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Agro Lending - An Instrument for viable Agribusiness

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Center for Economic Analyses (CEA)

December 2012

Online at <https://mpra.ub.uni-muenchen.de/44940/>

MPRA Paper No. 44940, posted 22 Mar 2013 12:01 UTC

NGO MAGAZINE

FOUNDERS:
EUROPEAN CENTER SN7 &
CENTER FOR EDUCATION AND
DEVELOPMENT - CED

INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE ABOUT THE NGO SECTOR - NR. 5 / DECEMBER 2012



Jovan SHOPOVSKI

Non-governmental
sector,
sustainability
prerequisite

**Editor's
Choice**

**Conclusions from the
networking days – Macedonia**

**Fall brings new
volunteers to
CID-Kumanovo**

Nazmie MERKO

**The youth employment crisis -
(solutions)**

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NETWORKING DAYS IN MACEDONIA

CONCLUSIONS FROM THE NETWORKING DAYS MACEDONIA



During the Networking Days, the representatives of the youth organizations agreed on a model for a national youth council, and developed an action plan for consulting and including youth organizations, with the aim of further detailing the model in order to suit the needs of the youth sector.

36 youth organizations participated in the **Networking Days**, organized from the 25th until the 28th October in Dojran, with the aim to discuss and define a model for a national youth organization – National Youth Council (further on referred to as NYC) in the Republic of Macedonia. **HISTORY AND BACKGROUND:** In 2012, NGOs united in the initiative Republika Mladi developed a discussion with the youth and the youth organizations for mapping the priorities, problems and needs of the young population. These consultations shaped the need and led to the opportunity for creating a National Youth Council. The coalition contacted the European Youth Forum asking for support, which later on resulted in the creation of this event.

NETWORKING DAYS: The participants researched the situation of the youth organizations and their desire for collaboration and networking. The foreign experts – representatives of youth councils and the European Youth Forum contributed with reviews and analysis of the models of youth councils in Lithuania, Serbia, Slovenia and other countries. Through open discussions, working groups and research, we developed ideas and recommendations for a Youth Council consistent with the needs of the youth in our country. The basic role of a NYC would be representing the needs and interests of the youth and the youth organizations, developing the capacities of the youth sector, promoting youth participation, as

well as representing and acting in the name of the young people. In other words, the representative body, or a NYC is the one that is supposed to outline and discuss all the youth policies, and be a partner to the institutions in consultations, as well as in the making of decisions regarding the youth. The conclusions from this event were shared on a plenary session with the representatives of the youth political movements (LP, DS, DOM, VMRO-DPMNE and SDSM), a MP, and representatives of foundations and donors. During the discussion, the majority of the political party representatives

expressed their full support of the idea, and a vivid interest in their future inclusion in the work and structure of the NYC. The process was supported by Ms. Liljana Popovska, a MP. For further defining of the action plan and organizing of the Founding Assembly of the NYC, the participants formed an Initiative Board consisting of 16 interested organizations. The developed concept will be further elaborated and shared with the youth, the youth organizations, the institutions and international organizations. Working towards this goal, the Initiative Board will organize consultative meetings throughout the country with the youth and the youth organizations. This way, even those unable to take part in the Networking Days will be able to offer their opinion and stance, and actively participate. The consultative process will also include all the relevant institutions in the country. The consultative process will begin this month and will include the following activities: Further mapping of the stakeholders and organizations in the youth sector; Organizing events (round tables, panels, open debates) for broad consultations in all the regions of the country. The aim of these consultations will be to obtain opinions on the suggested NYC model and to adjust it to the reality in the youth sector; Online consultations and discussions; Preparing the founding documents, in collaboration with domestic and foreign experts; Fund-raising for organizing the Founding Assembly. The last phase of this process will be organizing the Founding Assembly of the NYC.

SUPPORT AND PARTNERSHIPS: This project has the support of the European Youth Forum as a representative youth body on a European level. The initiative will be open for consultations and support from the national agencies and relevant Ministries for its further activities.



NETWORKING DAYS IN MACEDONIA. 25-28 OCTOBER 2012. DOJRAN, MACEDONIA

Ronja Kindler, german volunteer in CED



CED strengthens its capacities with a volunteer from Germany. Until now I experienced so much, that every day feels so long and still seems the time flying. I'm feeling very well here, because the people are so friendly and getting me a so warm welcome.

I have chosen the voluntary year in Tearce, because I want to become in the most thorough way possible with a culture new to me, with its social and political situation and especially with its human environment. Furthermore, in my opinion the difference between the meaning of art and culture in comparison with Germany is very interesting and exciting. Till now I experienced so much, that every day feels so long and still seems the time flying. I'm feeling very well here, because the people are so friendly and getting me a so warm welcome. I decided to make a voluntary year, because it's important for me to gain new experiences and see differences in culture and development by myself, to get a clearer imagination of globalization and foreign affairs. It was for me important, to get know other standards of life, than the German well situated and high standard of living. These seven weeks till now, helped me, to understand my own culture better. For example, till now I had chance to notice this difference between the Macedonian feeling for time and the German one. But especially, when I'm looking on the employment situation, I'm shocked, that it is so difficult to get a job, especially for the young people. From Germany I'm used to, that the state is supporting all people, which are unemployed, as much, as they are protected not to live on the street. Almost always, when I'm telling young local people, that I will stay one year in Macedonia, they asking me shocked and with a lack of understanding why I'm coming to Macedonia, when I'm from Germany. It's a pity, that the young people haven't the opportunity to see a perspective for their future in Macedonia. Especially because I think this land have so much to offer. I'm so impressed from the beautiful landscape, the Mountains, the delicious traditional food, the variety of the culture and especially the people. The people are the biggest reason, why I'm feeling so well here. I appreciate,

that the people are so friendly and opened, I'm feeling everywhere welcomed; And that's, what I also impressed about; that the people here stay so happy and hospitable, nevertheless the situation isn't easy. I'm not sure whether it would be the same in Germany, because the Germans loves so much their Security. Also one thing I noticed here first. Difficult for me is, to understand the tension between the different ethnics till now. Not just because the historical background is so complicated, also that the school classes are divided in different languages, cities are divided in different ethnical parts...It's difficult for me to comprehend the reasons for this dividing, probably, because I'm not grown up with this situation. In front of this background, the existence of institutions like the CED becomes even more important. I'm appreciating that the CED is giving the children space, that they have the chance to develop in a non-formal way and the opportunity to work together in ethnical mixed groups. I decided for a voluntary year at the CED, because I have always enjoyed working with children and young people. In this context I think it is very important for young people, to get know their abilities, visions and the meaning and value of community and therefore appreciate the theatre as a good medium. What I like particularly with theatre is the fact that those involved get the chance to discover and explore their own personality, that working in a team gains of importance and that the processes involved create strong group-dynamics. To promote this, I consider creative and practical activities as very important. I'm now building a theatre group with young people, for regularly acting with presentations. I could also imagine to create projects with music, German language and more. I'm looking forward creating in the CED and with the children many workshops and projects in the next time.

MEDIA IMPACT ON NGO

Individuals and groups have always entered into relationships with others to satisfy needs which were found in an environment. In this modern era requirements are more complex as these social, political and economic interactions. Courses and books are dedicated to study these relations as, work teams, groups, organizations and other social entities. The relationship between NGO and its public-people who are interdependent with these organization and Media as communication growing factor within target to the public. Media for a NGO means help in establishing lines of communications, acceptance and cooperation between NGO's and its public. Also that obtains help to NGO-management to keep informed for their public opinion. Furthermore for public opinion research needs technical knowledge as publishes analysis, direct mail, institutional advertising, publications, film/video productions, special events, speeches, and presentations. Effective part of dealing with issues inside NGO is of course marketing. Marketing is focused in exchange of relations with public. Successful marketing and satisfied public help to build good relations with other such as donors, investors, government, agencies and community leaders. Also for achieving organizational goals must attend both, public relations and marketing to build and maintain essential relations for organizational survival and growth. Functional part of effective NGO is publicity, which is information from an outside source and is used by media. To generate publicity, NGO needs to attract media coverage. Successful publicity has real news values. It obtains appeals to media, offers photo, video, sound recordings, and communication with sources by using messages. Also huge impacts have communication's technology where, the internet, 24 hours TV channels and satellite links worldwide, give instant access to events around the globe. Some major events within public's interest are downsizing and plant closings, biotechnology (genetic engineering), damage to the ozone layer (greenhouse effect), toxic waste, health care, children education, clean environment. We need to understand that NGO is in focus of people and its role as advantage to the local area. Furthermore to know Media impact on NGO by informing public for works inside it as courses, seminars and, other educational and cultural activities.

