

Newsletters No. 17
February, March, April and May 2004
First Children's Embassy in the World-Megjashi
Republic of Macedonia
(FCEWM)
1992-2004

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1. DEVELOPMENT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF FCEW-MEGJASHI

With the commencement of the project for development and establishment of FCEW Megjashi, within the working frame of the program for strengthening the strategic civil organizations (2004-2007), set up by the **Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation (MCIC)**, in March, **KPMG** (consulting and auditing enterprise) according to the international standards of auditing and in compliance with the Macedonian Law, made a revision of the organizational and financial work of the First Children's Embassy in the World Megjashi. According to their final opinion, the financial reports of FCEWM objectively and realistically represent the financial statements of the organization for 2003 fiscal year, and the financial work is in compliance with the Macedonian Law.

This project implicates strengthening of the organizational work through providing human and material resource, publishing the independent auditing results and opinion in the daily press, as well as publishing the annual descriptive and financial reports of FCEWM.

We wish our warm welcome to **Nina Kostova**, involved in the activities of FCEWM as program assistant, from February 01, 2004.

In the period of three months, from 15 April to 15 July, our coordinator of the Children's Workshops, **Maja Taneva**, participates in the **Training through Work**, managed and organized within MCIC.



In the honor of the 12th Anniversary of FCEW Megjashi, an art fashion models exhibition was organized, prepared and created by **Ivana Stojanovska**, child sheltered in the Shelter Center for Internally Displaced Person, within the FCEW Megjashi.

2. SOS-PHONE FOR CHILDREN AND JUVENILES

Five new volunteers have joined the SOS team in the past five months. The working hours start at 10:30 to 20:00. Within the project financially supported by the **Royal Netherlands Embassy** in duration of one year, training and supervision by an expert, specialist of medical psychology, **Stanislav Petkovski** is provided to the volunteers.

Within the campaign for promotion of **SOS telephone**, the coordinator took an action for distribution of informative materials in primary schools throughout the country. The preparation of the brochure in the occasion of ten year existence of the SOS phone service for children and juveniles has started.

Review by a volunteer of the SOS phone for children and juveniles:

"Since the very beginning it was a great challenge, to become an SOS operator and a part of the SOS team. During the three years of my active participation in team building we have run through some difficult periods of change, from the period of small number of volunteers and received calls, up to this moment when we became a big SOS family with an increased number of counselling.

It is quite difficult to express all the experience that I obtain through this kind of work, but one thing is clear my volunteering will stay deeply engraved in my personal development.

SOS phone service was my first activity through which I obtain practical experience from the structure that I have chosen as my future profession. Each received call at the SOS phone made me more mature. Problems that I'm facing with, listening to other people open some new life perspective for me. I've learned and I'm still learning to actively listen to other people's problems and to understand them and their problems. It is of a great

importance to show respect to the caller and to show compassion to his problems, no matter how difficult it is.

At the end I would like to express my gratitude for having become part of this team, which is undoubtedly one big school for life".

3. Macedonian Volunteers for Action

Within the framework of **Mac Action Project**, managed by FCEWM and financed by **USAID** through the **CSHI** program, great



number of activities have been realized, in the period from February to May. Along with the implementation of the ongoing activities through out 10 cities in Macedonia, Mac Action volunteers were involved in the CSHI activities for settling up the **E 75** road (pay tolls), where tourist will pass through on the way to Athens for the Summer Olympian Games. At the same time, the campaign "Be proud of your school" for painting the high schools, as well as setting up the

school yards in Macedonia is run by the volunteers of Mac Action. According to the **Prizma** Project Programme, which financed the last phase of the Mac Action Project, an implementation of activities for encouraging entrepreneurs' skills at young people is planned. In cooperation and with the financial support by **OSCE**, two eco camps at Dojran Lake and Mladost Lake will be organized. Volunteers coming from different nationalities and ethnical backgrounds, from the towns of Veles, Tetovo, Debar and Kumanovo will participate in the camps.

4. Children's Workshops

On May 18 2004 all children participants in the **children's workshops** (English, French, German, Literature, Arts, Computers and Origami, were given certificates, and also the teachers-volunteers of the workshops FCEW Megjashi were given the same ones, as an expression of gratitude for their



voluntary work.



5. Initiative for Better Mutual Understanding

The basic activity was having workshops in which students from the high medical school "Dr. Pance Karagozov" both Macedonian and Albanian participate. These workshops were focused on the following issues: non-violent communication, building mutual confidence, understanding and conflict resolution, gender issues...

With the intention of students getting to know better, visit to a church and mosque were organized, as well as joint ecological action for cleaning the school yard and the surrounding.



Part of the professors involved in this project started organizing discussions, on which they've discussed the problems that are faced with, during this project.

An initiative has been raised students to attend the practice work in the future in mixed ethnical groups.

