

Newsletters-No 18
June-November 2004
First Children's Embassy in the World-Megjashi
Republic of Macedonia (FCEWM)
1992-2004

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In this issues

1. LETTER
2. MACEDONIAN VOLUNTEERS FOR ACTION
3. PROTECTION OF THE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
4. CONTRIBUTIONS AND DONATIONS
5. SOS-PHONE FOR CHILDREN'S AND JUVENILES
6. CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS
7. PARTICIPATIONS
8. DEVELOPMENT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF FCEW-MEGJASHI
9. SHELTER CENTER

1. A LETTER

The project Initiative for better mutual understanding started in June 2003 and lasted till July 2004. It included 50 students from Macedonian and Albanian nationality from medical high school in Skopje and 20 teachers who attended in three trainings for non-violent elaboration of conflicts and one for workshops facilitation.

Once more we send many thanks to Institute for Sustainable Community for the financial support of the project. In the June two seminars were organized in Strumica. In total 40 participants took part. In the trainers team were: Ana Bitoljanu, Ljubica Aleksova, Zumrete Jakupi, Gordana Pirkovska Zmijanac, Blerim Jasari, Dime Iliev.

A letter was written for the publicity in one of those workshops:

"In conditions of general chaos in the world it's nice to know what the young people do to make better future and to make the world better place for living. If the world set in and began with the tiniest organism then the young people can do evolution of their common life, love and peace. At the beginning of that evolution is the First Children Embassy in the World-Megjashi which gave us opportunity to work in more workshops and many common projects. This letter is directed to whole public to be introduced about existing of mutual group of Macedonian, Albanian, Turk and Bosnian people associating and respecting each other. The First Children's Embassy in the World – Megjashi in cooperation with medical high school D-r Pance Karagozov in Skopje organized project which primary aim is

interethnic understanding, trust and friendship. All that parties, play-time, and news reached our hearts and relived the feelings from the depth of our hearts. We worked as a team where we succeed to get over prejudice, and misunderstandings. We functioned like one.

This was remarkable enjoyment that will never fade from our memories. It will always stay as special motto because we feel that we are all for one, one for all.

All that we have written before we want to say that we have rights and we will protect them saying the authorities that we will not be separate just because our ethnical differences and we won't let to have violence between us, because everything can be solved with agreement and dialog. We think that this text will touch your hearts although this are a few sentences we want you to understand that we are great and we will continue working and living together”.



The letter was written by: Elena, Azra, Elena, Kefser, Fuada, Petranka, Rejhan, Gulden, Kenan, Azret, Sirhana, Margita, Fatime, Tatjana, Naime, Zimrije, Kefajet, Tadzudin, Zelfije, Azrim, Liridon, Fatime, Borka and Sevim.

2. MAK ACTION

From 15th April until 15th of May 2004 we implemented the last phase of the project Macedonian Volunteers for Action – MAK Action.

At the end of May and beginning of June in cooperation with OSCE we organized 2 eco-camps. 150 youngsters from Kumanovo, Lipkovo, Veles, Tetovo and Debar participated in cleaning the shores of the 2 lakes Debar and Mladost near Veles. After the clean up action the youngsters put 20 signs with message: “Do not litter!”

In June and July with financial support from DOL Prisma we implemented 19 small community projects in 10 towns where MAK Action was implemented. Most of the small projects were according the youth program “Junior Achievement” and the others projects were for encouraging entrepreneurship skills. At the end of the MAK Action project, from 20th – 26th July, the Macedonian volunteers organized summer camp in Ohrid. The goal of the camp was to bring 40 young people at age from 14 – 16 years from diverse regions from Macedonia to socialize among them. Besides making friendship the youngsters participated on workshops organized by teachers of Junior Achievement – Macedonia. Youngsters learned basic knowledge of entrepreneurship, writing resume, marketing, stock exchange etc. At the same time

they made handicrafts which at the end of the camp were sold on the beach of the lake.