By: Blerim Abedini, member of Center of education and development

Ivanov School of Leaders



Alumni Association

IVANOV SCHOOL OF LEADERS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION - ISLAA



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"It is said that", the society is like a ship; at any time there should be people ready to take over the helm." "In order future helmsmen to be ready to take over the helm, constant investments in their development and education must be made." Part of the speech of the President of the Republic of Macedonia Dr. Gjorge Ivanov, during "School for Young Leaders", year 2010

WHO ARE WE? Motivated by the positive experience and knowledge that we have gained during the training which was called "School for Young Leaders" organized under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Macedonia H.E. Dr. Gjorge Ivanov, we all used our potential, and we decided to reflect our aspirations and pretensions in a joint effort. Unanimously we decided that we can empower our network by forming organization that would spread the idea of the importance of the leader as a figure and leadership as behavior, nation – wide and regionally. So, in the year 2010 we formed Ivanov School for Leaders Alumni Association – ISLAA. We are the only Alumni association in our society, consisting of young, ambitious, enthusiastic, visionary leaders with diverse backgrounds. What united us is to bring positive changes within our environment. It is a privilege being part of this organization because we have the chance to make a positive influence by acting as one. Only the participants from the "School for Young Leaders" can be ISLAA members. **Mission, vision and strategic aims of ISLAA:** ISLAA is an association establishing long term relations with existing and future alumni members, providing support for them, and a dedicated partner of the "School for Young Leaders". Our vision is to become a tightly networked alumni association by creating influential leadership entity. The Association has the following main goals and tasks: To maintain long-term and fruitful cooperation and relations between alumni members; to establish fundamental leadership values and principles through their activities; to promote the spirit of leadership in the area in which members of the alumni association act. These goals are continuously accomplished by the members of ISLAA through certain activities, organizing program activities, organizing mutual projects, platforms, debates, round tables, collaboration with organizations in private and public ownership, institutions, embassies, organizations, alumni associations, universities etc. **How do we manage to do that?** ISLAA acts within the frame of six subcommittees: Political – Legal

Subcommittee; Economic and Financial Subcommittee; Educational – Cultural Subcommittee; Health Subcommittee; Environmental Subcommittee; Operational / Human Resources / Public Relations Subcommittee. The basic common goal of the subcommittees is, through project development to commit direct research and analysis in our society that will be used in the creative stream of the idea in the spirit of leadership. Current president of ISLAA is Daniel Gjokjeski. As a president he presents the association, coordinate the activities, contribute to implementation of the program and call meeting of the Executive Board and the Assembly of the Association. **Our activities and involvements:** Even though ISLAA exists for a short period of time, its members are successfully following the established goals and have organized internal seminars for enhancing the collaboration and development of leadership characteristics in collaboration with the American Embassy in Skopje through the Fulbright program, Balkan institute for faith and culture through Oxford Connection program, meetings with representatives of the business and consulting sector in Macedonia, and receptions to several events in the Cabinet of the President of R. Macedonia and other important institutions and organizations. What is distinctive about us is that we act in order to continuously upgrade ourselves, and organize seminars and workshops to improve our personal skills. We believe that this will contribute to a better development of our society

- if we improve ourselves as true leaders, we will manage to convey those values to younger generations and act upon it. **Part of the ISLAA activities:** Trainings and seminars: "Political leadership and theology" with Balkan Institute of faith and culture (BIFK), in accordance with Oxford Connections Programme and the project "School for Young Leaders" under the patronage of the President of Republic of Macedonia, H.E. Gjorge Ivanov; Workshop for Public Relations and Communication – "Leaders in the Spotlight" by Mary Myers, a Fulbright Scholars Programme exchange professor from USA; Two annual ISLAA weekends with a lot of socializing and entertainment among the members, lectures by socially prominent persons, ambassadors and leaders in the business sector. **Humanitarian work:** In cooperation with the Cabinet of the President of Macedonia, we organized campaign for blood donation and donations of Christmas presents for the children from the Children's Hospital "Kozle". **Realized Projects:** "Dreaming in color – Motivating and volunteering" in collaboration with the American Corner Bitola and CLIPS Programme, Prilep; "Gift of embrace" - ISLAA has supported the humane activities in our country, through active participation of the public call for the project "Gift of embrace", with a basic goal – crafting toys from recycled materials, intended for children from the hospitals all over the country; Best essay among senior high school students on the subject "When I will be a leader...", organized from ISLAA. (continue...)



UN GENERAL SECRETARY, BAN KI-MOON MEET THE PRESIDENT IVANOV AND ISLAA REPRESENTATIVES.

Despite our activities, we try to build our image in the society by maintaining long-term relationships with the international offices in the Republic of Macedonia. We established excellent cooperation with the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic in the R. of Macedonia, H.E. Dr. Robert Kirnag, the former and current U.S. ambassador in the R. of Macedonia DAS Philip T. Reeker and H.E. Ambassador Paul D. Wohlers and UK Ambassador H.E. Christopher Ivon. We can point the meeting with the President of the R. of Macedonia H.E. Dr. Gjorge Ivanov and the United Nations General Secretary Ban Ki-moon during his visit to our country. It was an unique opportunity to enhance our inspiration for the vision to encourage building of entity that with strong will and dedication will lead our country towards European integration and global recognition. Without any doubt we will continue promoting leadership values; we will continue to acquire transfer of knowledge from Macedonian and international elite; and most importantly share our experiences and inspire the younger generations, the future of our society, to become the best helmsmen and women.

"Never compromise when it comes to your principles. Universally accepted principles, You should never compromise. I never compromise when it comes to human rights, basic human rights and human dignity." Statement of the Addressing United Nations General Secretary, Ban Ki-moon for the President Gjorge Ivanov and ISLAA representatives.

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The World needs Bambi

Our world today has become overly urbanized at the expense of squeezing out nature, and all of this happened in the quest for more profit. Instead of thinking more, people of today have chosen to think less about their environment. This is why nature and all living things are being destroyed. Some people know this but choose to simply not care or ignore it, while others are just unaware that there is another way. This is exactly why the Bambi Brigade was created. Bambibrigada.com is an eco-friendly blog trying to inform people that there is another way of earning without destroying. To teach people how to protect, preserve and fight for Bambi, all his animal friends, and the nature him and us call home. Not the Bambi from the popular Disney cartoon but everything he symbolizes in real life – the innocence and fragility of all living things. Animals and Nature are the only ones that have no voice to say what's on their mind or use that voice to tell people where it hurts. This is why people need to listen carefully and be their voice. Our mission is to teach people that there are ways to coexist with nature that do not demand living like a poor person. To make people and especially Macedonian citizen start thinking in the direction that money making is possible in the industry of inventing ways to improve nature

instead of destroying it. Green job creation should be our future. The possibility for green jobs especially in the Republic of Macedonia is endless. Unfortunately, Macedonian citizen are unable to see this because it's not the way they've been taught. Eco-journalism is becoming an important ally to preserve our planet and yet some countries still do not acknowledge eco-journalism as a branch of journalism, and some, like ours, do not know such thing exists in this world. Bambi Brigade was envisioned to be the humble begging of eco-journalism in Macedonia, striving to also create education and new job opportunities for young journalists that love nature. We are currently working on a voluntary basis, but anyone who is interested to write on this topic is more than welcomed to join us. Articles can be written in Macedonian, Albanian or English language. Let's bring eco-journalism to villages across the country.

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Creating a positive impact on the economy and the society by promoting professional directorship and good governance

INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS IN MACEDONIA



As part of its vision, the Institute of Directors is striving to be recognized both nationally and internationally, as a preeminent professional body for Boards and Boards members.

"Corporate governance, a phrase that a decade or two ago meant little to all but a handful of scholars and shareholders, has become a mainstream concern—a staple of discussion in corporate boardrooms, academic meetings, and policy circles around the globe. Several events were responsible for the heightened interest in corporate governance. During the wave of financial crises in 1998 in Russia, Asia, and Brazil, the behavior of the corporate sector affected entire economies, and deficiencies in corporate governance endangered global financial stability. Just a few years later, the confidence in the corporate sector was sapped by corporate governance scandals in the United States and Europe that triggered some of the largest insolvencies in history. And the most recent financial crisis has seen its share of corporate governance failures in financial institutions and corporations, leading to systemic consequences".¹ The above mention, is just a little example of how important is the corporate governance. Recognizing this, in Europe, The European Confederation of Directors' Associations (ecoDa) was founded in December 2004 as a not-for-profit association with a mission to promote Corporate Governance at large, to promote the role of directors towards shareholders and corporate stakeholders, and to promote the success of its national institutes. The Institute of Directors (IoD) in Macedonia was established in March 2009 as an NGO by 14 co-founders and it's first of its kind in Macedonia. Currently IoD has over 40 members. The IOD has been supported by IFC and SECO and since July 2011 has become a member of ecoDa. The Mission of the Institute of Directors is to promote respect for the role of director and to protect interests of Macedonian directors through their professional, expert and status development

and to improve the business environment through promotion of excellence in corporate governance and support of directors in the fulfillment of their functions. In the focus of the activities of the Institute is to support Boards of Directors and Supervisory Boards, so that they can add value to their strategic decisions. As part of its vision, the Institute of Directors is striving to be recognized both nationally and internationally, as a preeminent professional body for Boards and Boards members. IoD work is based on three core values: Integrity, Professionalism, Respect of interest of the company and its stakeholders. The concept of IoD is based on believing that the Director is an authorized person who should protect the interests of the company and other legal entities and its stakeholders. This concept includes, but it is not limited to the members of the Boards of Directors, Supervisory Boards and Managing Boards. In the past three years IoD has offered several key and many other services to our clients. IoD is focused on: Organizing trainings and transfer of know-how; Publishing brochures, magazines and manuals; Raising public awareness; Conducting research and analyses. By providing these services, IoD is aiming at achieving its goals, to promote respect for the role of director, to protect the rights of Macedonian directors and to improve the professionalism, expertise and status

of Macedonian directors. So far, the Institute of Directors has organized more than 10 Conferences, Workshops and Trainings and has published three publications related to Corporate Governance. IoD is very active not only nationally but also internationally, attending to many conferences and promoting the importance of Corporate Governance in general, but also how it is implemented in Macedonia. The future activities of the Institute of Directors will again be organized along the operation that the Institute has been conducting in the previous years. In the years since its establishment the focus of the Institute was more on building its own administrative capacity to be able to properly serve its members and the consumers of the corporate governance in the Republic of Macedonia. Some new services will be introduced and the membership base is planned to be significantly increased. The focus of the coming phase of the IOD's development will be specifically positioned to more trainings of directors, conducting some corporate governance consultancy activities, starting with corporate governance reviews and assessments, evaluating the Boards of Directors' activities, or assisting in setting up or developing certain structures in organizations, relating to corporate governance, such as setting properly the control environment, internal audit functions, risk management functions, succession policies, or other similar matters that would improve the corporate governance in companies and organizations.

