

MACEDONIAN CENTER FOR
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

1993-2003



**MACEDONIAN CENTRE FOR
INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION**

1993-2003

10 YEARS



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**MCIC Executive Director
and Editor in Chief**

Sašo Klekovski

Editors:

Gramoz Šabani, chronology

Aleksandar Kržalovski, statistics

The following contributed to the monograph:

Adis Rahik

Dimce Mitrevski

Aleksandar Stamboliev

Tetjana Lazarevska

Suncica Szdovska

Aleksandar Jovanovski

Marijana Ivanova

Design and preparation:

ZIP ZAP, Skopje

Proofreading and corrections:

Daniel Medaroski

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1. Sašo Klekovski

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation (MCIC) is a civic society organisation that operates in the domain of sustainable development, awareness building and social-humanitarian (basic) assistance.

The goal of MCIC is the promotion, support and development of local, national and international initiatives for encouraging sustainable development of human resources in Macedonia and abroad.

MCIC provides funding for the activities from numerous agencies of the World Council of Churches and from governmental and international organisations.

GOALS, SECTORS AND METHODS

The strategic goals of MCIC are:

- ▶ promotion of peace;
- ▶ further development of a civic society;
- ▶ help to needy groups.

MCIC is active in the following sectors:

- ▶ water supply and sanitation;
- ▶ health and education;
- ▶ rural development;
- ▶ employment and income generation;
- ▶ civic society and democratisation;
- ▶ emergency aid.

MCIC implements its activities through:

- ▶ financial support to projects;
- ▶ training and consulting;
- ▶ information;
- ▶ representation and lobbying;
- ▶ management.

MCIC is registered in the Register of Citizen Associations and Foundations, at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, City Bureau for Internal Affairs (GUVR) Skopje, under registration number 1668, by Resolution No. 10-7190/1, dated 09.09.1994, as a social organisation for social and humanitarian goals, with source number: 4878256.

MCIC is re-registered in the Register of Citizen Associations and Foundations, at the Primary Court Skopje I, under registration number 492, by Resolution No. 434/99, dated 06.10.1999. Source number: 4878256. Unique tax number: 4030994180119.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

More than one decade ago, a group of activists from the past Board for Peace and Civic Initiatives, together with the Dutch Interchurch Aid, initiated the idea to establish a non-governmental organisation in May 1993. There followed numerous meetings and tens of questions and dilemmas. And then there were various responses and discussions, for most of us new and unknown, serious, full of challenges, with uncertainty and a little scepticism. Nevertheless, we reached agreement that Macedonia needs an organisation that is focused on development and that we are prepared to invest in this.

On 14 December 1993, the founding meeting was held of the Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation, today known as MCIC. The operationalisation of MCIC was conducted with assistance from the Dutch Interchurch Aid. One year later, this assistance was joined by several organisations, organised under the Consortium for Macedonia.

A large number of events followed, sometimes tumultuous. This monograph is an attempt to perpetuate part of those events. With every count up the danger exists to leave out events that are equally important. Parts of them are the first big development projects in 1994 and 1995. In 1996 and 1997 the activities for capacity building in the civil sector were intensified. In 1998, MCIC founded the Macedonian Enterprise Development Foundation - MEDF, which celebrates this year a small jubilee, five years from its foundation. In 1998 MCIC received the USA/EU Award for Democracy and Civil Society, for special contribution to the development of civil society and democracy. In 1999, MCIC could simply not stay indifferent towards human tragedy during the Kosovo crisis; it stopped all of its activities and devoted itself fully to responding to the crisis. In June 1999, MCIC decided to work on, and not only talk, about good neighbourliness and regional cooperation, making its first steps outside of Macedonia, in Kosovo. In 2000, the focus on post-conflict rehabilitation continued. In 2001 Macedonia faced its own armed crisis. MCIC maintained its cohesion and responded to the needs on time. In 2001, still with traces from the armed conflict, MCIC initiated the NGO Fair - Forum for Civil Society in Macedonia. In 2002 and 2003, MCIC was especially devoted to capacity strengthening of the civil sector and the local communities, as well as to building mutual understanding and making the first steps in cooperation in the Balkans.

Today, ten years later, MCIC has implemented more than fifty programmes with over a thousand projects in the amount of around 2.2 billion denars or around 36 million euros. The results of MEDF can be added to this, in the amount of 5.5 million euros.

MCIC has achieved to become one of the leading civic organisations in Macedonia and Eastern Europe. Many contributed to this success.

For the past ten years, MCIC has been continuously adapting its work to the needs of Macedonian society, to the needs of the excluded and marginalised rural areas, women, minorities and others, offering innovative and alternative solutions.

The mark left by MCIC in the civil society of Macedonia for the first ten years of its existence has left a deep impression upon the consciousness of the citizens of our state and represents a guarantee that it will continue with its work for a long time and live together with the growth of Macedonia and the civic sector in Macedonia.




Mirko Spiroski
Chairman of MCIC's Management Board

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MCIC marks its tenth anniversary. This is an opportunity not only to note the results achieved, but also to evaluate the past, reaffirm the values and build a vision for the future.

The results achieved during the past ten years by all means mark success, a success that has been confirmed already with numerous awards. MCIC is an example in Macedonia and Eastern Europe. The story for the establishment and development of MCIC is inspirational and impressive.

In order to describe what lies behind the success of MCIC, it may be best to use words others have used to describe MCIC.

MCIC is a unique platform for dialogue and cooperation of various interest groups in Macedonia, which find their own space in MCIC. This makes MCIC unique even in the context of divisions. Joint work brings progress, exclusion brings tensions. In MCIC there is good will to deal with extremely difficult situations. This goodwill is based on individual human qualities, such as commitment, true idealism, and friendship. MCIC is proof that human goodwill and hard work are worthwhile.

MCIC is a domestic autonomous organisation and its key characteristics are: inclusion and cohesion; leadership with vision; commitment; a learning organisation; cooperation and partnerships; transparency.

MCIC will continue to reward these key characteristics.

Only in this way can MCIC serve those in need in a consistent and successful manner. Only in this way can MCIC develop a vision that overcomes the boundaries of Macedonia.

MCIC will remain faithful and committed to changes in the Macedonian society. Changes that will mean socio-economic development and cultural prosperity, development of pluralistic and participative democracy and social cohesion, integration and harmony. Changes that will enable Macedonia to join the world of inter-dependencies and Euro-Atlantic integrations.

MCIC will continue to encourage changes by raising the capacity of the civic sector and the ability of Macedonian society to develop a vision and manage problems.

The vision of MCIC is based on values. Values that are not new, but are universal. A few years ago we expressed our values through the message 'It is Whole When There is Everything'. Now, we would like to build onto this with the message 'I Live Here'. I live here... with my home. I live here... for generations. I live here... with my family, relatives and friends. I live here... with my dream, I live here... with my future. I live here... with all of you.

With the goodwill and hard work of all of us, we shall succeed, here in Macedonia.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sašo Klekovski', positioned above the printed name.

