are painful and hard (violence, national identity, communication). This was promising because there was a need to work on these themes.

The training team was composed of: Blerim Jasari (Centre for Balkan cooperation LJOJA Tetovo), Ana Bitoljanu (FCEW-Megjashi), Nenad Vukosavljevik (Centre for nonviolent action-Belgrade), Gordana Pirkovska Zmijanac (FCEW-Megjashi-Skopje). The trainings were completed with financial support by the Institute for Sustainable Community through the American Agency for International Development and the Swiss Embassy in Skopje. We made an inquiry among the participants to get the information what was the influence of the experience of the trainings. For illustration, here is one of the answers:

*"Now after the trainings we have radical changes in our attitudes, because after two years spent working together, we never sat and talked about professional questions with the Macedonian colleagues, but now we communicate. Before the trainings I only greeted with the Macedonian colleagues, and we did not have other contacts. Now we sit together and talk like professionals. We drink coffee together, that is something that we didn't use to. In one word I can say that*

*the effect of the trainings in our personnel is obvious. Now there is relaxation in the mutual relations among the colleagues".*



## **2. Our stories: Sanela, Ivana and Suaret - children members of the Embassy-Megjashi**

*I remember very well when I came to the First Children's Embassy in the World-Megjashi for the first time. It was two years and three months ago, and I think that it was like yesterday. At the beginning I was homesick, I often did not sleep at night, and thought if I would ever return home. Here, in the First Children's Embassy in the World-Megjashi the time passes and the sadness slowly disappears. In the Embassy there are a lot of workshops like: drama, literature, art, English, French, mathematics, and computing. I associate and communicate almost with all children, but most of the time I spend on the computer. I like sport very much, but basketball is my favourite one. Thanks to the First Children Embassy in the World-Megjashi I really widen my knowledge for many useful things. Although, Megjashi is my second home, I still want to have my own home. Who knows, may be one day this desire of mine will be fulfilled.*

**(Sanela 12 years).**

*It was very difficult to forget the past and the moments when my family and I left our home running away from the storm of the war. That was at the beginning but now it is different. Maybe I do not have enough space for living, but it is better than to live in fear. In addition in First Children Embassy in the World-Megjashi I have found myself, the thing I have carried in me all the time, but I never discovered it. For all this I owe to Megjashi and the people I meet here every day who have helped me for many things. Here I always have a good time although there are some sad moments, but I am sure that all of them will stay in my memories.*

**(Ivana 12 years)**

As we informed you in the last news letter, Suaret Alishan is a boy without parents with damaged sight, on his own and can not continue his education in the state high school "Dimitar Vlahov" – Skopje – graphic materials. He and FCEWM by the help of the Inter Community Centre for Social Works, which is his tutor, made efforts to enroll as a student of fourth grade in this school. We sent a request to the Ministry of Education for Suaret to continue his education as a part-time student in this school. It informed us that he could continue only as a part-time student, which is contrary to the requests of a person

with damaged sight. Biljana Stavrova, a reporter in A1 television, informed the Macedonian public twice on 28 August and 7 September this year about Suaret's problem that is common to any child without parents and aged 18. If these children do not continue their education after the age of 18, they do not have right to stay in boarding school or to get social help. The state leaves them on their own. Suaret can not stay in a boarding school because he was accepted as a part-time student although his classmates were accepted in the state secondary school "Vlado Tasevski" as full-time without any problems. Also, last year a schoolgirl from the State Institution for rehabilitation of children and youths with damaged sight "Dimitar Vlahov" fulfilled her right for education in the state secondary school "Dimitar Vlahov" as a full-time student, but then the headmaster of the school Mr. Kosta Gochev was not present. The same girl had to pass 5 differential exams, and Suaret now has to pass 13. So we concluded that if the headmaster had a good will, then the law would be enforced. Unfortunately the present headmaster of the state secondary school "Dimitar Vlahov", Kosta Gochev was not willing to accept Suaret as a full-time student. He enforces the law and did not let Suaret to be a full-time student in this school. As a result, Suaret lost the right to live in the boarding school where there are all the didactic tools for children with damaged sight. How can he prepare the exams and how can he read? How will he learn? We asked for support by other organizations and institutions: the Helsinki Committee, the Ombudsman, the Community Centre for Social Welfare and the Burro for Education Development. But nothing has changed until now.

### **3. "Multi Cultural" Theater performance for children and the young**

As a part of the project "Action for Citizenship through Theatre" there were workshops from 14.08 to 19.08.2003 in the summer resort Ponikva. All 60 children who were in the workshops were engaged in the project. There were workshops on different themes, for example: rights of the child, communication of the children with the parents, conflict and other. The children's parents visited the workshops and there were educative workshops for them as well.