IoD is very active not only nationally but also internationally, attending to many conferences and promoting the importance of Corporate Governance in general, but also how it is implemented in Macedonia.

¹ *Corporate Governance in Emerging Markets: A Survey by Stijn Claessens and Burcin Yurtoglu, January, 2012.*

Capacity building and environmental protection at local lever for Ohrid lake region



Photo by Nace Popov
<http://www.photomacedonia.com.mk>

EXPLORING MACEDONIA.COM

Local authority should change way they act. As I said previous, there are sectors in both municipalities for environmental protection.



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Capacity building as term refers process in which different parts of society join together to identify problems develop modules how to approach the problem and what steps to take to solve it. Depending of problem who needs to be solved different actors can be involved. This paper refers to environmental protection of Ohrid lake so as actors who should be involved is: local governments of Ohrid, Struga and Podgradec (Republic of Albania), Ministry of environment and NGO whose is oriented in environmental protection. **Why these three actors?** Local government has financial, human and organizational protection to build effective administration and program for protection. In Struga¹ and Ohrid² there is a sectors for urbanism and environmental protection, but they are disfunctional. Even if someone is interested to contact with these institution is hard to get to information. These institutions are closed for cooperation's, they do no promote any kind of programs for environmental protection, there are no campaigns for public to raise awareness for importance of Ohrid Lake for this region, and there is no open call for NGO for preparing programs these kinds of activities in both municipalities.

Why should local government have mail role in capacity building in this process? According to decentralization plan in second and third phase municipalities will become more independent from national institution and in same time they will be responsible for most of activities at local level, that why is crucial to develop capacities who will be able to ensure needs of local population in all areas. **How can be this done?** Local authority should change way they act. As I said previous, there are sectors in both municipalities for environmental protection. They can engage experts who will prepare programs and project for activities in which will be included different actors

as schools, local media NGO's. Further more in annual budgets there should be funds from which these kinds of programs should be supported. In annual programs should be included specific task that should be done with timeframe. There is a need to prepare strategy for long-term protection of the lake because Ohrid Lake is only representative of Republic Of Macedonia protected from UNESCO as natural and cultural heritage. This strategy should be prepared in same time on local and national level. All these cannot be done if capacities lags experts and programs that why is crucial these capacities to be built soonest as possible. Ministry of environment as highest organ responsible for environment protection is still preparing national water strategy that is important document, but even in this stage, there are many notes on the text, because the document is lagging from development components. This document is from crucial importance because is frame for all others documents like strategies for water managing, treatment of waste waters, hydro energy and ect. Especially as I said before this is important for Ohrid Lake as one of the world oldest lake and Macedonia should show higher level of awareness how important is complementary of efficient capacities and strategy for protection for the lake. As conclusion I can say that little is done institutionally in last period at local and national level to protect and promote Ohrid Lake. Institutions are undeveloped or exist just formally, responsibilities from law of water and law of nature are not fulfilled there is no clear distribution of responsibilities on institutional level who is responsible for what. It urgent this kind of situation to be cleared out because water problem are raising and if we act as if we act today, future is not bright for Ohrid Lake.

¹http://www.struga.gov.mk/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=8&Itemid=79&lang=mk

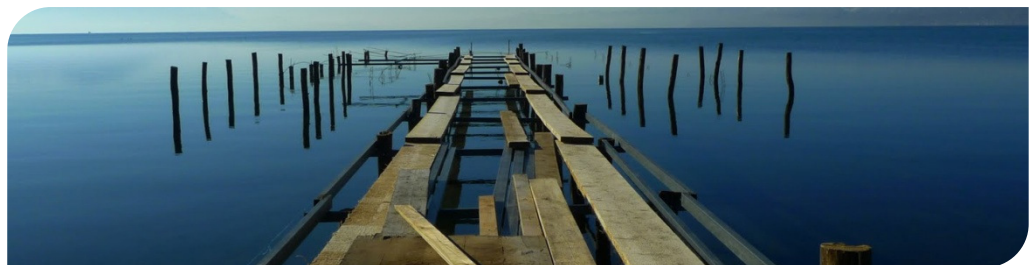
²<http://www.ohrid.gov.mk/index.asp?novostiID=62>

³<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/99>

⁴<http://www.moepp.gov.mk/default-MK.asp?ItemID=1A5E6EA1D9FDA84087A6476C9FFDB723>

⁵http://www.mzsv.gov.mk/files/Zakon_za_vodite.pdf

⁶http://www.jasen.com.mk/Upload/Content/Documents/ZAKON_ZA_ZASTITA_NA_PRIRODATA.pdf



STRUGA JETTY. PICTURE BY: TIM TREGENZA

ANALYSIS ON THE PUBLIC SUPPLIES OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF TEARCE, TETOVO, ZHELINO AND JEGUNOVCE



From the beginning of September 2012, monitoring of the public supplies also with **Youth Alliance-Tetovo** started with the the direct approach on the field with project named "Analysis on the public authorized presence on the opening of the supplies of the municipalities of Tearce, tender offers. Also stakeholders of this project will be representatives of the project project will be representatives of the companies and merchants who will take a part in the process of public supplies and tenders and authorized persons for giving information of public character in the municipality's authorities in Polog region municipalities. They would be giving enough through the implementation of better information about the influences on the transparency and responsibility in spending the transparency of the process conducted by of the public finances in the municipalities the commission for public supplies. Local and of Tetovo, Tearce, Zhelino and Jegunovce. national media will have an active part in this Project is implemented in the northwestern project through motivating and feeding Polog plan region in upper mentioned four them with information about the project municipalities because of the different with complete details about the monitoring political background of their majors. of the public supplies and presentation of Stakeholders of this project will be the conclusions which will be sublimated and representatives from the local civic published in the printed publication. In the organizations, profiled in the area of law end of the realization of the project there and legislatures, which will have a motive will be presentation of the results in the for following of the spending of public municipalities in Jegunovce, Tetovo, Zhelino finances. They will be well trained from two and Tearce. Also a final roundtable will be experts in this matter and through the organized with the representatives from the process of learning and working they will be local civic organizations, public sector and included into the system of electronic media.

NGO "YOUTH ALLIANCE" - TETOVO

NGO Youth Alliance Tetovo was established in 1998, but under old Law for citizens associations and foundations. The organization re-registered in 13.09.2002 by the New Law for citizens associations and foundations. At the same time, Youth Alliance registered with the Tetovo Central Court (57, 2002). Also, in 2011 year, is re-registered by the new Law for associations and foundations in Central Register of Republic of Macedonia under file number: 30220110005730.

STUDENTS' CLUB OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

The **Students' Club of Political Science** is a non-governmental organization in the **Faculty of Philosophy at St.Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia, Bulgaria**. Its members are vigorous, active, and full of new ideas and plans and they hanker after developing their skills and talents in the Club. After all, it is imperative for young and ambitious people to taken active role in various activities and they can take advantage of the opportunities the Students' Club of Political Science can provide them with. Taking into consideration the fact that the Students' Club of Political Science is a comparatively new organization and its members have succeeded in popularizing it so that many people in Bulgaria have heard of it, it is indicative of the hard work the Club did. Here young people can feel free to break fresh grounds and broaden their horizons due to the organized seminars, discussions and public debates which give us the opportunity to obtain useful knowledge which can be in aid of us in our future career growth. Furthermore, we arrange a lot of meetings with a wide circle of acquaintances – famous people in the field of Political Science. Thereby, students are able to apply their theoretical knowledge into a real world environment. Actually, it is something which most students in our subject long for, because they consider that it not only will assist them in gaining better understanding of Political science, but also they can keep abreast of the novelties in the world of Politics. The Students' Club of Political Science is a means of bringing pleasure and diversity in students' lives. It teaches them teamwork, but also student shave the splendid chance to sinking an adventure with other members and in this way they will make use of the opportunity to develop their leadership skills. Projects are extremely important for our club. We place too much value on coming up with ideas about projects which are connected with a tight collaboration between our club and other organizations in Bulgaria and foreign countries. In this way, we can travel abroad, exchange experience and establish new contacts. Furthermore, we create strong bonds with foreign universities for student exchanges and internships. It is of significant importance for members of the Students' Club of Political Science to contribute a great deal to the improvement of the quality of Bulgarian education and the development of Political Science. Our aims are geared towards enhancing the prestige of the Club and simultaneously we exert the utmost of ourselves to carry out our projects and initiatives.

The youth employment crisis - (solutions)



Young people march for a future: Youth Fight for Jobs and Socialist Students on the 29 January, 2011, London demonstration against education cuts, photo Senan.



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“Underage children, brought to realize physically impossible job to deprive them of education and the right to a merit-based job.”

The unemployment level has fallen a long time ago. Analysis and national reports from certain state entities, various economic organizations and international instruments (as ILO), have lit the lamp of risk for several years, recording an alarming situation, which as the time passes is expanded with uncontrollable consequences for economic and social welfare of the citizens, but mostly of young citizens. The crisis that has gripped the youth has a huge conglomerate of causes and regression, such as:

1 - LEVEL AND EDUCATION PROFILES

Low level of education is one of the main causes. This leads to numerous employment requests, but without meritocracy, though it is affected by partial militancy, that is a plague of our society. The rest of it belongs to the elite, or to excellent educated people, who did not survive the nepotistic employment, being found in jobs with low wages and services of the same level. The third part belongs to those people, who make the wrong choice of their study profile, by investing in those sectors where the labor market is overflowing. Not forgetting a deficiency that is being created to professional schools, which as defined, will be the only solution for employment after market's over satiety with main basic professions.

2 - CULTURE AND FAMILY SPIRIT OF EDUCATION

Family culture of education for job, which comes from the basic cells of the society, is a separate problem and insoluble as well. In some cases,

using fact that the lawgiver does not interfere in such intimate family relationships, can come up to family abuse by family members. Underage children, brought to realize physically impossible job to deprive them of education and the right to a merit-based job. But the most important is that part of the society that does not educate children in the spirit of employing, meeting all their current requirements, raising them with the spirit of indifference to cope with life. However, based on the overall economic analysis, this layer is fortunately low to affect in substantial doses in our society.