Sašo Klekovski
Executive Director

GRATITUDE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the wake of its tenth anniversary, the Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation would like to extend its gratitude and acknowledgement to the following:

- ▶ citizens, known and unknown heroes of civic activism, initiative and entrepreneurship in civic organisations and local units;
- ▶ domestic civic organisations that gave us an example and encouraged us, especially SOZM, Mesecina, Polio Plus, Megjaši, SAZM, ESE, Daja, SZPM, DEM and many others;
- ▶ city mayors and municipal structures, especially those of Karbinci, Saraj, Dolneni, Jegunovce and others;
- ▶ The President of the state, the Assembly and members of the Assembly, the Government, politicians and public servants from ministries, especially those from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Economy and from other state institutions;
- ▶ Journalists and media that support not only us, but civic society as well, and also those who criticised us, thus enabling our improvement;
- ▶ Orthodox and Moslem priests, churches and religious organisations and their humanitarian organisations, especially El Hilal, Milosrdie, Gjakonija, Miss Stone Centre, devoted to peace and social and diaconal work in the service of communities;
- ▶ Domestic experts, specialists and auditors for incorporating their knowledge
- ▶ Partners from the Consortium for Macedonia, and the agencies involved in the Consortium, especially DIA, ICCO, DCA, EED, DW, ACT International, CAID, NCA, HEKS, as well as Jacques Willemse, Gert Jan van Appeldoorn, Karel Rigters, Jorgen Thomsen, and other supporters like the Royal Netherlands Embassy and Michael Stibbe from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who gave us support and helped us understand the difference between donor-beneficiary and partnership;
- ▶ Countries, nations and governments, especially the Dutch, German, Danish, Norwegian and other European nations and the European Union, for the demonstrated solidarity with Macedonia;
- ▶ Activists and organisations of our Balkan neighbours, Europe and the world;
- ▶ Consultants, trainers and evaluators of MDF, Intrak, FAKT, Helen Dorbashir, Mokoro and others who helped us to comprehend, and in our own development and learning;
- ▶ Companies and suppliers that followed us through all the challenges;
- ▶ The founders of MCIC, past and present members in the management structures that represent various interest groups, in creating a platform for dialogue and cooperation;
- ▶ Colleagues from MCIC who brought with them their talent, professionalism, commitment, idealism and friendship;
- ▶ Their and our families and relatives who gave us strength and support;

Without them, without goodwill and good relations, the vision and results would not have been possible.



Macedonian Centre for
International Cooperation



**MCIC 1993 - 2003,
CHRONOLOGY AND EVENTS**



2

WCC

DEACONRY AND SOLIDARITY

The central focus of the programme is capacity strengthening of local partners in order to enable them to implement programmes as a response to the needs of the people and for the development of their communities.

Through the work of Action by Churches Together (ACT), an effort is made to provide an integrated response to humanitarian catastrophes and to enable development and a service for displaced persons. This type of integrated response incorporates more and more representation in front of international institutions, as well as support for local partners in their diaconal and development work.

eral dimensions: focus on people (with elements like strengthening and participation); sustainability; economic development; and the needs of the international community. Some of the mid-term and long-term modalities are: economic development (self-employment; revitalisation and improvement of rural life in Macedonia); civic society (strengthening of non-governmental organisations and the lowest echelons of the authorities - local self-government); integration, more precisely internal integration (the best option for all citizens is to live together in one state, the Republic of Macedonia) and European integrations.

In accordance with the long-term programme determinations, MCIC changed its Statute on December 25, 1998. According to this statute, the name of the organisation is Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation (MCIC), and it is a non-profit and civic organisation that works in the field of sustainable development, build consciousness and social-humanitarian (basic) aid.

MCIC FOUNDERS

The Board for Peace and Civic Initiatives was an informal coalition of several non-governmental organisations in Macedonia, established in 1992 as a response to the conflict and war in former Yugoslavia. The Board established a Committee for Cooperation with the Dutch Interchurch Agency, consisting of seven members. Members of this Committee were Nataša Gaber, Nano Ružin, Mirko Spiroski, Ivan Tulevski, Savka Todorovska, Teuta Cuckova - Krašnica and Sašo Klekovski. The Committee is the founder of MCIC.

WCC, DIA AND THE CONSORTIUM

THE WCC AND MACEDONIA

However, this initiative did not come about by accident. The falling apart of the former Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia caused civil wars, and the World Council of Churches (WCC), through its presence in the region, tried to decrease the sufferings. That year, in the system of WCC, the Dutch Interchurch Aid (DIA) was determined as the leading agency for Macedonia. The aims were: longer term presence in the country to assist in preserving peace and for development of civic society, as well as for providing assistance to people in need.

WHAT IS THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCH?

The World Council of Churches (WCC) is the widest most comprehensive body. The WCC was established by the ecumenical movement in Amsterdam on August 23, 1948. WCC represents the most visible expression of various streams in the ecumenical life in the twentieth century. Two of these streams - Life and Work (LaW) and Faith and Order (FaO) - united at the first assembly. The third stream - the missionary movement organised in the International Missionary Council (IMC), joined the WCC at its third general assembly in New Delhi in 1961. The fourth stream - the World Council for Christian Education,

joined the WCC in 1971.

The programmes of the WCC refer to the five 'historical' topics of the Council: faith and order; mission and ecumenical formation; justice, peace and creation; international relations, peace and human security; and diaconry and solidarity.

In 2003, the Honourable Dr. Samuel Kobia from Kenya was elected General Secretary of the World Council of Churches. Before him, this post was held by the Honourable Conrad Reiser.

WCC unites more than 340 churches, denominations and church organisations of more than 120 countries and territories from all over the world, and represents more than 400 million Christians of the largest number of Orthodox churches in the world, numerous denominations that derive from historic traditions of the protestant reformation (such as the Lutherans, Reformists, Anglicans, Methodists and Baptists), as well as many united and independent churches.

DUTCH INTERCHURCH AID

Dutch Interchurch Aid (DIA) was a non-governmental organisation founded by 15 Dutch churches. The organisation was based upon ecumenical principles and it was part of the wide world network of similar organisations. Just as many church organisations in other countries, DIA had strong ties with the World Council of Churches in Geneva. DIA was a specialised agency for aid in food, assistance to refugees and emergency aid. The assistance by DIA was aimed at those people that remained to live in their country. Most of them are victims because they are caught in a situation of structural underdevelopment. DIA worked closely with local organisations. Most of these organisations have been founded by Christian churches, but DIA cooperated with numerous non-church organisations, as well. On September 21, 1993 DIA opened a temporary liaison office in Skopje in order to simplify international communications and the development of MCIC. The aim was to enable the necessary international contacts and internal programmes through them. The office had a justified existence until MCIC became operational. The office was closed in November 1994. DIA stopped supporting MCIC in 1996. In October 2000, DIA was transformed into ACT Holland.

CONSORTIUM FOR MACEDONIA

The Consortium is a group of agencies from Western Europe. Their aim is to support MCIC in the identification, preparation and development of projects and programmes for poverty reduction, promotion of social justice, creation and support of self-employment and development, and contribution to the future development of a pluralist and democratic civil society, as well as to support MCIC and its member agencies in further development of a wide and pluralist NGO community in Macedonia.

In January 1995, MCIC signed an agreement with the agencies of the World Council of Churches, with which the Consortium for Macedonia was founded. The first to presiding over the Consortium was DIA, and the first chairman of the Consortium was Jacques Willemse.



1994

FORMULATING THE GOALS

Annual Report 1994:

"In the course of 1994, MCIC was growing and getting stronger thanks to the huge support by DIA and the knowledge, skills and gratitude extended to MCIC by Gert Jan van Appeldoorn, the representative of DIA in Macedonia. MCIC became stronger through its close work with DIA, through its 'first steps' to independence. When its aim was fulfilled, DIA closed its representation in Macedonia, but left a local organisation, MCIC that can fully take over the responsibility for the goals it set for itself."

The programme for rural development was targeted towards villages affected by the ten-year draught, in the municipalities of Prilep, Veles, Sveti Nikole, Štip, Radoviš and Strumica, and later on towards mountain villages, too, in the western part of the country, in the municipalities of Gostivar, Debar, Kicevo and Makedonski Brod. Many families received initial assistance to recover from the repercussions of the draught; the construction of water supply systems started, as well as three micro-accumulations, new employments have been created at the textile factory in the village of Slavej, in the Prilep municipality.

Through the Employment Promotion Programme a support has been provided

DIFFICULTIES OF THE VILLAGE SLAVEJ EASED

One of the villages affected by the draught was the village Slavej in the Prilep municipality. The village Slavej has 450 inhabitants. A small part of the inhabitants are farmers because the others do not own land. Part of them are employed in the agricultural cooperative or at the textile factory that exist in the village.

"We fetch water from the village fountain. Although its flow is weaker, we somehow manage. Some of the neighbours also have a well in their yard", said granny Marija.