Along with the coordinator **Redzep Raimi**, from February **Ilija Dojcinovski** joint us as another project coordinator.

The financial support is given by the **American Agency for International Development - USAID** through the **Institute for Sustainable Communities**.

6. Lobbying and Advocacy



The **First Children's Embassy in the World-Megjashi** together with the **Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women in Macedonia - ESE**, in April and May this year, proposed solution for improvement and promotion of the law regulations for family law, social and children protection law regulations.

Regarding the content of the solutions in the Law Proposal for modification and complementing the law for family with the Law Proposal, instead of bringing it through short cut legal act we suggested to be discussed through regular legal act, in order the public to be informed, as well as any other entities implementing the law, which will create possibilities for building quality solutions in the law regulations, above all, family and family violence, children's rights, parent's rights, adoption, legal proceedings etc. In the meantime, if the proposal for modification and complementation is not accepted to be discussed through regular proceedings, we suggested proposal amendments in

compliance with the content of the solutions brought out in the Law proposal for family, which will erase certain solutions that are not providing: **appropriate treatment for child to be raised from object to subject, solutions which will indirectly punish to the parent for not fulfilling parental duties and directly punish the child. Solutions by which the adoption legal proceeding is bureaucratized as well as reexamining the content of certain solutions set as proposals for modification and complementing of this law, while they should be content of another law.**

To this Law Proposal the following organizations have joined us:

Women Citizen Initiative ANTIKO, MIA- STOP AIDS, Marija Savovska - coordinator of the women program of FIOOM, Association of Women Lawyers TEMIS, Roma Women Organization of Macedonia - DAJA, Polio Plus, Phurt, Shelter Center - for Women and Children Victims of Violence, Association for Protection of Children's Rights, Organization of Women from Sv. Nikole municipality, Women Union Norma - F, Association of Women Aureola, ORT - Association for Information, Trainings and Development, Women's Lobby Against Violence and Trafficking - open Gate, Association of Women - Prestige, Natasha Gaber Damjanovska.

Regarding the proposal for modification and complementing the Family Law, following meeting were held:

- On **April 20 2004**, an appointment was made with the presidents of the Commission for Labor and Social Policy and the Commission for Legislation, within the Parliament of Republic of Macedonia, and Mrs. **Eleonora Petrova**, coordinator of the Women Parliament's Club
- On **April 29 2004**, an appointment was made with representatives from ESE and Megjashi and the Mrs. **Eleonora Petrova**, coordinator of the Women Parliament Club.
- On **May 4 2004**, representatives from ESE and Megjashi had meeting with Mr. Iljaz Halimi, president of the Commission for Labor and Social Policy within the Parliament of R.M.
- On **May 4**, an appointment was arranged with the Coordinator of the members of parliamentary group of SDSM
- On **May 6 2004**, information and copies from the Proposal Amendments of the Proposal for legislation of the modification and complementing the family law were sent to the President, Vice President of the Parliament of Republic of Macedonia, coordinators of the parliamentary groups, Deputy President, members and deputy members of the Commission for Labor and Social Policy, within the Parliament of Macedonia
- On **may 7 2004**, representatives of ESE and FCEWM had meeting with deputy-coordinator of the parliamentary group of SDSM, Mrs. **Slavica Grkova** and the member of the Commission for Labor and Social Policy Mrs. **Ana Andonova**.
- On **May 13 2004**, representatives of ESE and Megjashi had meeting with the President of the Association of referees, Mr. **Agim Miftari**
- On **May 13 2004**, upon the request of the parliamentary group of SDSM, representatives from ESE and Megjashi had meeting with the Minister of Labor and Social Policy, representatives from the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and two deputy members of the Commission for Labor and Social Policy within the

Parliament of Republic of Macedonia, Mrs. **Liljana Popovska**, Mrs. **Blagorodna Mingova Krepieva** and Mrs. **Slavica Grkova**, deputy coordinator of the SDSM parliamentary group.

- On **May 14 2004**, representatives of ESE and Megjashi had meeting with Mr. **Riste Bislimovski**, member of the Commission for Labor and Social policy and Mrs. **Blagorodna Mingova Krepieva**, deputy member of the Commission for Labor and Social Policy.

7. Participations

On **February 11 2004** in Skopje, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy organized open public discussion regarding the **Proposal for modification and supplementing the law for social prevention**, where Ma.Sc. Dragi Zmijanac, Executive Director of FCEWM, took part.

In the period of **February 20 to 22 2004**, in the Jadran hotel in Skopje, Gordana Pirkovska Zmijanac and Nina Kostova participated at the seminar for **Gender Ethics** and it's application in the conflict resolution. The seminar was organized by the Institute for Sustainable Communities.