3 - WEAK ECONOMY

Receiving social and economic aid, as an agenda issue that is aroused and determined in every meeting of the City Council, but that always comes in addition of applicants, manifests a growing indication of the general impoverishment. In such conditions even the rate of unemployment would precisely declare the lack of employment, as one of the impossibilities of getting out of the crisis.

4 - LOW PERSONAL AND SOCIAL INITIATIVE

High elevation between the distribution of income among citizens, brings two large divisions as well (poverty and wealth), causing at a big part of people possessiveness and indifference to the issue of employment, while among the others will influence with discourage because of the long unemployment gap, or not finding suitable profession and convenient working position. Middle employed class has overcrowded official

positions and an aspect to be considered is the self-employment, but wealth and poverty remain the main causes of the unemployment crisis, willing or not the mentioned subjects.

5 - LACK OF LABOR MARKET

When I attempted to highlight the selection of educational courses (mainly of the secondary and high education) I was oriented towards clarifying the wrong decisions, without consistent basis, which should be raised up on the study and analysis of the labor market, demands and possible offers, sectors with a lack of human resources and their deprioritization, only in the absence of the necessary framework. Are agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry, industry, construction and maybe artisans without prospective nowadays?! Where would they go educated without an obtaining basic knowledge or those which are uneducated who still require occupying jobs that are booked long time ago from a long list of contenders?! Perhaps labor market lacks due to the selection of professional orientation and peoples' specialization, but probably state entities in action plan and economic stimulated strategies haven't functioned properly. Strong reasons are Immigration (as a current solution that becomes permanent), Isolation in mountainous areas (with poor rural conditions), Religious fanaticism and old traditions (seclusion of women) and many others, that require immediate intervention of all state institutions and best the intervention of international institutions, offering a cure to address at the same time demand and labor offer to strengthen the skills of labor market institutions, to integrate, implement national and international policy priorities through constructive plans and strategies for youth employment.

Some of the possible alternatives for determining the profile of today's job seekers, with the need for immediate employment should be:

Unemployed people for a long period of time (registered as jobseekers for more than one year); People receiving income support programs; Roma people; people with disabilities, in positions where they can make a contribution; people with disabilities for a long time, who are recovering. Girls, mothers, separated, widowed; divorced people and with social problems (mostly women); people returning from migration, with economic problems and many others that could be revealed by anyone who reads this article with sufficient doses of humanity and good will, in order to increase social welfare and general civil usefulness.

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BEING VOLUNTEER



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"A true volunteer wants and wishes everyone good and is happy when he or she makes someone smile, without wanting something in return."

Voluntarism is one of the noblest and the most honest jobs in the world. To be a volunteer means to have good intentions, to have a good heart, and above all, to be a peacemaker. To help someone, to be a part of a certain positive change in our society and our world, means to give our own, personal contribution through activities such as volunteer work. Volunteer activists are those people who are involved in humanitarian work, and are personally interested in helping people in a cooperative and non-competitive way. A volunteer can be a member of certain organization, or he or she can act individually by supporting those who need help the most. There are several examples of many organizations that do charity work, and these organizations have a mostly non-governmental character. In my personal opinion, I think that volunteers are inspired and guided by strength and goodness of heart, they are the messengers of peace and honesty, and they are making a lot of change in terms of the current situation of the world we live in. Now days, people are overly occupied with their own lives, and often forget about the fact that they are not the only ones with personal issues and worries. And in this way people tend to grow apart from each other, and instead of building bridges between ourselves, we are becoming distant, unattached and insensitive. But volunteers put their own wishes aside, and care, think about someone else's needs, they are compassionate, unselfishly caring and patient, because their goal is to help and protect basic human rights. There are also a lot of celebrities

who do volunteer work, either helping in shelters for homeless people, serving them food, or adopting children who are in a desperate need for parenthood. These volunteers are giving instead of taking; they are members of the world family where there are no differences, and no enemies. To be a volunteer also means to see and appreciate the beauty and integrity in every person, it means to cherish our planet Earth; it means to be a cause of something good, and not a cause of anarchy and disorder. A true volunteer wants and wishes everyone good and is happy when he or she makes someone smile, without wanting something in return. Volunteers also participate and deal with global issues such as children's rights, animal rights etc. But every person can be a volunteer if he or she wants to help someone, either your neighbor, an old lady passing the street, a pregnant woman who is standing in the tram, or a hungry dog that is barking outside your house. If you feel in your heart that someone needs help, use your good side and act on it by joining Red Cross, by collecting and sorting out your old closet and giving the clothes that you don't wear anymore to the nearest charity group, and by doing so, you are considered a volunteer. It is your positive answer to unselfish and noble work of your heart. I think that every person should do something unselfish, every day, every second of this life that is given to us, so we may become better, stronger and more honest towards each other. I certainly hope we will!

Inter-ethnic dialogue on policy level

Centre for Intercultural Dialogue has been actively involved in supporting not only young people, but also citizens in various processes connected to inter-ethnic dialogue. The last couple of years CID worked on various projects connected with the work of Commission for Inter-Community Relation (CICR), which is a advisory body municipal council on issues related to inter-community dialogue. This project aimed at fostering the sustainability of CICR by improving the policies and building the competences of CICR members by establishing mechanisms for transferring new knowledge and ensuring continuity of their work. Since 2011 CID has been involved as a partner of the Community Developing Institute (CDI) within the project BONA MENTE. CID together with several other organizations from Macedonia was part of a qualitative survey about the role of CICR at the local level. The result showed the need for change in the Law on Local Self-Government in order to strengthen the role of CICR at the local level. This summer from the 5th to the 6th of July on the shores of Lake Ohrid, CID participated in the conference organized by CDI, together with representatives from 21 civil society organizations. In order to initiate the formation of a non-formal coalition, the organizations gathered together and discussed the activities that will be implemented within the frames of the initiative for amending the Law of Local Self-Government connected with the role of CICR. The process on advocating and lobbying for amendments in the Law for Local Self-Government is mainly leaded by CDI, and supported by the partners organizations in the project. We hope that the eventually changes will bring improvements for the local Commissions for Inter-Community Relation to enhance their work much deeper and with wider impact.



Conference: "Challenges and opportunities of volunteer work" (Skopje, December 04, 2012)

Challenges and opportunities of the volunteer work



10,000 FORD EMPLOYEES VOLUNTEER FOR CHARITY



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The beginning of my commitments in the project **"Advocate - Monitor - Act"** aimed my training and then getting a certificate on 'Monitoring the City Council' which enriched my Curriculum Vitae also expanding the scope of my knowledge on one of the subjects I assist at International University of Struga, 'Local Self-Government and Local Government'. The association "Me, Woman" in the context of the initiative "Advocate - Monitor - Act" according to the Monitoring of the City Council - Pogradec, a program supported by the Office of Public Affairs of the Embassy of the United States of America in Tirana, has organised a group of young educated volunteers and visionaries. The volunteers of this group with interest and a sense of positive criticism follow all the meetings of the City Council in Pogradec. They keep records, conduct interviews, analyze parallel situations and in some cases they are the ones who give their opinions and suggestions regarding certain situations. All collected ideas are edited and discussed from the monitoring staff, to be then published in the bulletin of monthly newspaper, **"Nositi"**. But the necessity of this commitment led to new duties and responsibilities. Based on my modest experience in publications of scientific character and after the first impressions on the monitoring of the City Council - Pogradec, I was selected by the monitoring group and moderators of this program as an editor of this publication, which will treat issues of analytic and suggestive character for

monitoring meetings by us. The editions of "Advocate - Monitor - Act" bulletin was enriched with various writings by members of the monitoring group. The opinions and publications on our writings made me more aware of the increased responsibility and civic duty, where of course I do take part, already exceeded initial interest in the form of integration of a group of citizens with wider interest contribution to the community. Despite my weekly commitments in Struga - Macedonia, this will not be a barrier for me to come back once a month (as I have already done) to monitor the meetings of the City Council and to proceed in a continuous way to coordinate the publication of our bulletin. I wish this project to exist in a lifetime, not only for being a promoter of commitment of some young people who are on the right path to their perfection in this area, but also not to stop concerned citizens to monitor and influence in the local decision-making in favor of their interests and benefits. Therefore I am contributing with the whole potential that I possess and with the invaluable support from the other volunteer activists (monitors), hoping to educate as many young people as well as elderly citizens to commit to voluntary work. I still continue to be skeptical regarding volunteering in

The different social, economic and politic developments supported by non-governmental organizations, and from various associations that adhere to the whole country and with the help of civil society, somehow served as a trampoline to support and develop the spirit of volunteerism in its new form as a forgiving job satisfaction. In the concept of volunteerism these changes has served as a trampoline to jump from ignorance to knowledge, from need to desire, from positive desire to volunteerism.

Albania, because there is no exact number of those people who do voluntary work without compensation, but perhaps the fact that since now the Albanian State has not enacted any law according to which voluntary work is assessed in the Curriculum Vitae as a granted work, or maybe for the fact that very few people appreciate volunteerism. However the concept of volunteerism among young people is somewhat known and widespread. They contribute in voluntary work, including young people here in Pogradec and Struga. The different social, economic and politic developments supported by non-governmental organizations, and from various associations that adhere to the whole country and with the help of civil society, somehow served as a trampoline to support and develop the spirit of volunteerism in its new form as a forgiving job satisfaction. In the concept of volunteerism these changes has served as a trampoline to jump from ignorance to knowledge, from need to desire, from positive desire to volunteerism. When young people will spend less time in cafeterias and more time in volunteer work, then we will see the achievements of an emancipated and European country.