"Mom used to send me several times a day to fetch water from the fountain. When I'm at school, my sister helps her. Over the summer, even though it hardly flows, it is not hard, but in winter, in the cold, it is different", said young Kiril.

▼ Assistance in winter jackets for the young Roma



Besides MCIC's assistance in setting up the water supply system in the village of Slavej, 17 industrial machines were also provided for the textile factory in the village, thus enabling the employment of 14 women. MCIC also granted the factory a loan that was repaid with textile goods, i.e. winter jackets for the Roma. The humanitarian assistance was distributed through Homos, Mesecina and Daja.



with new jobs, first of all for vulnerable groups - persons with special needs, single mothers and others. A total of 130 jobs were opened. Through the Dignity for Disabled and Marginalised Programme, projects targeted for Roma and persons with special needs have been implemented. Several initiatives were enabled in the institutions 'Demir Kapija' (renewal of the dressmaker workshop), 'Ranka Milanovik' (furniture production), 'Sveti Naum Ohridski' (renewal of beds) and 'Banja Bansko Spa' (the use of thermal water as alternative source of energy). Education projects were implemented and aid in clothing for children was provided for the Roma.

▲ The old tap in the village Slavej

This year MCIC started with the programme for strengthening civil society, in which activities were concentrated in several areas: humanitarian work (including humanitarian work of the churches), human rights and inter-ethnic dialogue, ecology, health education and women's rights. Three types of projects were opened: technical assistance for organisations, training and support for NGO programmes.

Activities of several humanitarian and women's associations have received support (SOS Telephone of the Organisation of Women in Skopje, founding of the women's group for emancipation, solidarity and equality - ESE, assistance to Homos, Daja and Mesecina).

MCIC has devoted special attention to strengthening local initiatives, as an integral part of civil society.



▲ Училиштен прибор за децата Роми

VOUCHERS FOR FARMERS

The project rehabilitation of regions affected by draught enabled the farmers from municipalities that have suffered the greatest damage from the draught and who had to regenerate their capital every year. Because of the draught and the low production in 1993, they did not provide sufficient means to take part in the agricultural production. The following were selected from the affected regions: Sveti Nikole, Štip, Prilep, Radoviš, Strumica and Veles, where one-year plants dominate and where watering systems do not exist or do not function. The project assisted 2296 farming households from 104 villages, enabling them to maintain their own production. Selected households were given coupons to be used at the Hemzem stores, where they were able to provide necessary products (seeds, fertilisers, protective materials).



▲ School supplies for Roma children

BETTER LIVING AND WORKING CONDITIONS

The special institution 'Demir Kapija' has around 510 protégés, 130 of them with a light mental disability. This project provided a daytime psycho-physical engagement of the protégés with lighter mental disability, through an occupational therapy, i.e. training for dressmakers. "The protégés gained quite a lot with this and they are now expecting to start the new machines with enthusiasm. Otherwise they did not have any daytime activities. The dressmaking workshops had stopped back in 1991", said the director of the institution, Žilko Angeleski.



1995

•• FOCUS ON REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT

"We have marked 1995 as the start of consolidation and building of a sustainable programme. This can be provided only together with those that support us, those who work with us and those whom we bring hope, friendship and understanding."

In 1995 the focus of MCIC was placed on rehabilitation and development, and in a smaller extent on humanitarian projects as in the past. Actually, this is the period when the development character of MCIC took on its contour.

This year the largest projects were targeted towards village development. The Water Supply Programme was implemented through construction and reconstruction of village water supply systems, and the Village Development Initiatives Programme, which consisted of projects in five municipalities on sanitation, water supply, education, generating income and communications.

Within the framework of the Roma Empowerment Programme, settlements with a total of 75% Roma population were covered. Support was provided to improving the education of Roma, and in Skopje municipality of Šuto Orizari, centre for the training of the Roma was opened

Construction of a sewerage system in the village Mal Papradnik, Debar ▼



Of course, development is not possible without the development of civil society. The Civic Society Programme was again this year a very important component of MCIC. This year, MCIC worked on developing the humanitarian agency of the Macedonian Orthodox Church (MOC). In 1995, the Holy Synod of MOC passed a decision on establishing the church humanitarian organisation 'Milosrdie', and MCIC helped in its operationalisation.

During this period, an important activity for representation was started - with the aim to modernise legal regulations related to the work of non-governmental organisations, a study was prepared on the status of the legal regulations in Macedonia, comparing it to the legislation of other countries. This served as basis in opening a public debate on the Draft Law on Citizen Associations and Foundations.

MCIC established an NGO Support Centre, as well. A four-year plan for civic society development was prepared, which was supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.



MUSHROOM FARM AT 'RANKA MILANOVIK' OPERATES AT FULL SPEED

'Ranka Milanovik' is one of the two social institutions in Macedonia for accommodation, upbringing and education of children and youth with educationally neglected behaviour and children without parental care.

MCIC determined the needs of the institution and supported the initiative of the staff of 'Ranka Milanovik', and thus implemented the project 'Cultivation of Mushrooms'. The essence of this initiative is to generate revenues in order to provide decent living conditions and re-socialisation of the youth, protégés of the institution.

Everyone is involved in working with the mushrooms at the farm. Most of them had no prior experience with mushrooms. In his answer to a question concerning experiences to date, Gjurgjin Vesekovski, teacher at 'Ranka Milanovik' says: "For starters, it's good. We learned many things, at the beginning we knew very little."

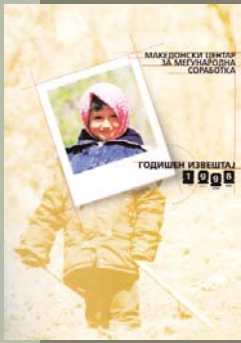
Goce Petrov from Kocani is 13 years old. He is now seven months at 'Ranka Milanovik'. "It's not difficult for me here", he says, "it's interesting to work with mushrooms, I like to do this". Nijazi Fetaj (a 13-year old boy from Skopje) agrees that it is not difficult. They say that he is a real master of mushrooms. Nijazi replies modestly: "I learned a lot from the mushroom farm."

Something that is even more important for an institution of this type is the role of the mushroom farm in the re-socialisation of the youth. And there are results. "Nijazi, for example", says Dimitar Kurdovski, social worker at the institution, "this was a child that could barely wait for a free moment to make some fuss. Within a very short period of time (after the mushroom farm), he developed such love that early in the morning he would cajole the teachers to go to the mushroom farm. It draws his attention, just like with other protégés here; it creates working habits."

Everybody spends their pocket money in their own way, depending on their needs. Some go out in the city, others save. They receive the money once a week, and they plan how it can last until the next payment. Some of them already plan what they will do when they leave the institution.



▲ Protégés working at the mushroom farm at 'Ranka Milanovik'



1996

INTEGRATION AT ETHNIC LEVEL, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

"The challenges we were faced with in 1996 were not the same as those of 1993: there is still no peace in the Balkans, but it has partially stabilised, the embargo and boycott have been lifted; Macedonia has stabilised its foreign policy situation. However, we are faced with the challenges of (non)integration of the various ethnic groups and a deepening of the economic crisis."

► From left: Sašo Klekovski, Bishop Kiril (MOC), Naser Ziberi (former Minister of Labour and Social Policy), Hadž i Sulejman Efendi Rexhepi (President of the ICM), Mirko Spiroski, Zejnula Efendi Fazliu and Archpriest Dragi Kostadinovski (members of the Management Board of MCIC).



■ At the village of Kališta, in the Struga region, MCIC supported and financed the Conference of Religious Communities on the topic 'Religions and search for peace', with the participation by more than 40 representatives of various religious communities from the Balkans, Europe and USA.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

MCIC conducted a study on training needs, which among other things showed that there is a need for organising courses in the field of project management.