The end of July and beginning of August were reserved for finishing the MAK Action project. All 40 MAK Action volunteers received recommendations and from the First Children's Embassy in the Worl-Megjashi we kept the good memories of the past year.

The project is financed by USAID / CSHI.

3. PROTECTION OF THE CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

In the period from June to September 53 proposal amendments were created in order to make alteration and modification of the Law for Family as well as records made in consideration of Law proposal for Social and Child Protection.

An initial written representation was created and submitted to the Constitutional Court containing the initiative for undertaking legal procedure for evaluation of the constitutionality of the decrees contained in the Law for Family articles.

Within the project for improvement of the protection of children financially supported by the USAID through World Learning we have created brochure which contains the proposals and recommendations referring to the social and other rights of children in Republic of Macedonia as well as the following subjects:

- statistical review of the situation with children and the young population in general in Republic of Macedonia
- historical research regarding the children's protection
- the system of child protection applied within the legislative framework
- analyses of the implementation of the child's rights in different fields of interest (realization of the legal obligations towards children age 0 to 18) accomplished by the family, the state, the Government and the Institutions
- Conclusions

4. CONTRIBUTIONS AND DONATIONS

At the FCEW-Megjashi everyday a lot of social disadvantaged families request for every kind of support for their children.

The libraries ***OFSET MK, DALŠ*** and ***ABV*** provided school sets for the children's from the sheltering in the FCEW-Megjashi as for the children which parents are social disadvantaged.

Dimitar Gucev an activist has been bringing packages with well kept clothes for displaced people and social cases, as one TV which was donated to one of the family at our shelter.

First Children's Embassy in the World - Megjashi supported the families from the municipality Suto Orizari which houses were burnt down providing them a new clothes : shirts, scarf's, shoes, suits, male and female coats.

5. SOS-PHONE FOR CHILDREN AND JUVENILES

The second half of this year SOS phone line team has included 20 volunteers. The working time was from 10:30 a.m till 8 p.m. Stanislav Petkovski a medicine specialist has been responsible fro the supervision. Beside regular meetings as part of the training, SOS volunteers visited SOS Kinderdorf village. They also attended workshops which were led by the supervisor and trainers Ana Bitojlanu and Gordana Pirkovska Zmijanac. The topic's of the workshops were: team building and SOS phone line issues. Ana Bitoljanu has been working continuously as a volunteer.

A preparation of a guideline for volunteers has been started as well as preparation of pens and calendars with SOS phone line number. SOS volunteers had 8 interviews through the media: radio Kumanovo, radio Ravel, TV MTM, MTV-Albanian redaction, Macedonian radio and A1 TV daily newspapers: Dnevnik and Reporter.

There is one example briefly giving us information how SOS phone line works bringing us closer to the youth's problems.

A 17 years old girl asked what she could do about her boyfriend for whom she said that he abused her every day. The reason of her call was the fear to speak with her parents about her problem.

The SOS volunteer suggested to her to tell the problem to her relatives or a friend. We advised her to check her health at the doctor to see if she was pregnant and the possibility of going to the police or to go to Child Justice Centre where she could get free law help.

She called back after two days. We found out that she was not pregnant and that her health was in good condition. Also she informed us that she contacted Child Justice Centre, which gave her further directions.

SOS team consist this volunteers: Nermina Numanovik, Kamenka Murdzeva, Nadica Gasovska, Ilija Dojcinovski, Renata Janevska, Aleksandra Ristovska, Dejan Atanasov, Ljupka Naumovska, Maja Korubin, Marija Stojkoska, Vaska Jovanoska, Mirjana Milceska, Marina Pavlovska, Saska Gorgioska, Igor Ugrinovski, Jasminka Bozinovska, Elena Nikolova, Aneta Altandzieva, Violeta Dimovska, Biljana Miteva, Irena Taseva, Ivanka Zimbakova.