European Center SN7 host of the study visit "Unemployed vs. Employed Tour"

European Center SN7 within the program "Youth in action", on 23 September 2012, hosted a study visit "Unemployed vs. Employed Tour", implemented by Volunteer Center - Skopje (VCS). In the context of this 8-day study visit in Macedonia, participants from different European countries visited various non-governmental organizations and other institutions. The main focus of this study visit was unemployment among young people, the challenges faced by today's youth and ensuring quality education for new generations. The study visit connected 24 participants coming from Netherlands, Croatia, Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Czech Republic, Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Romania and Slovenia. The aims of the visit was to connect youth workers and leaders on one side and a group of unemployed young people on the other side and provide them with an opportunity to get a more detailed insight on the topic of youth unemployment as well as develop new ideas and tools together that can be used for fighting it.



Our mission: Improvement of the livelihood in the rural areas of the Republic of Macedonia through building the capacities of the rural society by networking. The work of the RDN is based on the LEADER approach which stands for 'Links between actions of rural development'.

About Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia.

The union of civil associations "Rural Development Network of The Republic of Macedonia – "RDN of RM" was established in March 2010 in Skopje, as a movement organized at national level to provide a voice for rural communities in the Republic of Macedonia. The aim of RDN of RM is to demonstrate a structured approach in mobilizing rural communities to become stronger agents of local developments and participate in rural policy at local, regional, national and EU level. This includes establishment of an effective cooperation and mutual help among individuals and organizations from the rural areas, in order to ensure effective representation of the needs, the voice and interests of the rural population and provision of flow of information between government and non-government bodies on all levels. The work of the RDN is based on the LEADER approach which stands for 'Links between actions of rural development'. RDN is also a pioneer in the introduction to this approach as a concept for rural development in Macedonia. **Our mission:** Improvement of the livelihood in the rural areas of the Republic of Macedonia through building the capacities of the rural society by networking.

RDN Priority Areas for Actions: The six priority areas which were identified, and proposed by the stakeholders through processes of analyses, interviews and workshops and finally agreed are the following: LEADER activities in creation of links at local level; Women Economic Empowerment in rural areas; Agriculture and forestry – the backbone of the rural area; Cultural heritage as tool for development of rural areas through promotion of rural tourism; Sustainable management of the environment; Diversification of economic activities in rural areas. **Membership:** Network member can be an association of citizens registered in Republic of Macedonia

which in its Statute and programmed goals is associated with rural development and that will join the network voluntarily with signing a document for membership by which it also agrees with the Network Statute. Currently RDN brings together 50 CSOs as members represented at the RDN Board. USAID Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture Project. Since April 2012, The Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia (RDN of RM) has begun implementing the Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture Project, supported by USAID – United States Agency for International Development. The goal of this project is to promote adaptive agricultural practices and to raise the awareness of agricultural producers, as well as the general public, on the challenges and effects of climate change in the agricultural sector in the Republic of Macedonia. Project implementation is located within the Mediterranean zone, which includes the Povardarie region with parts of Strumica and Gevgelija regions and is most affected by climate change. The project will consist of

two main components. The first project component is testing and demonstrating innovative agricultural practices for adaptation to climate change, which will minimize some of the expected unfavorable impacts of global warming to cultures such as viticulture and fresh fruits and vegetables. The target group of this component is family farms and individual farmers who sell their surplus products at the domestic markets. The second component is directed towards raising the awareness and development of capacities of parties interested in climate change, and will include implementation of information campaigns at local and national level. It also includes development of technologies tested within the first component into advisory packages to be distributed to target groups at a series of workshops and other appropriate media. The target group in this component is the rural population in the Republic of Macedonia, as well as relevant institutions that have a mandate to develop and implement rural development programs. The planned activities of the RDN to be implemented within the Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture Project are pioneer steps in the area of adaptive measures on farms, which will significantly contribute to improving sustainable practices within farming systems in the Republic of Macedonia.



RDN ACTIVITIES

CITIZEN ASSOCIATION "SOLEM"



SOLEM is a civil association which supports the people with disabilities. SOLEM was established as a non-partisan, non-political and non-profit association and its main goal is to undertake both academic and professional activities which aim to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. SOLEM was established in 2008. **Mission:** Advancing and promoting the rights of persons with disabilities, firsthand engagement with children and adults through creative centers, supporting the process of deinstitutionalization and cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations. **Vision:** Support for the families of people with disabilities, assistance of the persons with disabilities to develop the necessary skills for a successful inclusion in the society. SOLEM currently is implementing three projects: Centre for Creative Expression and Relaxation, Centre for Computer Workshop, and Getting to Know Skopje. The Centre for Creative Expression and Relaxation is a project aiming at facilitation of the deinstitutionalization process of adults with disabilities in the Republic of Macedonia. The Centre is primarily intended for the persons that are incorporated in the process of deinstitutionalization of the Special Institution in Demir Kapija but also for the adults with disabilities that live with their biological families. The Computer Workshop Centre provides opportunities for the persons with special needs to acquire basic computer skills. They learn how to use Microsoft Word, Power Point, the Internet and the social networks. Getting to Know Skopje provides opportunities for the persons with special needs to visit the natural heritage sites of Skopje and to attend cultural and recreational events which take place in the City of Skopje. The Centre for Creative Expression and Relaxation has been set up with the intention to serve the needs of persons with intellectual disabilities aged 18 or over. It provides them with an opportunity to: have an organised stay at a particular time of the

day, express themselves creatively, exercise their motor skills, create appropriate and interesting activities, socialize with each other, develop and exercise new and existing skills, receive basic vocational training, develop basic working habits, create positive feelings about their personal effort and respect for the labor of others, develop a sense of aesthetics, express their wishes and interests. A number of creative workshops are hosted in the Centre for Creative Expression and Relaxation, as follows: modelling and manufacture of items in plaster, clay, plasticine or dough; weaving of tapestries, embroidery, hand sewing; modeling and manufacture of items from paper, crêpepaper, old newspapers, cardboard; painting in distemper paints, acrylic colors and textile dyes; modeling and manufacture of decorations in plastics (used bottles recycling); modeling and manufacture of jewelers from beads; modeling and manufacture of ornamental candles; and modeling and manufacture of scented soaps. **Creative Workshops products:** magnets, wall decorations, ornamental masks, scented soaps, ornamental candles, trees, flower arrangements, big and small embroidered bags, tapestries, stuffed cushions, variety of origami, hair pins, jewelers, wall paintings. Our products have been displayed at a number of exhibitions and events: an exhibition in the SOLEM association premises, an exhibition at the City of Skopje Museum, a shopping exhibition in the premises of the Municipality of Aerodrom, a shopping exhibition as part of the White Nights festival, a shopping exhibition as part of the Vegefest. **New:** From January 2012, SOLEM will begin with realization of the new program for self-determination and self-advocacy of people with disabilities. The goal is for the persons with disabilities to speak for themselves and to participate in the decision-making process or to entirely make the decisions regarding them, to know and to lobby for their own rights.

Presentation of the Manual "7 Project Wonders" and info presentation for PTPI Skopje

On October 22 at the Youth Cultural Center in Skopje the People to People International creACTIVE Student Chapter from Skopje, Macedonia presented the Manual "7 Project Wonders". This same event was a informational presentation about our chapter. We wanted to present the high school students from Macedonia some good ways how to implement humanitarian projects and in our Manual that procedure was written step by step. This Manual was created at the European Youth Forum 2012 in Berlin, Germany. Members from our chapter participated in this 7 day adventure and were part of the team that was working on this excellent project. The Manual was written on English and afterwards every country (Macedonia, Armenia, Albania, Egypt, Czech Republic, Germany and Bulgaria) translated in their own native language. Every humanitarian project presented in this Manual was completed before the delegations came to the European Youth Forum. They were completed with a great success. Our members were working really hard to present this great work on a proper way. We invited high school student who are our target group and also teachers who can present our work at their high schools. We were very excited that the presentation was a great success because after that many of the guests came and asked us how to became members of our chapter. Also, a lot of people were fascinated by the work we have done in Berlin with the Manual "7 Project Wonders". Our membership learned that events like this one can build a stronger position for our Chapter in our local community. The Manual helped us to gather more students that will be our members in future.

Non-governmental sector, sustainability prerequisite



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The level of the development of the civil society is in fact an indicator of the democratic capacity of that state.

The Non-governmental organizations or the organizations of citizens, as defined by the Macedonian legislator, are the bearing post of the civil society. They, the same as the subjects under state patronage (the administration), act in direction of establishment and reinforcement of certain social relations. As the internationally accepted term (Non Governmental Organizations) itself implies, it encompasses all the subjects that are separated from the state government and act independent of the administrative organs, yet in the same direction, with its end purpose being social wellbeing. The level of the development of the civil society is in fact an indicator of the democratic capacity of that state. The developed democracies do not only allow, but they actively support, primarily financially, the development of the non-governmental sector, aware of the plethora of social spheres in which the activities of these civil organizations would be of enormous importance. An adequate illustration of the active support to the non-governmental sector is represented by the West European countries, as well as the institutions of the European Union, which portion significant part of their budget to attend to this sector. This situation undeniably stimulates the individual to recognize himself in a particular social area according to personal qualifications and talents, so as to contribute to the social as well as personal advancement implementing his creativity and enthusiasm. Here we refer to the non-governmental sector in its genuine form, disregarding the oftentimes misuse of these organizations, a sector where a group of citizens gather in the area that is common to them, and in which they have strengths, motivation, ability and competence, and where with joined endeavors they aim to better future by carrying out socially beneficial activities. In the same manner in which the state stimulates its administration crew by commissioning finances (salary) as a reward for their efforts, so is the non-governmental sector becoming a source of income for an increasing number of young people who widen their horizons as members to non-governmental organizations, while obtaining decent fees for their effort. There are a large number of non-governmental organizations that disseminate their activities in many countries and even other continents, by opening their representative offices in various countries, or by

the umbrella principle of netting familiar organizations of different parts of the world. Apart from the significant projects and funds serving their realization that this type of organizations provide, they very often allow mobility of their members. Communication and contacts with colleagues of many countries, acquaintance with new cultures and customs, education by attending various international workshops and seminars, sharing the best of the practices, and the like, are only a part of the abundant gains that a project coordinator, project assistant, or even a volunteer in such non-governmental organization might have. My personal experience in the non-governmental sector is precisely in one international network which unites thousands of PhD candidates and young researchers, emphasizing the great role that the scientific research plays in the development of the society.