The courses on project management were conducted in the period October-December. They covered 24 representatives from 12 NGOs. The participants were split into two groups: the first group consisted of humanitarian organisations, and the second one of women's organisations.

▼ Participants in the project management training



HEALTH EDUCATION

Upon initiative from the Union of the Albanian Woman of Macedonia, MCIC supported the project 'Health Education for the Rural Woman'. It was implemented in 10 villages in the vicinity of Skopje and Tetovo. The education covered lectures and distribution of information materials on health topics.

The lectures were well attended. This was confirmed by Flora Ljatifi, directly involved in this project as lecturer. "Those who were present at the lectures always make an effort to transfer the lecture to those who were not. They usually do this by telephone, or during the meetings that they have during the next few days. It happens that they even read on the telephone the small brochures that we give them during the lectures", says Flora Ljatifi. Most of the women participants are of the opinion that the lectures are good, because this is the only place where they can learn something about this topic.

THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE NGO BULLETIN WAS PUBLISHED

"The Bulletin, with its concept, contents, frequency of publication and number of copies responded to the needs for communication in the field of non-governmental organisation. Under the conditions when the development of a civic society was in its beginnings, providing a medium for presenting the interests of individual civic initiatives had a multifaceted significance" (from the publishing, programming and editorial policy of the NGO Bulletin).

In 2001, the NGO Bulletin grew into 'Civic World'.

During this period, MCIC published the first NGO Directory in Macedonia.



"The water is most important", says Gerasim Kirov, inhabitant of Edrenikovo. "We had even cases here of divorces because of the water. For example, in order to do the wash, my wife quarrels with me and tells me to bring water. If we had it, there would be no quarrels", he adds.

The water supply system that was inaugurated in v. Edrenikovo will improve living conditions and stop the migration process, and conditions will be created for the return of already migrated families.

"Let me start from myself", says Branko Janev from the village. "My two sons moved out. However, when the construction of the water supply system started, one of them started to come to help in the construction. He will return to live in the village; he has decided to live here, because now there are better conditions for this", Branko continued.

Up to the time when the water supply system was constructed in Edrenikovo, during the summer period when the summer fountain dries up, the inhabitants walked to the closest fountain - 5 km from the village.



Construction of the reservoir at v. Edrenikovo. ▶

At the meeting with President Kiro Gligorov, from left: Mirko Spiroski, Karel Rigtters, Jorgen Thomsen, Gert Jan van Appeldoorn. ▼



MCIC DELEGATION AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CONSORTIUM FOR MACEDONIA AT A RECEPTION BY PRESIDENT KIRO GLIGOROV

On 13 November 1996, in Skopje, a delegation of the Consortium for Macedonia, consisting of Karel Rigtters, Gert Jan van Appeldoorn and Jorgen Thomsen, together with representatives of MCIC, Mirko Spiroski, Chairman, and Sašo Klekovski, Programme Director, met with the President of the Republic of Macedonia, Kiro Gligorov.

LETTER FROM JACQUES WILLEMSE, FIRST CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSORTIUM FOR MACEDONIA

"... the decision making was made easier by the fact that MCIC developed into a stable organisation, with clear programmes, a capable management and clear goals. All these characteristics are so absent in East Zaire at present. Macedonia, which was also threatened by internal and external conflict, got rid of this malediction. I would like to propose a toast to the people of Macedonia for this achievement. MCIC contributed to this process and all those who were involved in the work of MCIC should share in the pride for the achievements. This is not a Calvinist approach, I know, but why should we not allow ourselves from time to time a little consolation in the modest contribution towards a better world? If I need to face the utter misery of East Zaire and Burundi, then I have the need to demand at least some sign of hope."

November, 1996

At the meeting, among other things, President Gligorov stated that the development of civic society where citizens would organise themselves in non-governmental organisations for implementation of their interests and for resolving their own needs, is a model that has support in this country. NGOs may help where the Government cannot accomplish or where it does not have enough awareness about the problems.

Talking about the relationship between NGOs and the Government, President Gligorov stressed that the Government and the NGOs are not competitors, but they should complement each other in the implementation of the common needs of the citizens.

DUTCH INTERCHURCH AID IS WITHDRAWING FROM MACEDONIA

After a four-year presence in Macedonia, Dutch Interchurch Aid (DIA) "is closing the books on Macedonia".

In December 1996, before the second regular meeting of the Consortium for Macedonia was held, DIA announced that it "is closing the books on Macedonia".

DIA's withdrawal from Macedonia is caused by the nature of its support, namely humanitarian assistance. DIA is not needed any more in Macedonia, it is needed more in other areas.

DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES ●●●●●

The focus of MCIC activity in this year was towards local communities outside of the capital city. Under conditions of reduced presence of foreign donors, MCIC nevertheless managed to maintain 70% of its project activities. Unemployment and the deterioration of interethnic relations were the biggest threats faced by the Macedonian society during this period, for which MCIC tried through its programmes to establish alternatives and methods of resolving.

The Netherlands Minister for Development Cooperation, Jan Pronk, the Netherlands ambassador to Macedonia, Hendrik Heinen, as well as representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, visited MCIC during their visit to Macedonia. During the visit to v. Rašče, where MCIC supported financially the construction of a water supply system, Minister Pronk met and talked with local leaders. During the meeting, he inquired about the population in the village, the water supply, employment, social existence, education, and the status of the women.

Within the framework of the Civic Society Programme, numerous trainings were conducted for civic organisations. One of these was for institutional development.

Netherlands Minister Jan Pronk talking with local leaders in v. Rašče ▼



The goal of the course on institutional development was to prepare personnel from non-governmental organisations in Macedonia in this field, thus increasing the level of knowledge regarding numerous issues linked with the basics of institutional development of NGOs, strategic planning techniques, strategic analysis, animation and increasing membership. Each of the two courses covered 15 participants from NGOs.

1997



"During the past year, MCIC implemented the planning phase for the 1998-2000 Mid-Term Plan and the first evaluation (internal and external). The process of understanding (evaluation) of the weaknesses and advantages of MCIC takes time (and means), but it is one of the most useful activities conducted in 1997. It helped in understanding some of the problems, the reasons for the weaknesses and how these could be overcome, and at the same time, to preserve the advantages."

"This is not my first course of this kind. I have also attended courses that were conducted by foreign non-governmental organisations. This team is just as good as any of those foreign teams that give seminars on this topic. For me personally, this seminar was maybe just reinforcement of the subject matter, but also becoming aware of many new issues", we were told by Savka Dimitrovska, Chairman of UWOM.

Gert Jan van Appeldoorn in one of his many noble missions ►



GERT JAN VAN APPELDOORN DIED

The man who unselfishly transferred knowledge

In the course of 1994, MCIC made its first steps with the invaluable help from a great man - the Dutchman Gert Jan van Appeldoorn. As representative of Dutch Interchurch Aid (DIA), he unselfishly passed on his knowledge, expertise, skills and contacts to the young team that had established and profiled MCIC.

Van Appeldoorn supported the establishment of the Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation. He gave support in the formulation of MCIC's goals and tasks and principles of operation.

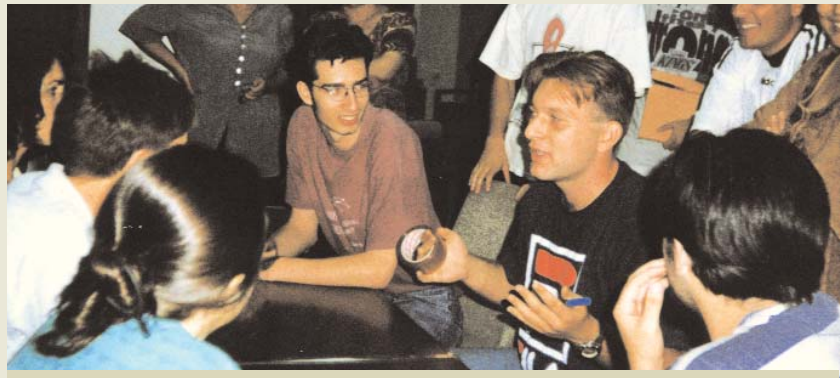
Gert Jan van Appeldoorn was born on 3 April 1942 in the Netherlands. He graduated economy at the Free University of Amsterdam. As a university associate, he worked in Ghana, Nigeria and Mexico. For more than 20 years, Gert Jan van Appeldoorn devoted himself to assistance and development to third world countries and Eastern Europe, from Nicaragua to Macedonia.