The Royal Netherlands Embassy and Balkan Youth Foundation provided financial support of SOS phone line.

6. CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS

A new cycle of the children's workshops started with work at the 12th of October. Every year this project is consisted of workshops which comprise different themes. This year are created following workshops.

- English language
- French language
- Computers
- Media culture
- Literature
- Art
- Origami
- Human values education



Our work was introduced to the publicity through scripts and electronic media. Children's workshops at the FCEW-Megjashi rose up big interest among children who are happy that finally can draw, learn basic computer, and origami skills. In the workshops are included 110 children. The workshops are being held once a week and each lasts 90 minutes. This year as a result of big interest the workshops are accomplished at three terms from 16:00 till 17:30, from 17:30 till 19:00 and from 19:00 till 20:30. The whole work is being done well thanks to the volunteers: Biljana Koceska, Daniela Arsik, Gabriela Petreska (English language), Zarko Radiceski, Elena Nikolova (computer workshop), Cvetanka Vasileva (origami workshop), Elena Tasevska, Magdalena Pavlovska (art workshop), Nermina Numanovik (literature workshop), Deniza (French workshop), Olivera (Medium culture workshop) and Lidija (Human values education workshop), The coordinator of the children's workshops is Elena Damjanova..

7. PARTICIPATIONS

Our volunteers Mirjana Milceska, Veselce Leontevska, Borce Stojanovski, Magdalena Pavlovska and Mirhan Sulejmanovsk from 1st till 12th of September 2004 participated in the project "The Balkan part of Europe" which were held in Romania. Besides from Macedonia there were participants from Sweden, Romania and Bulgaria.

Here is the part of the declaration of Mirjana Milceska:

There were organized workshops for languages and cultural differences in Europe, presentation of every country participant from historical and cultural aspect. The most funniest were workshops with traditional folk dances and simulation of traditional Romanian wedding. The project gave them an opportunity to meet with cultural habit of juveniles from the different origins, with part of their tradition, history and culture.

At the period of 2 till 5 of September, at Golija (Novi Pazar)-Serbia and Montenegro, was hold the workshop for youth policy in organization of Moba project on which as

representative from First Children's Embassy in the World-Megjashi participate
Saska Gorgioska volunteer on SOS phone for children's and juveniles.

“As participant I can say, that till the end of the workshop I become more sensibility in recognizing of needs and problems of young people.

I acquire with more information about making and implementing an action plan for juveniles at local level.

This workshop was big possibility for work, change experience and forgather for me”- Saska said.

8. CONSOLIDATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF FCEW MEGJASHI

One of the foreseen specific goals in the project development and consolidation of FCEWM as part of the MCIC program for strengthening of strategic citizens organizations is the promotion of the sustainability of FCEWM.

Referring to the above mentioned the coordinator of the Children's Workshops had attended the Training through work organized and carried out by MCIC.

Also we have organized training for Project management in hotel Radika, Mavrovo in duration of two days. On the training took participation 10 participators, volunteers from the volunteer's team, coordinators and the management team of FCEWM.

One of the activities within this project is increasing the transparency and responsibility of the citizen's organizations. During June and July the project “Together for transparency” runs. The main aim of the project was to give contribution towards improvement of the reputation of the citizen's organizations in the public.

In that occasion on July 20 2004 in the hotel Holiday Inn, Skopje press conference and open presentation for presenting annual reports was held on which more than 50 representatives from the citizen's organizations, the media, donators and citizens were present.



9. SHELTER CENTER

Ivana, Sanela, Marija and Andrijana are children from the shelter center in First Children's Embassy in the World-Megjashi. They started at September with a new school year in primary school “Ljuben Lape”. The families in our shelter have been situated in our shelter for already 4 years. We are sending gratitude to the Ministry of labor and social policy which ensure necessary financial resources for the families.

To the next issue, best regards from the team of the First Children's Embassy in the World-Megjashi - Republic of Macedonia