EURODOC

The European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers

Eurodoc (www.eurodoc.net) is an international non-profit organization with its head office in Brussels consisting of 35 members from 34 different countries. As a unique organization representing a large and significant focus group, EURODOC acts by project activities, participation in seminars and conferences, organizes resident workshops, meetings and so on. The activities of the organization take part mainly online through special internal mailing lists and other IT tools



created for the purposes of the organization. For the purpose of participation and project creation of particular areas of the organization, there are seven workgroups specialized in areas such as: mobility, career development, social security, research, interdisciplinary and protection of the researchers with special needs. On the General Assembly, held on March 2011 in Krakow, Poland, I was assigned as a coordinator of the group for gender equality, and for several months I have been requisitioned to manage the existing and future projects in the field of gender equality as well as to contact the potential partners in this area. In addition to that, as a member of Eurodoc I had the opportunity to attend many conferences and workshops in various European countries, to some of them also in the role of a speaker, in order to represent the positions of the organization. What is of enormous value is the communication and the acquaintance with PhD candidates and researchers from almost all of Europe. The enthusiasm, positive energy, desire for new knowledge and constant improvement, constructiveness, possibility for debate, confidence boost, exchange of opinions, new experiences and frequent travels abroad are to name but a few of the things that make me proud to be a part of such community that through its activities contributes to a better tomorrow. This is exactly where I see the need for gradual braking of the stereotype that "a good job is only the office job, i.e. post in an administration." This is exactly the place where the civil society presents its value, by awakening the creativity and strengthening the qualities of the individual. This opening of the door of opportunity for professional engagement is a sufficiently significant factor that contributes to the social development.



EURODOC'S ACTIVITIES

AGRO LENDING – AN INSTRUMENT FOR VIABLE AGRIBUSINESS



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Agriculture and rural development covered by the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) are key pillars of the European integration. As such, CAP insists on competitive agriculture and intensive rural development, therefore providing an immense amount of funds (grants and loans) to support these pillars.¹ Nevertheless, agro lending as a form of agriculture finance is one of the major prerequisites for viable agribusiness. Republic of Macedonia, as a country candidate for joining EU is entitled to these European funds manifested by the Instrument for Pre-Accession Rural Development (IPARD). Recognizing the importance of agriculture (about 9% of GDP) and agro-industry (about 6% of GDP) for the national economy, the Government introduced an intensive plan of subsidies (through the Agency for Financial Support of Agriculture and Rural Development)² and lending (through state owned Macedonian Bank for Development Promotion - MBDP).³ Once established a network of financial support, a key question raised: "How to expand the outreach?" The response lays in multilateral cooperation between NGO's, i.e. farmers' associations and "think tanks". In the beginning of 2012, individual consultancy cooperation has been established between an employee of MBDP and Center for Economic Analyses (CEA)⁴, an independent "think tank" covering agricultural financial policies among other. The "fruits" of this cooperation grew instantly. CEA Journal of Economics issued an article about Agricultural Credit Discount Fund – Agribusiness Support Credit Line in Macedonia (within MBDP) in order to further introduces this credit line to the potential

At the end of the day clustering of think tanks, government and lending facilities might make a rich farmer a happy farmer and a happy farmer ultimately being a State in welfare!

beneficiaries (farmers and agro-enterprises).⁵ A press conference has been released on the matter, stating that the scarce of ACDF funds may damage the agro lending in near future. Fortunately, these activities provoked the Government and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy to adopt a 5-year National Program for Agriculture and Rural Development providing EUR 22 m. by year 2017 for enriching ACDF. This bilateral cooperation is further "multilateralized" by including the Farmers Federation of Republic of Macedonia as the biggest farmers' association in Macedonia.⁶ Several seminars and field trips were organized so far, where different focus groups consisted of various shareholders raised questions and shared opinions and suggestions for improving agro lending, with an accent on rural youth, rural women and rural poor. It is obvious that the clustering between the Government's led institutions and farmers and agribusiness oriented NGO's (CEA and FFRM in this case) is of crucial importance in providing adequate consensus for solution and funds for on-lending activities in agro-industrial complex. The inflow of financial assets and ideas (hopefully innovative alternatives in future as well) will definitely help in introducing agricultural best practices and meeting European quality standards by our farmers, hence maximizing their incomes and profits as well as exports and revenues of the Country. At the end of the day clustering of think tanks, government and lending facilities might make a rich farmer a happy farmer and a happy farmer ultimately being a State in welfare!



WORKSHOP REPORT ON BEHAVIOR CHANGE WITH BAMENDA YOUTH

The training on behavior change was initiated by Eric Mbotiji and funded by the Waisenkinderrhilfe, Nigerian NGO based in Frankfurt Germany in collaboration with Youth Outreach Program Cameroon (YOP). The main objective of this training was to empower 15 young people (aged 15–24) with skills needed to make informed decisions which will enable them to adopt positive behaviors and live healthily lives. The training topics included amongst others life skills (bridge model), types of life skills, communication, Body language, assertiveness, emotional management, decision making, goals setting, role modeling, identification of risky behavior towards HIV/AIDS and delaying sex. Trainers included Nansing Jimai, Jonas Heckeleei, Agwenjang Patience and Eric Mbotiji. An important training area was communication skills. Areas explored included the methods of communication, elements of effective communication, body language, assertiveness and overcoming barriers of communication. In this session various case scenarios were used to illustrate forms of communication to the youth. Eric and Jimai demonstration a case scenario on body language: A teacher calls for his student to take a book to his house and the student is frightened. Other case scenarios were demonstrated by the young persons. In this training 15 youths gained self-development skills that enabled them to make informed decisions about their sexuality, be able to negotiate safe sex, set attainable goals, and their relationships and emotion. Most important was the fact that they developed strategies to address sexual harassment in schools and in their communities. **By: Eric Mbotiji**

¹http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/capexplained/index_en.htm

²http://www.ipardpa.gov.mk/Root/default_eng.asp

³<http://www.mbdp.com.mk/index.php/en/>

⁴http://www.cea.org.mk/html_english/english.html

⁵http://www.cea.org.mk/documents/journal/CEA_Journal_XIII%20Issue.pdf

⁶<http://www.ffrm.org.mk/>

Civil society and civic actions - protesting against higher energy prices



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The state can advocate more to the EU institutions and other international donors for bigger funds for projects in renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and conservation.

In the past few months we witnessed increased citizens' dissatisfaction and resentment towards the increased prices for electricity that the Energy Regulatory Commission established in the summer period. With the new regulations, the so-called "low-priced electricity tariff", which used to be available during certain hours of the day, was canceled as well. Increased electricity prices riled the citizens and pushed them to the streets where they expressed their right to protest against these trends. The civic movement is symbolically called ("Aman - dosta e!" 'Dear God it is enough' - paraphrased translation) and its demands are: re-introducing cheap daily rates for electricity, returning the price of electricity at the 2008 level and abolishing the item "engaged output of 33 percent" in the electricity bills. Moreover the citizens demanded for returning the prices of heating at the 2008 rate, reducing the prices of oil derivatives in accordance with the standard of living, stopping the privatization or recapitalization of the entire energy sector in the ownership of the Republic of Macedonia, and investing in sustainable energy sources, geothermal energy, wind energy and solar energy. There was a lot of criticism towards the civil society organizations (CSOs) for not engaging in these protests and not supporting their agenda enough. While everybody has a right to go out, to protest and to state their opinion, these criticisms were mostly unfounded. There are many reasons why these protests did not get bigger momentum, but one does stand out: they are not founded in the reality in which

the energy sector is functioning in Macedonia. The general unawareness of how energy markets function causes the rightful anger to be misplaced. There is still a prevailing sentiment among many citizens that energy services are something that inherently belongs to them, and not a market good, under a market value such as a phone or a car. This is an issue as electricity, water and heating are services just like any other. The time when they were subsidized by the state is unfortunately over, and in the unstopping process of market liberalization it is the institutions' fault for not preparing the citizens for what that actually represents. By blaming and shaming, different interests have been trying to win support, but that still does not solve the main issue: how to pay less for electricity and heating? Going step by step, Macedonia is a member of the Energy Community Treaty since its foundation in 2005, as well as EU candidate country. As such Macedonian authorities took upon themselves to reform the entire system in order to become one day full members of what is still the most prestigious 'club' in the world. The main obligations that stem from the Energy Treaty, according to Article 2, are: "the task of the Energy Community is to organise the relations between the Parties and create a legal and economic framework in relation to Network Energy in order to: (a) create a stable regulatory and market framework capable of attracting investment in gas networks, power generation, and transmission and distribution networks; (b) create a single regulatory space for trade in Network Energy that is necessary to match the geographic extent of the concerned product markets; (c) enhance the security of supply of the single regulatory space; (d) improve the environmental situation in relation to Network Energy and related energy efficiency, foster the use of renewable energy, and set out the conditions for energy trade in the single regulatory space; (e) develop Network Energy market competition on a broader geographic scale and exploit economies of scale."¹ The implementation of these obligations can and will be painful in all the countries involved. However, done right the benefits in the long term are hard to undermine. Free competition and clean energy



are worth fighting for. Therefore, investments are not possible in a closed state-regulated market without independent regulatory institutions and judiciary. Secure energy supply and better services are not possible when there are state-operating companies and monopolies which care less about customers' satisfaction and more about their own profits, as they rely on the 'nanny state'. Clean and healthy environment is not possible if there are no price incentives for moving away from dirty energy sources such as coal. This is the harsh reality in which the Macedonian energy sector and its consumers co-exist. There are lots of ways how this situation can be mended, which do not include the over-baring hand of the 'nanny-state'. Citizens should start being more proactive and start implementing energy efficiency measures in their homes and communities. The state can advocate more to the EU institutions and other international donors for bigger funds for projects in renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and conservation. What many renowned world think-tanks suggest is the state to start implementing measures on the demand side rather than the supply side. Meaning they would need to incentivize citizens to use less energy and to invest in innovation. One idea would be to have a fund for rewarding those who cut their use of electricity. It relies on the same principle as the feed-in tariffs for the producers of energy from renewables and would pay for each unit of electricity saved. This might actually be an idea worth fighting and protesting for.