He died on 28 August 1997 in Amsterdam.

Gert Jan van Appeldoorn was full of understanding, tolerance, solidarity, loyalty and devotion. With his respect and love, Gert Jan van Appeldoorn left acts of man's humanity and solidarity. We know him as such, and he shall remain in our memories as such.

Without the help from DIA and especially the unselfish efforts by Mr. van Appeldoorn, MCIC would not be what it is today.

One of the exercises of the Youth Summer School for Dialogue, September 1997. ►



YOUTH SUMMER SCHOOL FOR DIALOGUE

WATER FOR V. GORNO ORIZARI

The problems of 2400 inhabitants of v. Gorno Orizari were finally resolved. The women from the 440 households of the village spend one third of their summer day at the village fountain.

"For 100 l of water I wait for 4 hours, and sometimes even more. This is a daily need for my family, the cow ... There is nothing left for the laundry. We wash in the river, and how washed we are you can see yourself. It's the same during the winter, also, when we melt snow for our needs. We all have rheumatism", tells Kima Cucak, a housewife from the village.

The water supply system that provides sufficient quantities of healthy drinking water for Gorno Orizari, with the assistance of MCIC, was inaugurated on 8 September 1997. The sight of queues in front of the village fountain is already just a memory.

The Youth Summer School for Dialogue was directly prompted by the university and secondary school student protests held at the beginning of 1997 in Macedonia. The school covered youth and student organisations, which represent various ethnic and social groups, as well as representatives of the youth branches of political parties who had never before participated together in a gathering on the topics of dialogue and understanding.

"Each one of the lecturers had his own approach towards the participants. At the end of the first day of the school, Kornelija Bulevska, representative of the Centre for Urban and Media Action (CUMA), said: "It is evident that the fear that I would waste three days at a boring seminar was unjustified. There is spontaneity in the approach, a skilful involving of all participants in the work. Following a certain path, we all came to the essence, because we are here."

BUILDING AWARENESS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ●●●●●●●●●●

The period 1998-2000 was very important for MCIC and the whole country and region. During this period, MCIC focused on sustainable development and building awareness, instead of on development and rehabilitation, which were the focus during the preceding period. And of course, a key factor during this period was building peace and understanding.

The year 1998 brought several successes for MCIC: the Democracy and Civil Society Award presented by USA and EU, the start of the 1998-2000 Mid-Term Plan, establishment of the Macedonian Enterprise Development Foundation - MEDF.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MACEDONIAN ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

In 1998, MCIC established the Macedonian Enterprise Development Foundation (MEDF), which meant a large step forward in the efforts to reduce unemployment, development of the country and more influence in the sector of employment and income generation.

The Royal Netherlands Embassy and MEDF signed an Agreement for financial support to MEDF ▼



MEDF was the follow-on activity in the Village Development Initiatives Programme and the Employment Promotion Programme. For the establishment of this Foundation, agreement was reached between MCIC and the Royal Netherlands Embassy in our country.

The Board of Trustees that governs MEDF held its first constitutive session on 28 September, and the Foundation itself was registered on 25 November 1998. For the period 1998-2001, an agreement on the financing of the Programme for Micro and Small Enterprises (PMSE) was signed between MEDF and the Royal Netherlands Embassy in amount of 8.930.390 NLG, or around 4 million Euro.

Supervising the construction of the reservoir at v. Debrište ►

1998



"MCIC established the Macedonian Enterprise Development Foundation (MEDF) as part of the efforts for greater influence in the sector of employment and revenue generation."

V. DEBRIŠTE, ROSOMAN

If you had visited Debrište before mid 1998, you would see a queue of women in front of the village fountain, some of them with various vessels waiting to fill up water from the village fountain, and some of them waiting to do the wash. And if you asked them "How are you?", they would respond unanimously: "How can we be with this misery, to have to do the laundry in the middle of the village, just like a century ago".

Tema Maneva, a 40 year old mother of two children, is married in the village. "I am not from this village", Tema started her story. "My husband was born here. When we got married, we lived some time here and then we moved to Kavadarci. He had decent earnings. I was not employed. We managed to build a house there, from our savings. But things started going downhill. He lost his job. We had to go back to the village. This was the most difficult for the children. Now we are working in agriculture, and we need water for this, as well. Finally we have it", she added.

The village of Debrište, municipality of Rosoman, with its 166 inhabitants, was the only village in the municipality that did



Dear award recipient,

You are one of the fifty persons and organisations, recipients of the USA/EU Democracy and Civil Society Award, marking the 50-th anniversary of the Marshal Plan and the 40-th anniversary of the Roma Agreement. In the name of the United States of America and the European Union, we stress with delight your courage and commitment to the promotion of the basic principles that support democracy and civil society.

Your efforts give a stimulus and inspiration for all of us. It is an honour that the award of USD 20,000 will enable you to continue with your valuable work in achieving our common goals.

We wish you much success in the future.

B. Clinton
J. Santer
T. Blair

MCIC WON THE DEMOCRACY AND CIVIL SOCIETY AWARD OF USA/ EU

On May 18, 1998, MCIC was assigned the Democracy and Civil Society Award of USA/EU.

The Democracy and Civil Society Award of USA/EU was founded one year ago at the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Marshal's plan and the 40th anniversary of the Rome Agreement.

"The Award is a great acknowledgement for the work of the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation, but also a challenge for working in the future. The Democracy and Civil Society Award of USA/EU assigned by USA and European Union is recognition and support for achievement of the ideal. It is a confirmation that the international community will support and help those who are ready to help themselves.

Maybe MCIC and all the non-governmental organisations are powerless in achieving the ideal, but it is our right to dream and to work for common future and for that goal to give all the best from ourselves, together", Saso Klekovski, Programme Director of MCIC, said during the awarding ceremony.

In order to foster future development of the democracy and civil society, MCIC decided to use the award of 20.000 US dollars for establishment of a fund for award for contribution in the development of the civil society at local level.



▲ Mirko Spiroski, Chairman of MCIC, receiving the USA and EU award from the ambassador of Great Britain, Mark Dickinson

▼ Public debate on the law on value added tax (VAT)



PUBLIC DEBATE ON THE LAW ON VALUE ADDED TAX (VAT)

On 26 February 1998, under co-organisation with the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, the Red Cross of Macedonia and MCIC, a one-day public debate was held on the Law on Value Added Tax (VAT).

The goal of the public debate was to create favourable conditions for non-governmental organisations in the area of taxes, by adapting legislative solutions to the needs of the non-governmental sector.

During the debate, the authors of the Law on Citizen Associations and Foundations requested from the competent institutions to devote special attention to the non-governmental sector when they pass the Law on VAT; to place NGOs in a separate tax rate and not to mix them up with trade unions and political parties; and to introduce complementarity between the Law on VAT and the Law on Citizen Associations and Foundations.

SHELTER MACEDONIA

The human catastrophe that the Kosovo crisis brought in 1999 shook up strongly the region, inevitably including Macedonia. Our country was directly involved in the crisis, by accepting more than 350,000 refugees from Kosovo. At that time, there was fear and concern of possible overflow of the war into Macedonia, and anger because of the feeling that again the same tragedies are happening to us, and again we are left on our own.