In **February 2004**, every Monday and Wednesday, Katerina Konevska, volunteer at FCEW Megjashi, participated in the **courses for public relation**. These courses were organized by the Association of Journalists for Women and Children's Rights.

From **March 5 to March 11** this year, Gordana Pirkovska Zmijanac took participation in the regional meeting for peace education in Banja Vrujci, organized by the Centre for Non-violent Action.

On **9 and 10 of March**, in SEED Nina Kostova and Maja Taneva, attend the seminar on **Human Resource Management**. This seminar was organized by the Institute for Sustainable Communities.

At the establishing meeting held on **March 16**, the **Citizen's Platform of Macedonia** elected FCEW Megjashi as member of the Committee and Council, on which resolutions were brought regarding the organizational structure and the law status, the principles guidelines, financial resources, memberships and election of Council members. The Citizen's Platform of Macedonia has been initiated and opens for citizen's organizations, dedicated to building of citizen's society in Macedonia.

The **Agency for Sport and Young**, in the period of **March 17 to March 20 2004**, in the Panorama hotel, organized forum with the topic, Preparation of document proposal for strategy with young people. Dragi Zmijanac took participation on this forum.

From **April 16th to April 18th 2004**, in hotel Epinal, Bitola, seminar on **Application of theater techniques and introduction to the forum theater**, was organized by the Institute for Sustainable Communities, on which Mirhan Sulejmanovski and Elena Damjanovska, volunteers from FCEW Megjashi took participation.

On **April 21st 2004**, in Hotel Alexander Palace in Skopje, USAID through World Learning organized ceremony on which Dragi Zmijanac received certificate for accomplishments in the field of **Lobbying and Advocacy**.

From **April 22 to 25**, the Vice Ambassador of FCEWM in Napoli, Italy, **Dr. Antonio Diletto** came to visit FCEW Megjashi. He had the opportunity to be introduced with the activities and Embassy Megjashi team. Mr. Antonio had an appointment with Miss Marija Adele Chofi from the Commercial Attaché in the Italian Embassy.

Mr. Diletto submitted his application for continuing the duration of his Diplomatic passport, as a Vice Ambassador for the next four years.

At the Hotel Bistra, Mavrovo, on **21- 22 May**, the first meeting of the National Counseling Group of **CIVICUS**, the index of the civil society was organized. Mr. Dragi Zmijanac took part in it.

8. Contributions and Donations

Our gratitude to the pastry shop "**Rosana**", which donates birthday cakes to the children from the shelter center in the FCEW Megjashi, continuously for three years.



Oscar DOOEL, Skopje, gave donation of baby pram to Elizabeta Alii, single mother in a very difficult existential condition.

Dimitar Gucev, an activist gave contribution in cloths, for the internally displaced person and socially jeopardized, and one baby bed for child sheltered in our shelter.

Trade Company S-T, Skopje, donated 8 packages with baby napkins Pampers, 5 of the packages were given to Elizabeta Alii, and 3 of them to the families from the shelter.

Brodi (broker house) through donation action gathered 646 MKD for the activities in FCEW Megjashi. FCEWM gave it's gratitude with thanks giving diploma.

In the honor of Easter and Work's Day holidays, Kam Market and TC-Rudine and GSP Actuel, gave contribution in nutrition (eggs, milk, pasta, meat, baby food etc.) for the internally displaced person settled in the shelter center of FCEW Megjashi.

4. Reactions

Referring to the statement given by the president of the **Syndicate of Education, Science, and Culture (SESC)**, **Dojcin Cvetanovski**, that students from primary and secondary schools will not be given their diplomas and no other students will be enrolling in the next year, if salaries (for April) are not paid, the FCEW Megjashi, gave the following statement:

"FCEW Megjashi considers that accomplishing workers rights in the educational institutions such as primary and secondary schools, should not be fulfilled through threat and hesitation which will affect children - students who regularly attend school and according to the law their results and effort should be evaluated through a certificate, and regularly enroll the school year that follows, as a basic obligation and right of every student.

For organizing a strike, the SESC for protection of workers rights in the educational institutions should not set forth hesitation and threat over children's rights, using as necessity to accomplish their interests in the arguments with the partners, we consider it as violation over children's rights.

10. New member of our Diplomatic Corps

According to the regulations for diplomatic passport, the Executive Board of the FCEW Megjashi, made decision the Honorary Consul His Excellence Prof. Dr. *Paul Richard Wilson Ratnayake* to be nominated as **Honorary Consul of Bazel and Bazeland, Switzerland**, and gave obligation to represent the mission and goals of the Embassy - protection of children and their rights as well as to support the Embassy in the efforts for accomplishing it's mission.

Under that agreement, the Executive Director of FCEWM, sent the acridities with the nominations and issued Diplomatic passport no. 211 exp. Date on 29.04.2008.

Greetings from the **Megjashi team**, until the next newsletter.