¹ (Energy Community Treaty: http://www.energy-community.org/portal/page/portal/ENC_HOME/ENERGY_COMMUNITY/Legal/Treaty)



Donetsk city youth center of arts “EkoArt”: 11 years of work within Ukrainian cultural field



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Donetsk city youth centre of arts “EkoArt” is an association of active young people of Donetsk (Ukraine) which arose in 1999 from the non-formal creative association “Scene of action”.

When in 2010, Donetsk city youth center of arts “EkoArt” applied for the financial support of the European Union within the Eastern Partnership Culture Programme, we already had 10-year successful experience of activity and had already implemented about 50 projects and events of varying complexity and duration in different directions for and with youth – trainings, festivals, musical, theatrical and literary events, literary and creative workshops, seminars on European culture, information campaigns, etc., including those funded by the European Commission, European Youth Foundation, European Cultural Foundation, various foreign embassies in Ukraine and local authorities, and others. Donetsk city youth centre of arts “EkoArt” is an association of active young people of Donetsk (Ukraine) which arose in 1999 from the non-formal creative association “Scene of action”. Our aim is all-round support, development and implementation of youth ideas in all spheres of life. Here we are: EkoArt team – enthusiastic, friendly and inspired by improvement of society by the hands of youth. The main directions of our activity are: development and popularization of youth creativity and culture; increase of social activity of youth; assistance to democratization of society, informing of young people about their rights and freedom and their protection; assistance to development of independent youth mass media; promotion of healthy life style. Since Center’s establishment, we consider the culture and

creativity as a complex and profound phenomenon, through which we could influence the various spheres of life and solve different problems. Our work is based on the ideas of peaceful coexistence of people, tolerance, promoting democratic values, creative approach to solve various problems. Currently, the Center of arts “EkoArt” together with Ukrainian partner – Kherson city Center of Youth Initiatives “Totem” and Georgian partner – Association of Journalists “PostFactum” works on implementation of 2-years project “Cultural development is the source for prosperity of community”. This project is financed by the European Union within the Eastern Partnership Culture Programme. The project is implemented in two countries of the Eastern Partnership region: the South-Eastern Ukraine (Donetsk and Kherson regions) and the Western Georgia (Megrelia, Adjara and Imeretia regions).

We chose such areas because the problems within the cultural field in Ukraine and Georgia are similar. It is connected with a common Soviet past and a similar cultural policy in the years of independence. Mission of the projects is strengthening the role of culture as a fundamental factor of influence on social, economic and human development of the Ukrainian and Georgian society through the capacity development of cultural institutions and by increasing residents’ participation on the development of cultural policy. This project is directed to empower of NGOs and people of Ukraine and Georgia. As the beneficiaries of the project are people who have limited access to culture and live in communities with poor social and cultural life, the project’s aim is to help the inhabitants of outlying suburb of large cities and residents of small depressed towns and villages in Ukraine, as well as internally displaced persons in Georgia, to give more opportunity for their human and social development as well as sustainable development of their community and incensement of civil engagement. The project “Cultural development is the source for prosperity of community” includes such activities as Ukrainian and Georgian cultural maps development; training courses “Capacity development for cultural players”; the round tables; development and implementation of recommendations how to improve cultural situation in Ukrainian and Georgian project regions; study visits in Sweden, Bulgaria and Ukraine; International Open Space ; awarding of sub-grants; development of a model of multi-purpose rural cultural center and others. On this picture you can see the participants of the training course in Ukraine. Recently we decided to get EVS (European Voluntary Service) accreditation and to join a huge community of European volunteers, so we hope that soon all of you will be able to visit us and work together in order to make this world more interesting, diverse and creative.



ANIMA MUNDI – a voice for the voiceless in Macedonia



ANIMA MUNDI is a non-profit organization created to initiate public action against any kind of abuse and exploitation of animals by man.

ANIMA MUNDI was founded on October 4th 2009 in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia. We are a member of the European Vegetarian Union (EVU) and Macedonian representative – observer for the European Coalition to End Animal Experiments (ECEAE). ANIMA MUNDI is a non-profit organization created to initiate public action against any kind of abuse and exploitation of animals by man. We aim at individual and collective change of human consciousness and promoting awareness of the true nature of animals as beings that suffer, feel pain and fear. We believe that all living beings that feel have a right to live and be free. The ultimate goal of ANIMA MUNDI is abolishment of all forms of abuse, torture and exploitation of animals by man. In the context of achieving this goal we insist on abolishment of and ban on killing and torture of animals in the name of (but not limited to) – butchery, hunting and fishing, animal experiments, farming for the needs of all industries, breeding, use of animals for entertaining purposes (circuses, zoo parks, hippodromes etc.) and other selfish needs of man. Therefore, we put maximum effort in: Protection of abandoned and homeless animals, providing adequate help and ensuring their safe accommodation; Protection of all the animals in separate cases of torture and cruelty; Protection of endangered and protected species in

their natural habitat as well as protection of all the species that are subject to trade and are facing extinction; Promotion of vegetarianism and, foremost, veganism as ethical and ecologically sustainable lifestyles and healthy forms of nutrition; Education of the public with the aim of reconciling man and nature; Establishing and cultivating the concept of environmentalism. In our organization there are no employees, which mean that we function completely on a volunteer basis. But, our love for the animals is endless as you can see from the statements of our volunteers, our loyal followers that support our every action. Of course, we receive much help from the veterinary hospitals in Skopje, with which we collaborate on a daily basis and that have

never refused to help us when we most needed them. All of our actions are supported by EAM confection, friends of animals, responsible for printing our T-shirts, to which we are eternally grateful. So far we've managed to organize Adoption Sprees (each lasting several days); one protest against dog treatment in "Vardarishte" (local death camp for dogs) entitled "NO to a bloody Skopje"; one march for animal rights entitled "Walk for Life"; two vegan and vegetarian cuisine degustation in "La Kaña" (Old Bazaar) entitled "Skopje Goes Veg"; we took part in the festival "Means without an Aim, Knowledge without a Price Tag" with a projection of a video documentary "Your Mommy Kills Animals" and a debate for animal rights; we've organized one one-month action for free vaccination of homeless animals; one one-month spay/neuter action for homeless animals (still in progress); further, we've been a part of many cultural manifestations with our info-stands (dedicated to Vegetarianism/Veganism, World Animal Day, Against Animal Experiments etc.); also, we've submitted (in written) many draft-amendments to the laws concerning animals; a draft-programme for a humane treatment of the homeless animals in Skopje; countless missives to the media; a draft-model and petition for Animal Police in Macedonia; we've been guests on many shows; and our last action was the protest against use of fur and leather entitled "Fur – thanks, but NO thanks!" within the national anti-fur week that we held on the "Makedonija" square in Skopje on November 27th 2011 with a performance and an installation. Of course, our activities wouldn't have been possible without the support of the "Association of Activists for Protection of Animal Rights" (AAPAR), which side by side with us have organized, designed and realized each and every event. So, we would like to leave you with one single thought: "The question is not, Can they reason? nor, Can they talk? but rather, Can they suffer?" - Jeremy Bentham.

Dragana Velkovska - Volunteer Coordinator

Fall brings new volunteers to CID – Kumanovo

In October and November CID will be happy to welcome 4 more international volunteers to the organization. At the moment we have 3 long-term volunteers and one intern taking part in our work. Our great volunteers are Sandra from Estonia, Dan from Wales, Martina from Slovakia, and Evelyn from Germany who is doing her internship with us. The volunteers who will join us in the coming months are Divien and Rosalie from Germany, Paulina from Poland, and Eduardo from Portugal. Paulina (Poland) and Divian (Germany) will start with their volunteer work in October, and Eduardo (Portugal) and Rosalie (Germany) will start in November. The sending partners of their projects are the Association Casa da Horta from Porto, Portugal, Stowarzyszenie "Jeden Świat" Service Civil International from Poland, Youth Action for Peace from Germany, and Friedenskreis Halle from Germany. Welcome!

Fumbling young people



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*Not all those who
wander are lost...*

1. Since the beginning of this year, I've been thinking a lot about quitting jobs, applying to jobs, shifting between jobs, and on top of countless questions I've asked myself about jobs, I also deal with the choice between working and studying, my path in the future, my goals in life, my nature, my qualifications. In short, everything a person needs to know to figure out where she used to be, where she is, and where she is moving towards to. I struggle through the process, occasionally wish someone were there to tell me the answers. Yet when I look around, many of my friends are having the same problems at various extents. However, most of them think of these problems as personal stuffs, namely it's their own private matters to handle and settle. No one can tell them where to go, what to do, and how to make a decision about their own lives. Very true, but a commonness that thrives above all individual differences is the confusion and struggle that we young people all share. We fumble through choices and decisions, sometimes fall and hurt ourselves along the way. But why?