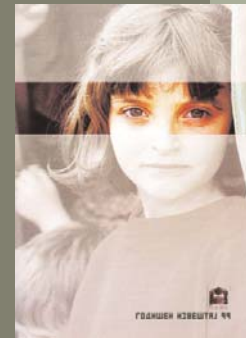
The plan foresaw numerous tasks: establishing readiness for relevant and realistic activities that would be implemented in the case of negative developments; support for basic needs of the refugees accommodated in host families and camps; support to marginalised groups; strengthening human resources capacity for recognising common values and priorities and organising actions in conformity with those values and priorities; contribution towards the promotion of national stability and protection for refugees by reducing interethnic tensions between Macedonian citizens.

Both competent institutions and humanitarian organisations were caught unprepared to organise the accommodation of the large influx of refugees that happened during April and May. The conditions for accommodation of the refugees were below any human standards. Supply with food did not function properly, and the food that did arrive was disorderly and disorganised.

MCIC showed a high level of flexibility and adaptability. By becoming involved in emergency operations for the first time from its existence, a wide spectrum of new activities and methods were applied: managing a refugee camp, emergency water supply and sanitation in refugee camps, large scale distribution of food and non-food articles, supply of food under extreme conditions, representation/lobbying (NGO coordination, centralised and decentralised public campaign, working with creators of public opinion), providing information (daily news, a web-page on the humanitarian response to the crisis, info telephones).



1999



"Human catastrophe, fear, anger, concern, challenge, pride. This is how MCIC experienced what happened in 1999, the year of the Kosovo crisis and the crisis in FR Yugoslavia.

These feelings, both in the country as well as in MCIC, developed into a feeling of challenge. A challenge once more to maintain peace and stability in our country, and thus to contribute towards peace and stability in the Balkans, and once more to give an example of support to the neighbour in trouble. MCIC concluded that it is crucial once again to give its maximal contribution with this challenge and decided to direct all of its resources to emergency operations, under the title 'Shelter Macedonia'.

At the end, we felt proud. Proud, as citizens of Macedonia, a country that more or less but still successfully, overcame the refugee, economic and political crisis, and in this way for the third time proved its resilience and commitment to peace. Just as a reminder - Macedonia acquired its independence in a peaceful manner, and succeeded to maintain it notwithstanding the efforts to suffocate it with embargoes and blockades, and that it is the first former Yugoslav republic where there was a peaceful transfer of power after the parliamentary elections in 1998."

◀ In front of the Blace border crossing, from left to right: Sašo Klekovski, Christian Balslev-Olesen, General Secretary of DCA, and Paul Nielsen, then Minister for Development of Denmark and now EU Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid.

MCIC simply could not remain indifferent and continue with its regular activities. Everything stopped. The human tragedy that struck the Kosovars forced the Centre to stop all regular activities and to devote itself to them completely, starting at the border.



▲ Water supply at the Raduša refugee camp



SAMAKOVA TOOK CARE OF 56 REFUGEES

Ismail Samakova is probably record holder in the number of persons hosted in his home. According to information received from El Hilal, the Kosovo crisis brought 56 relatives to Ismail. Of these, 46 were children at the age of 9 months to 18 years. In his old home and in the still unfinished new house there was no water or sanitation. The only water faucet and the field toilet were in the yard. Nevertheless, Ismail did not complain.

Hereby, MCIC achieved significant additional value, by means of: local procurement, or environment protection (construction of sanitary installations in the villages Bojane and Rašce, for which MCIC was awarded with the ECO White List for 1999 by the Environmental Press Centre), or foreign currency inflow to Macedonia approximately equal to specific significant export-oriented sectors. Additional value for MCIC is the enormous experience attained through the operations during the crisis situation, and the improved capacity and placement in society for activities on cultural understanding and peace building.

MCIC succeeded to promote joint activities with local citizen organisations, which was of double value. The local NGOs were the most important 'channel' for support to the refugees. Thanks to these organisations, such as El Hilal, accommodation was provided for around two thirds of the total number of refugees. Maybe most important was the establishment of an NGO coordination in order to provide assistance for all people, regardless of their ethnic or religious affiliation. As a result of this cooperation, for example, the Roma organisation Mesecina from Gostivar supported ethnic Albanian refugees, and there were also reverse examples.

This significant action by MCIC (15 times increased funding) was made possible through the system of appeals for emergency aid by the Action by Churches Together (ACT) and the quick response by ACT member agencies.



BORDER CROSSINGS AND REFUGEE CAMPS

MCIC reacted quickly to the wave of refugees and was present at the border crossings Blace and Jažince, but also in the villages Malino and Tanuševci, which are located at the boundary zone. Especially important was the reaction at the Blace border crossing, where MCIC distributed sufficient quantities of food for 40,000 refugees during the first week of the crisis. The action for distribution on neutral terrain was organised through El Hilal, but also with enormous support from the local population. MCIC coordinated also the material assistance by partner organisations, which arrived from their countries by air or ground transport.

With approval from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, and with consent from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, MCIC took over the management of the refugee camp at the village of Raduša. Within less than two weeks, the complete primary infrastructure was improved (accommodation in tents, food supply, water supply, sanitation).

MCIC conducted numerous activities for resolving the water supply and sanitation, in cooperation with the team of the Norwegian Church Aid. They started at the Blace and Jažince border crossings, where they constructed around 60 toilets.

In the camps at Raduša and Bojane, complete water supply and sanitation systems were constructed. MCIC constructed the whole sanitation system, organised the removal of solid waste and the construction of the drainage system throughout the camp at Cegrane.

REFUGEES, HOST FAMILIES AND SOCIAL CASES

Despite the 14 camps that were opened, a large number of refugees (around 170,000 persons) were placed with host families. A larger part of the refugees were placed in multi-member families, and together with the assisted persons these often reached incredible numbers of more than 50 members in one family.

MCIC provided aid for around 50,000 beneficiaries per month (for a period of five months), of which 26,000 were refugees and members of host families, including 2,000 babies, and 24,000 were socially endangered persons. Inclusion of this last category was especially important in order to reduce tensions because of the feeling of the socially endangered persons and the public opinion in Macedonia that the whole aid is intended only for the refugees.

The implementation included 21 local civic organisations, which performed the identification and distribution of aid to the final beneficiaries in 17 different regions in the country. The overall procurement was done in Macedonia, and for the most part these were products 'Made in Macedonia', which provided significant support to the local economy.

MCIC came out of the crisis strengthened, with increased self-confidence, legitimacy and recognition by the public and the target groups. The staff attained enormous experience and stronger self-confidence. The other side of the coin was the enormous inflow of new personnel, increased diversification in activities, as well as delays in adapting the organisational structure.

WHOLE IS WHEN THERE IS EVERYTHING!

"Whole is when there is everything!" - was the slogan that became a kind of motto of the programme for strengthening public awareness about MCIC.

"Whole is when there is everything!" - was the association by one child about what 'whole' means. Maybe because this child's wisdom was so naive and clearly associated with 'whole', it was selected as the title for the campaign, whose goal was to promote general human values, tolerance, understanding, peace and stability in the country.

The effect upon the awareness of the overall population in Macedonia was necessary in order to provide tolerance in a situation of increased tensions because of the large number of refugees from Kosovo.



▲ Motive from "Whole is when there is everything!"

on one of the billboards in Skopje

Organisations involved in the distribution of humanitarian aid

- ▶ Roma Humanitarian and Volunteer Society 'Mesecina' - Gostivar, with organisations in Debar and Kicevo
- ▶ Humanitarian Organisation (of the Islamic Community in RM) - El Hilal - Skopje, with organisations in Kumanovo, Tetovo and Gostivar
- ▶ Humanitarian (Roma) Organisation 'Peace' - Skopje
- ▶ Humanitarian (Roma) Organisation 'Homos' - Skopje
- ▶ Roma Community Centre 'Drom' - Kumanovo
- ▶ Association of Macedonians with Islamic Religion - Skopje
- ▶ Humanitarian Voluntary Society 'Mother Theresa' - Struga
- ▶ Union of the Albanian Woman in Macedonia - Tetovo, with the branch in Gostivar
- ▶ Women's Organisation - Probištip
- ▶ Single Parents Society 'Hope' - Kocani
- ▶ Single Mothers Society - Štip
- ▶ Union of Serbian Women in RM - Skopje
- ▶ Humanitarian Organisation (of the Bitola eparchy of the MOC) 'Resurrection' - Bitola
- ▶ Evangelist-Methodist Church - Strumica
- ▶ Humanitarian Society of Roma in RM 'Sun' - Tetovo

The humanitarian tragedy that happened during this period (thousands of suffering persons, 800,000 refugees, 100,000 destroyed homes) was the reason for MCIC to become involved in the humanitarian response by the international community, together with five other organisations from Action by Churches Together (ACT).

