

## Newsletters - No. 14 May - July 2003

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### First Children's Embassy in the World - Megjashi - 1992-2003

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#### Mission of the organization:

*The FCEWM is an International Non-governmental organization which stands for respect of the child personality through protection of children's rights, support of their best interest and through making the childhood safety and creative. Strengthen the NGO movement for the right of the children, encourages volunteerism and cares for the implementation of the Convention of the children's rights.*

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#### 1. NON - FORMAL EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH LOW SOCIAL STATUS

In the beginning of May, after we had finished the preparation for the children's workshops and contacted with the children wards of the Municipality Centre for Social Work in Skopje and with the children-members of the First Children's Embassy in the World - Megjashi, we formed 11 workshops: four workshops for English language, two for computers, one for origami, one for German, French, literature and art. Every working day there are two workshops and each lasts 90 minutes except on Thursday when the origami workshop is holding. In the workshops are included 90 children who get the basic knowledge of the areas that they had chosen, with a help of eleven volunteers. These workshops will take place continuously during the summer and in that way we will give them an opportunity to fulfill their free time creatively. The project is financed by the World Bank, and coordinator of project is Luiza Isailovska.



**Origami workshop**

## **2. ACTION FOR CITIZENSHIP THROUGH THEATRE**

CRIC- Centro Regionale di Intervento per la Cooperazione from Italy and the First Children's Embassy in the World Megjashi are implementing the project "**Action for Citizenship through Theatre**", with the financial support of EU, managed by the European Agency for Reconstruction - <http://www.ear.eu.int/>, These organizations work together for overall objective to strengthen the fundamentals of Macedonian multiethnic civil society.

As a part of the project which began on the 14th April, on the 12<sup>th</sup> on June, sixty children have begun taking part in theatre, sport and art daily workshops, which will last until the end of September. The children come from the multiethnic "Petar Zdravkovski-Penko", "26 July" schools, the special school "Partenie Zografski" and a group of talented children, are using the creative workshops to prepare two theatre performances which will be carried out in 16 locations throughout the country starting next autumn. Their family members also participate in the workshops to support the children and the process of multiethnic coexistence.

At the same time, art and literature contest "Companionship without Limits" is launched nation wide, where children of all ages will be able to submit works until the end of October. All interested children and youths are invited to send their poems, stories, drawings and other art works on how they view the subject of "**friendship**" to the following addresses:

**CRIC**

(For the contest)

St. 29 Noemvri br. 62  
1000 Skopje

or

**Megjashi-Children's Embassy**

(For the contest)

St. Kosta Novachevich br. 22a  
1000 Skopje

The following photo is taken during the official visit of representatives of the European Agency for Reconstruction to the workshops: Ms. Jutta Bulling, Programme Manager-

Civil Society and Social Cohesion; Mr. Elvis Ali, Assistant- Civil Society and Social Cohesion and Mr. Edmond Ademi, Information and Communications. In this occasion they gave the children t-shirts as one of the visible signs of the support of the EU to strengthen the sound multiethnic Macedonian society. Coordinator of this project is Magdalena Rizova Cernih.



### **3. STEFAN PLESKONJIC - CHILD CONSUL OF THE EMBASSY-MEGJASHI**

From 25<sup>th</sup> June to 5<sup>th</sup> July in the National Gallery for National Arts in Sofia the sixth independent exhibition of the eight year old Stefan Pleskonic was opened with presence of ambassadors, The Ministry of Culture of Bulgaria, as well as a big number of journalists. The exhibition was opened by our ambassador in Bulgaria, Mr. Ljubisha Gjeorgjievski. On June 27<sup>th</sup> 2003 by his own will, the Bulgarian Prime Minister and the previous king of Bulgaria, Simeon Saksoburgotski visited the exhibition and received a picture from Stefan called The Bulgarian colors, and he gave him acryl colors. The opening and also this event came across a great interest to the Bulgarian public, and in all popular Bulgarian shows and newspapers. At the closing of the exhibition (the eight room of the art), Stefan got special award from the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture and from the same gallery. Participants in this gallery in the last eight years were also: Pako de Lucia, Richey Blakemore, Sting, Vanessa May, Boljshoy theatre and others. After Brussels, Warszawa and New York Stefan fascinated Sofia too.



### **4. NATIONAL BICYCLE RACE**

From 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2003 a bicycle race was carried out all over Macedonia. It was organized in order to raise the ecological awareness with its motto "I am riding a bicycle for health and clean environment". The race consisted of several events which happened parallel. One of the events was the national race, with a participation of 30 professional bicyclists from Republic of Macedonia who raced in three routs with length of 360 kilometers:

1. route: Skopje - Kumanovo - Sv. Nikole - Kocani (140 km)
2. route: Kocani - Veles - Negotino - Kavadarci (110 km)
3. route: Kicevo - Gostivar - Tetovo - Skopje (120 km)

The professional cyclists were from: Skopje, Kumanovo, Sv. Nikole, Kocani, Veles, Kavadarci, Radovis and Kicevo.