We were glad that within very short time with mutual understanding and cooperation we succeeded in completing our ideas. We also organized evening parties, apart from the educative workshops, such as: selection of the best singer of traditional songs, best mask, ball under masks. We also organized football tournament and performance of the play "Multi Kulti" that was presented in: Stip, Debar, Kavadarci, Kumanovo, Demir Kapija, Struga, Kicevo and Gevgelija and which goal is to move to the tendency of giving contribution for strengthening the multiethnic civil society, building of trust and cooperation among participants that was created during the work of the theatrical workshop. This play will be performed in 8 more towns in Macedonia. The project is being realized by the First Children's Embassy in the World-Megjashi and Centro Regionale per la Cooperazione (CRIC) with the financial support of the EU, managed by the European Agency for Reconstruction.



#### **4. Mak Action**

The activists in the project Macedonian Volunteers for Action (MAK Action) were very busy in August, September and October. They planned and organized 26 activities in their local communities. In the activities a great number of volunteers and participants were engaged in three summer camps where they painted fences, made cheese, marked mountaineer route, learned about ecology, had sport activities etc. In addition to the summer camps they participated in other ecological actions, activities for improving the quality of life in their communities (rearranging small parks and basketball courts); sport activities and 77 participants from 11 towns (from poor families) watched the football match between Macedonia and England.

The financial supporter of the MVA project is USAID through CSHI (Community Self-Help Initiatives) and the FCEW Megjashi manage and administrate it.



#### **5. Children's Workshops**

Children workshops, as one of the first activities in the First Children's Embassy in the World-Megjashi, which last continuously for ten years, this time started with a new cycle on 1 of April 2003, are going to last ten months and will have been finished by 1 of February 2004. The children can get basic knowledge from different areas and learn foreign languages (English, German and French), computers, literature, art and origami.

The number of the children interested in taking part in the workshops was getting bigger and bigger among the protectors of the Inter Community Center for Social Work. So, their number was increased from 90 to 100 children. Their desire to obtain new knowledge and extend the existed one the children show every working day by regular attendance of the workshops: four workshops in English language which are held by volunteers Hristina, Biljana, Dance and Gabi, one workshop for French-Maja, one for German-Dejan, art work shop-Ana,

literature workshop-Nermina, origami workshop-Cece, and two workshops in computing held by Elena and Zarko. Moreover, the children made new friends and associate during and out of the workshops. The project is financed by the World Bank, and the coordinator of the project is Luiza Isailovska.

## **6. Participation**

The coordinator of the children workshops, Luiza Isailovska participated in the ***Balkan Youth Forum*** named "Building a brighter future" organized by the Balkan Foundation for Children and the Young from 16 to 21 of September 2003 in Igalo, Montenegro.

During the period from 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September 2003 in Bucharest, Romania, there was a ***Regional Meeting of the Global March Against Child Labor for Central and Eastern Europe*** which Ljupka Naumovska, a volunteer in the First Children's Embassy in the World-Megjashi, took part in.

From 16 to 19 October, 2003, in Skopje there was a ***Regional Festival for Lifelong Learning***. In the festival, The First Children's Embassy in the World-Megjashi presented itself with the products (drawings, figures from paper and clay) from the children who attend the workshops as well with the tool that are used in the workshops (text-books, audio cassettes, color pencils, water colors).

***Odile Humblot***, a volunteer in the foundation "Equal in Development" from Brussels, Belgium, was a guest in the First Children's Embassy in the World-Megjashi from 22 to 26 of October. She was presented the team which work every day in the FCEW-Megjashi, as well as the shelter centre children in crises and the current activities. She paid a special attention to the children's workshops and attended the art workshop, origami and the French workshop. Our guest attended the two days school football tournament (both male and female teams), within the framework of the PHARE Action Week against racism and discrimination (16-28 October), organized by the teachers in DSMU "D-r Pance Karagozov" that are included in the project "Initiative for Better Mutual Understanding.

*We have received an e-mail from Odile saying about her unforgettable moments spent with us.*

From 24 to 26 of October 2003, in Hotel "Sirius"-Strumica Dragi Zmijanac, our Director, participated in the ***practical seminar on theme: "Advocacy and Lobbying for NGO"***. At the seminar he had a session for presentation of the "Campaign for 1%" actually he presented the campaign for supplementing and changing the Law for tax profit and Law for personal tax of income. The seminar was organized by the Institute for Sustainable Community.

In the period from 7 to 11 of October, 2003 the Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation in cooperation with the Hungarian Church Help also organized a visit to the ***state and civil organizations in Budapest***, Hungary, and there were representatives from the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, the Institution for Social Activities, the Centre for Social Welfare from Ohrid and the Centre for Social Welfare from Strumica, the Centre for Children and the Young people from Skopje and from FCEW-Megjashi.

***Until the next edition***

***Best regards by the First Children's Embassy in the World-Megjashi team***