The aid in food arrived for the Gorani and Albanians in Dragaš before the winter ▼



THE FIRST PRESENCE OF MCIC IN KOSOVO

In June 1999, MCIC decided to work on, and not only talk about, good neighbourly relations and regional cooperation, making the first step outside of Macedonia, with the Restoring Livelihood in Kosovo Programme. The goal was to encourage peaceful and just solutions to the existing differences and to promote good neighbourly relations, cooperation and peaceful coexistence among all the people that live in Kosovo and the region. The Programme supported communities in the restoring of livelihood after the conflict, by reconstruction of housing and other infrastructure, providing food, support to agriculture, creating conditions for revenue generation and support to local civil organisations. For this purpose, MCIC open local offices in Djakovica and Dragaš, with a staff of 20 persons.

The Programme was implemented in the south-western part of Kosovo, i.e. in 43 villages in the municipalities of Djakovica, Orahovac, Prizren, Dragaš. Some operations, such as development of civic society and support to the media, were conducted on the whole territory of Kosovo. The support covered around 48,700 beneficiaries. According to ethnic belonging, 65 percent of these were Albanians, while around 35 percent of the total number of beneficiaries were members of minorities, mainly Gorani in the municipality of Dragaš.

PROVIDING SHELTER

One of the biggest activities by MCIC in Kosovo was providing housing for refugees that returned to their homes. This consisted of three types of assistance: temporary shelters, reconstruction of houses and providing prefabricated houses.

During the initial period after the return of the refugees, MCIC provided assistance for 171 families in the form of tents, beds, mattresses, sheets and blankets. This assistance was provided by Action by Churches Together (ACT).

Most intensive were activities on the reconstruction of houses. MCIC supported 160 families that lived in 151 houses, in 11 villages and the city area of Djakovica, as well as all 27 damaged houses in the municipality of Dragaš. The selection was made in cooperation with village boards, and in the cases of the municipalities of Dragaš and Djakovica, in consultation with the municipal authorities. For the accommodation of families whose houses were classified in category 5 (houses that cannot be reconstructed), together with other partners of ACT in Kosovo, MCIC provided 136 prefabricated houses that were delivered and assembled before the start of the winter.

FOOD AID

Food distribution covered all 43 villages with which MCIC worked, as well as the city areas of Djakovica and Orahovac. During the period August-September, monthly distributions were made with packages of food and hygiene products, from ACT provisions brought over from Albania. In November and December, in the villages of the Djakovica region, distribution was organised from Macedonia, while for all the villages from the Dragaš region 'winter' packages were prepared and a one-time distribution of the aid was conducted.

Support to agriculture was provided through distribution of egg-laying chickens, fodder, manual agricultural tools and repairs for tractors.

INCOME GENERATION

This activity supported the IMN factory for production of bricks in Djakovica, which employed 220 persons. The production at this factory was revived in the course of November, and the assistance provided by MCIC was paid out in products that were used in the construction of houses.

The presence of MCIC in Kosovo was a challenge by itself. One of the evaluators of ACT programmes in Kosovo stated: the evaluation team was impressed that the Moslem Slovenes (Gorani) in the distant region of Dragaš were supported by MCIC (with primarily orthodox ethnic Macedonians of the Skopje staff), with local staff consisting of ethnic Albanians. With its engagement, MCIC set an example of good neighbourly regional cooperation.

Дистрибуција на храна во Рестелица, Драгаш ▼



ACT Kosovo consisted of:

- ▶ Danish Church Aid (DCA)
- ▶ Christian Aid (CAID)
- ▶ Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
- ▶ United Methodist Committee for Assistance (UMCOR)
- ▶ Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
- ▶ Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation (MCIC)

CONSTRUCTION OF A COMPLETELY DESTROYED VILLAGE

Šefket Brahimaj is an agronomist, director of the agricultural cooperative of his village. If someone does not tell you that he is 50, you would be fascinated by the mobility of the "at least 70 years old" Šefket. From him we find out that his village was a conflict area for almost seven years.

Škiponja (Eagle) - as it is called now, or Jablanica - as they called it before the crisis, is a village in the Djakovica region with 131 houses and around 1000 inhabitants. In March 1997 it came under heavy grenade fire. The villagers remained until the end of the war, even though each and every house was destroyed during this attack - 119 were considered constructions of third and fourth category, which means that only walls had remained, and for some of them, parts of the roof.

Engineer Piro was immediately lost behind the walls of one of the two destroyed houses in the yard. You could hear hammering from that direction. However, several boys had started prematurely with the assembly of the prefabricated house intended for the family of Šefket's brother.

Since the school was destroyed, as well, and the children had classes in a tent, five of the prefabricated houses are now being used as a school, until the old schoolhouse is rebuilt.

We left Škiponja, or Jablanica, behind us, moving along another road, now through the mountains, a road full of various shells, mementos of a time of destruction, a time of madness.

LAW ON CITIZEN ASSOCIATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS

In July 1998, the Macedonian Parliament adopted the Law on Citizen Associations and Foundations. MCIC played an active role in its enactment. A manual was prepared with comments on the Law on Citizen Associations and Foundations. Within this project, a seminar was held on 18 to 20 November 1999, at Mavrovo, titled 'Application of the Law on Citizen Associations and Foundations', with participation by judges from the primary courts, the Supreme Court, and representatives of the Judges Association.

Excavation for a water supply pipeline at v. Dolgaec ▼



MCIC CONTINUED WITH ITS REGULAR ACTIVITIES, BUT WITH REDUCED INTENSITY

Nevertheless, energy was found to implement the regular activities, and even to start three new programmes: Linking Enterprises Skopje-Thessaloniki; Micro and Small Enterprises; and Strengthening Women's Organisations in Health Education.

Water supply projects were implemented in 9 villages in central and eastern Macedonia, used by more than 5,300 inhabitants; support was provided for 4 projects from the Health and Education Programme; within the Civic Society and Democracy Programme projects were supported for strengthening citizen associations, for human rights, for strengthening the capacity of women's associations on health education.

NGO STRENGTHENING PROGRAMME

The non-governmental sector in Macedonia was faced with a lack of a strategy and organisational capacity, but also with an undeveloped environment for action. The lack of financial coverage is an additional problem. This situation motivated MCIC to start the NGO Strengthening Programme.

PROGRAMME FOR STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S ORGANISATIONS IN HEALTH EDUCATION

This Programme is a joint project by MCIC and Christian Aid from London, and it is financed by the Phare LIEN Programme. Within this Programme, eight resource centres were established, which enabled the creation of a database in the area of gender relations and health education, including the situation of women in all areas of social life.

During this period, MEDF implemented its first activities, preparing possibilities for support to small businesses and self-employment. The first loan was awarded.

FROM MISTRUST TO CLEAR DRINKING WATER

Working on the water supply project for v. Margari, we had meetings with the inhabitants of the neighbouring village Dolgaec, approximately 1 km away. The idea was to build a single water supply system for both villages, for practical reasons. The local population, which for the most part was older than 50, looked upon our proposal with mistrust.

However, the system at Margari started to function and Dolgaec gradually started to hesitate about the offer. Now, jokingly or seriously, the people of Dolgaec stated that if MCIC really helped them to this extent, they would themselves excavate a 2.5 km long canal with their bare hands.