The other event was a local one and contained an amateur racing round nine cities in Macedonia and it involved 22 Mac Action activists as organizers of the local events, over 100 Mac Action volunteers support local events. There were 436 amateur cyclists that competed at local level, at age from 12 to 60 years old. Greatest number of participants (around 350) was at the age of 12 to 18 years. Winners of the local amateur races in all 9 towns at the age of 12 to 18 were awarded new bicycles, and 40 participants won other prizes like helmets, backpacks, gloves etc. Approximately 7000 - 8000 spectators viewed the whole event through Macedonia.

Bicycle race was organized by Macedonian volunteers for action - a project for promotion and development of volunteerism and Sport Union of Skopje was a technical organizer. Financier of the project is Community Self-help Initiatives (CSHI) -The American governmental agency for international development (USAID), and administrator is the First Children's Embassy in the World - Megjashi (FCEWM). The coordinator of this project is Mitko Georgiev.



## 5.FAMILIES IN OUR SHELTER

From 1st May to 31st July we celebrated the following birthdays of the children in our Shelter. second birthday of Aleksandar, ninth birthday of Marija, ninth birthday of Andrijana, twelfth birthday of Ivana and twelfth birthday of Sanela.

## **6. ADVOCASY**

Since 2000 Suaret Alishan is a member of the FCEW-Megjashi. This year he graduated in the State school for rehabilitation for children and youth "Dimitar Vlahov" - Skopje. He is a child without parents care, protected by Community Center for Social Works and he lived in home family. Nine years ago he was categorized as a child with mental retardation, but after seven years, on initiative on the part of the professors in the school, a suggestion was accepted for him to be brought to a re - categorization in the Centar for Social Works, where the specialists were astonished by the previous categorization and it is concluded that the same are cancel, and Suaret can visit regular education, because his mental and physical capabilities are in normal. At the end of this school year, he had a lot of problems in the school and violation of his rights and the law for secondary school education. About this problem, the Megjashi referred to the Ombudsman - section for child protection and to the republic's education commission which made inspection of the situation and helped him his rights to be realized. At this moment he is included in the project "Action for Citizenship through the Theatre" and he prepares to enroll in the fourth year in the secondary school for professional orientation "Dimitar Vlahov".

Sonja Janeva is single mother of three children. Because she had no financial means for paying a rent, her four member family now is on the street, and as a result of that, their life became much worst. The things became more difficult from the reason what Sonja could not provide the necessary food products for the family, and necessary medical means for her twenty two year old son who has epilepsy. In this race for finding a modest home, on the request of FCEW-Megjashi, Community Centre for Social Works-Kisela Voda provided one hand social benefit for the family and promised that in the future they will provide an accommodation for them in one of the existing shelters.

## **7. PARTICIPATION ON CONFERENCES/TRAINING**

From 28<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> July 2003 Executive Director MA-Dragi Zmijanac Co-Founder of our Embassy together with 10 spokesmen from NGO participated in training for public Advocacy and Lobbing, in Albany-New York and Washington, USA. His presence was enabled by World Learning and People Work, and it was financed by USAID.

The selection of participants was done by the Institute for Sustainable Communities.

In this program took part these participants:

1. Sokrat Mancev (Election, Strumica)
2. Piter Simeonov (Crisis Centre Hope, Skopje)

3. Ristanka (Minor Delinquency Prevention Council, Kavadarci)
4. Jane Veleski (Emancipation, solidarity and equality of woman, Skopje)
5. Igor Velkovik (Hera, Skopje)
6. Dragi Zmijanac (First Children's Embassy in the World, Megjashi, Skopje)
7. Tatjana Tasevska (Organization of consumers in Macedonia, Skopje)
8. Aneta Bosevska (Proaktiva, Skopje)
9. Emina Nuredinoska (Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation)
10. Zarko Koneski (Institute for Sustainable Communities, Skopje)



Macedonian NGO-participants and the Senator Joseph Bruno Senate Majority leader

### 8. Institute for Sustainable Communities - ISC - project

The lacks of communication and the overload with prejudices between the high school pupils from Macedonian and Albanian nationalities are very often expressed through everyday conflict situations in the high schools and out of them. With intention to provide a space for non-violent communication, the Children's Embassy - Megjashi with cooperation of the NGO Rubikon, has started a new project which contains the following two components, which will help to improve the communication between students from Macedonian and Albanian nationalities in the medical high school in Skopje:

- **Education organizational component** with training of a part of the pedagogical personnel and creating informal net of professors for nonviolent cooperation of conflicts and
- **Active component of communication** with organizing workshops for high school pupils and different kinds of activities initiated by students.

This project is enabled by the Institute for Sustainable Communities-ISC and the American agency for international development - USAID.

The coordinator of this project is Regep Raimi.

*Best regards from First Children's Embassy in the World-Megjhasi team!*