2. First of all, no "how-to-be-a-successful-person" books or "how-to-achieve-the-best-in-life" training course can tell you what you want. There are many principles, rules and arguments they talk about, and it's not easy to reach an agreement on what is actually the best way to succeed. Sometimes, information is even conflicting, just serves to drive the readers even more confused from a great pool of advice available. Yet, they are all similar in one thing. Their point of departure is an assumption that everyone already has a goal they want to reach. All self-help books and motivational courses aim at helping you materialize and make your dreams come true. Lots of instructions are given on the process of turning yourself into a great person. Therefore, none of these rich resources teach you how to have a dream in the first place. They take it for granted that everyone must want something, and readers only need to work with a set of inborn and passionate dreams they have always held dear to their hearts. Which is absolutely not true, because not everyone is born with a mission that they are required to accomplish, much less a burning desire they are compelled to fulfill. The mainstream discourse makes it worse by always publishing messages and stories about people who forcefully move towards their goals, leaving the rest guilty as

if having no dream to cherish is a crime. You don't have a dream, then you can't be a complete human. Living in a post-modern period only makes the matter worse. We are encouraged to "find" our dreams, and not quit searching until we can "identify" something that we are totally thrilled to do and will never get tired of doing it. The notion of "looking for" and "searching" imply that "something" exists, it's always there, like an eternal treasure or a faithful servant waiting for us to discover. Such a dream sounds so much solid and still that we can grasp it with a little effort from our sides, and most importantly, we can not quit until we find it. That means we can keep hopping and leaving things along the way, until we are truly satisfied that we have come to "the dream". This sentiment of entitlement draws many young people (me included) into an endless cycle of asking "is this job the right one for me?" "Should I quit to find something better?" "What if I am missing out on something great out there?" On our way to "search" and "find" THE dream, we are confused a lot, because we can never be sure, especially when we are young, whether the current job we have is the one. It doesn't have a label "best job for you", it doesn't tell us, there is no sign except our own feelings, which by the way is fleeting and unreliable. No one tells us how to "create" a dream, they just spread the message that first we need to find it, then hold it tight and make it come true. Yet when we find something that seems nice enough, we are reluctant because we don't know if it's the right one, so we don't apply the "how to be successful" rules, because it takes effort and determination, and when we can't be sure if this less than perfect job is worth the effort, we leave it to find something better. The cycle continues.

3. Secondly, after young people leave school, we lack a system of orientation. Having spent 16 years in a coherent and consistent system (assuming they finish undergrad degree), we are now left on our own to figure out when to grade themselves a 10 or a 0. During school time, there are certain times we need to work hard (i.e. exams) and times we can relax (summer vacation). We have fixed and clear goals we want to achieve (high scores, good remarks from teachers). And the rewards are obvious and predictable as well. Our lives revolve around this system, and as long as we follow the rules, we will win the game. However, in an

"adult" world, even black and white is not always separated, let alone "high score" and "low score". We and our best friends may choose different values to base our lives on. Some want to make lots of money, some want fame, yet some others want an intellectually challenging occupation. Some hope for security, some strive to be adventurous. As there is no teacher to tell us right from wrong, we look around and our peers only confuse us more. Paths diverse and it's hard to measure one against another. Yet we young people are not usually aware of this split, we keep comparing ourselves to friends from high school or university, and we turn miserable if they earn more money than us, even if they are having the most boring jobs in the world! Young people are left to build a new value system, and surely they are ill-prepared after so many years spent inside educational institutions' walls. Either they take whatever their families or their friends believe is the best for them without questioning, or they struggle to set up their own structure. Living in a hyper-connected world doesn't help. As we are constantly bombarded with news and updates from friends about their jobs, their ups and downs, or even their income and achievements, we can't help but feeling pressured to be at least as good as the best of them. No matter how many times we tell ourselves to stop doing that, deep down we still feel uneasy if somehow through a random conversation of facebook, we come to know that most of our friends are earning 400-500\$ while we only earn 350\$. Then either consciously or unconsciously, we feel something wrong, even if we can't name it. This only adds up to our relentless confusion and makes it more difficult to stay in the same place and feel satisfied. When can we buy ourselves an ice-cream when neither our bosses nor our colleagues give us a score on our performance? When we have raise in salary? A promotion? An exciting task? By the way, none of these rewards are likely to take place among young people, who have joined the workforce for only a short time and lack any indicators to comfort themselves about their work.

4. Last but not least, as young people we can afford choosing among many options and changing our minds along the way. We don't have a family to support yet, and many of us are still supported by our parents, so we don't have to take into consideration a tight range of salary, distance from home to work, working hours, annual leaves, insurance and many other factors that a committed and married employee needs to think about when she or he wants to change jobs. We can travel a little further, accept a little lower payment, work a little longer, just to have the job we like. Again, since we are too free to start with

it's more difficult to make a sound decision. We are not bounded by many limitation as older employees as they are responsible for some other family members besides themselves, we only have our feelings to base our judgment on. It's great because it allows freedom, but not so great as it also allows precariousness. We shift and move continuously. Young people often lack the necessary experience and broad perspective to know what's best for us in the long term. Moreover, as young people from certain social class background (I am talking about middle-class and above, urban youth), we don't have to worry about not having food to eat the next day if we quit this job and can't find a new one immediately. We have such a secure life that we can take the risk of being unemployed for months, even years. Some of us break the cycle altogether and become freelancers, which is great except that we know we can fall back on our parents whenever we need. This security is great also because it allows us more freedom as we rise above the necessities, yet it sways our decisions easily. As a result, we fumble and are not willing to commit or pay the price we need to pay. We are blanketed among our parents' arms, so we refuse to grow up. By switching jobs, we permit ourselves the right to act according to what we want, not what we need.

We have such a secure life that we can take the risk of being unemployed for months, even years. Some of us break the cycle altogether and become freelancers, which is great except that we know we can fall back on our parents whenever we need.

5. Nevertheless, I do believe that this stage of life is necessary and good. If we are confused and can afford being confused, then it's ok to be confused. If we fumble, fall, and fail at some points, and don't break ourselves or burden someone else because of our failures, then it's ok to fumble, fall and fail. If we don't know yet what we want, and can take the time to try different things, without going hungry or let someone else go hungry, then it's ok to not know what we want, at least for the time being. Of all the causes, I think the most important to me is rephrasing the term "find your dream" to "create your dream". Only when we stop viewing dreams and goals as fixed and independently existing from ourselves, and change to think of them as a product of the process, which we "create" as we act, rather than something we "look for", "find" and only start working later. Very few people know what they want from the beginning, even fewer are born with an innate mission. Thus, to embrace confusion, to greet difficult choices and to hold on to our questions even if we don't have an answer is good. As Nietzsche once wrote: "One must have chaos in oneself to give birth to a dancing star."

Agapè CFSE Project

Organization "Agapè CFSE" have already helped depart of nine students for Paris, who already practicing their skills in French restaurants. This is the model that already exists in many countries where French Agape project is functioning. f.e. France, Romania, Maroco, Togo, Nigeria, etc.

Agapè CFSE Project in Serbia established by **Office Français de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration** is non - governmental organization whose work is based on education and professional improvement of young people employed in the area of tourism and hospitality. Agape CFSE is functioning in Serbia since January 2012 in Belgrade, when restaurant- school "Jelena Anzujska" opened in Misarska street number 7. The restaurant is part of the international program established by the French Committee for Child Protection, Le Comité Français de Secours aux Enfants, established in 1919. At this moment, restaurant employs a chef-instructor and carefully selected students of Belgrade School of Tourism, Management and Hospitality. Organization "Agapè CFSE" have already helped depart of nine students for Paris, who already practicing their skills in French restaurants. This is the model that already exists in many countries where French Agape project is functioning. f.e. France, Romania, Maroco, Togo, Nigeria, etc. The essential idea of mission of school-restaurant "Jelena Anzujska" is that carefully selected, well motivated young professionals in the area of tourism and hospitality are given the opportunity to spend time learning the secrets of French cuisine and the French language in

Belgrade, before mastering their skills with work placements in Parisian restaurants. Agape in Serbia is enabling the opportunity to young people to work and improve their skills and competencies in the real situation, in the atmosphere of French restaurant, by revealing the secrets of French cuisine and also French language. Except this, they are introduced with high international norms of technology and hygiene (HACCP) which are indispensable in today's world of gastronomy. After few months of continual education and work in the restaurant- school "Jelena Anzujska", when chef decides that they are ready for the new challenges, they will continue their professional career in restaurants in France. After months spent in intense work in Paris restaurant they are expected to return in Serbia and continue their professional integration in the country of their origin. Agape project is striving to cooperate with Belgrade and Serbia local community and expects to be recognized as a significant contribution for young people's professional improvement and integration. Strong support of local community, organizations and enterprises is necessary for sustainability of this project. Future activities will be based on engaging at least 48 selected students from Serbia and Montenegro in the program.

EUROPEAN CENTER SN7 CELEBRATES SECOND ANNIVERSARY

On 16 October 2012 the European Center SN7 celebrates the second anniversary. Until now, we have achieved impressive results. Let's have a look to some recent projects: European Center SN7 began implementing the cycle of debates "Knowing EU through conversations"; has organized a regional conference on the topic "European future of the youth"; has realized the project for environmental education "We love nature"; has participated in the "Cross-border Civil Society Forum" held in Debar (23 and 24 March 2012) between cross-border regions of Macedonia and Albania; on the occasion of the 9th May – Europe Day, has organized a workshop on the topic "Europe, you & me"; European Center SN7 within the program "Youth in action", on 23 September 2012, hosted a study visit "Unemployed vs. Employed Tour", implemented by Volunteer Center – Skopje (VCS). We owe a tremendous thanks to everyone in our community whose unwavering support during the past two years of our work. Congratulations! I'm so proud to share the joy of our achievements.

Daut MEMETI - president of the European Center SN7