Thus, with MCIC's commitment to start the water supply project for the village, the mistrusting people from Dolgaec excavated a 2.5 km long canal with their bare hands, in record time, and they carried all the necessary materials for construction of facilities along the pipeline, where machines would be of absolutely no use because of inaccessibility. The will of these people helped them substitute the village wells with a modern water supply system.

Dolgaec is part of the municipality of Dolneni, at 36 km from Prilep. The permanent 40 families with 97 inhabitants are periodically strengthened with another 26 families and 76 inhabitants. Dolgaec seemed to be dying out. Maybe not any more.



▲ The club for disabled persons in Debar - a meeting place for persons with special needs



▲ Promotion of activities of the Linking Enterprises Skopje-Thessaloniki Programme

CLUB FOR DISABLED PERSONS

The Roma Humanitarian and Volunteer Society "Mesecina", branch office of Debar, established the Club for Handicapped and Disabled Persons, with financial support from MCIC, as well as with support from Handicap International, Oxfam and UNHCR.

"We have been working on this project for a longer period of time", said Vjoca Duka, one of the 16 activists directly involved in the implementation of the project. Vjoca is an English language teacher and he sees his involvement in the project for disabled persons as something quite normal. "They told me there was a possibility to help these people and I accepted to become involved in the project. Indeed, this has taken all my free time, but I have no regrets", added Vjoca.

Completing the activities for the opening of the Club for Disabled Persons does not mean also completion of the project. This is only the start. Now started the implementation of the goal because of which the renovation was initiated of the building where around 300 handicapped and disabled persons can meet.

The Club has a meeting room and a room for a kind of advisory for disabled persons.

BRIDGING ENTERPRISES SKOPJE - THESSALONIKI

The goal of the Bridging Enterprises Skopje - Thessaloniki Programme was to promote tri-lateral cooperation between small and medium enterprise (SME) from Greece, Germany and Macedonia by linking enterprises from these countries, and to improve sustainable development of SME sector in Macedonia. The funding was provided by the EU/Phare Partnership Programme.

The Programme involved those who had need for practical business and management advice, as well as contacts with Greek and German enterprises that want to expand their business activities in Macedonia.

A Business Support Centre (BSC) was opened, specializing in business and activity relations between Greece, Germany and Macedonia.

The Programme finished in October 2000, when the Greek - German Chamber of Trade and Industry from Thessaloniki and the Association of German Chambers of Economy from Berlin established the Representative Office of the German Economy.

WHOLE IS WHEN THERE IS EVERY-

'PERSPEKTIVI'

The bi-monthly information bulletin 'Perspektivi' started to be published in September 2000, to improve the flow of information on what is happening in the non-governmental sector on issues related to gender relations. The bulletin is published by eight women's NGOs participating in the programme, and MCIC. The bulletin has a rotating editorial office, and each one of the organisations participating in the programme is responsible for preparing one issue. The distribution covers 465 relevant non-governmental organisations, government institutions and individuals who deal with these issues.



THING!

This project continued from the year before. The project was focused primarily on the youth in the Republic of Macedonia, and especially towards students in multi-ethnic secondary schools and areas populated by various ethnic groups. The audio-visual campaign, which included TV and radio spots, billboards and a 20-minute documentary film, reached the wider public on the whole territory of Macedonia.

'Whole is When There is Everything!' covered around 20,000 secondary school students, 92 professors, 186 representatives of the local self-government, NGOs, the media and the overall public.

Actress Sofija Kunovska has contemplated on this topic as well. The unravelling of the universe happens regardless of our frustrations, ... "this is why we should think well whether we should spend our temporary stay on the earth on various conflicts and divisions, or that we should try to provide ourselves some kind of harmony", she says.

ACTIVITIES IN KOSOVO CONTINUED

The Restoring Livelihood in Kosovo Programme continued this year. It was aimed at returning refugees and internally displaced persons, minority groups and especially vulnerable groups.

The activities continued in the same regions as in 1999 (43 villages in south-western Kosovo), with the same dynamics, because this was still the phase of emergency post-crisis aid. The activities were additionally diversified with: water supply for villages, distribution of agricultural materials for the spring and autumn planting, and calf-bearing cows were provided for 165 families and for the Association of Dairy Producers.

All these activities contributed towards revitalisation of the villages after the conflict and the renewal of production capacities, mainly in the field of agriculture, since this is a rural area. As in its other programmes, MCIC was guided by the need of the people and tried to design the aid in conformity with these needs. One of the methods deemed to be most successful was the use of vouchers for agricultural materials, with which farm families could choose products they need the most from the local agricultural shops.



▼ Training participants in group work



STRENGTHENING NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

This year, the Programme covered a total of 327 participants from 78 NGOs for training, 60 NGOs for financial support, as well as numerous other organisations and institutions, including the general public, who appeared as beneficiaries of services in the field of providing information, representation and lobbying.

◀ Among other activities for Restoring Livelihood in Kosovo was the distribution of cattle to affected families

2001



MACEDONIA WAS FACED WITH ARMED CONFLICT

In contrary to expectations, for the first time in its existence, Macedonia was faced with a crisis with armed conflict on its own territory. The armed conflict brought about a deterioration of the overall situation in Macedonia. MCIC operated in a completely changed environment with increased ethnic mistrust, armed conflict and limited security, as well as worsened socio-economic relations. During the second half of the year, the peace process started in the country. This enabled the start of the process of return of displaced persons.

"MCIC responded adequately to the crisis and made great efforts in activities for preventing a further negative development of the crisis, and for promoting, i.e. maintaining, the open dialogue. The humanitarian aid was also in support of peace: a quick response for reducing tensions, work by organisations with various origin, etc. One of the main characteristics was a timely response to needs. MCIC was the first to organise humanitarian aid and the first to start with activities for post-crisis rehabilitation (housing reconstruction)."

MCIC BECAME INVOLVED AGAIN IN PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN AID

Two years after the significant change in its operation caused by the humanitarian operations in 1999, MCIC was again faced with a similar challenge, but now on the territory of Macedonia.

MCIC responded adequately to the crisis and made great efforts in activities for preventing further negative developments of the crisis, and for promoting, i.e. maintaining, the open dialogue. The humanitarian aid was also in support of peace: a quick response for reducing tensions, work by organisations with various origin, etc.

One of the main characteristics was a timely response to needs. MCIC was the first to organise humanitarian aid (including the conflict areas) and the first to start with activities for post-crisis rehabilitation (housing reconstruction).

In the evaluation of the crisis programmes, these activities were called 'ice-

Table 1. Review of crisis events and MCIC activities

Date	Main Events	Datum	Key Activities by MCIC
18 Feb	Agreement on the border between Macedonia and FR Yugoslavia; First attack by extremists;	Feb	Intensified internal (employees - Board) communications and cooperation;
14 Mar	First armed conflict in Tetovo;	16 Mar 29 Mar	Joint appeal for peace by 6 civic organisations; Preparations for an emergency plan of operations;
9 Apr 28 Apr	Agreement for association with the EU; v. Vejce, 8 soldiers killed in ambush;	Apr	Distribution of emergency aid to IDPs; Continuation of the peace initiative
5 May 13 May	A new front opened in the Kumanovo region; A wide coalition government was formed	9 May 11 May	Developed scenarios and plans; First attempt for distribution of aid in Lipkovo
7 Jun 2-17 Jun 24 Jun 25 Jun	Extremists entered Aracinovo; Kumanovo without water (100,300 persons); 130,000 displaced persons (IDPs); Isolation of the extremists by USA and EU;	15 Jun 25 Jun	The plan for emergency operations sent to ACT; Joint message by religious communities; First distribution to collective centres;
1 Jul 11 Jul 27-29 Jul	New tax introduced; National humanitarian coordination established; Displacement of ethnic Macedonians from the villages around Tetovo	12 Jul 18 Jul 28 Jul	Convoy with aid for Lipkovo; Coordination of civic organisations started; First visit to Aracinovo;
10 Aug 13 Aug 14 Aug 27 Aug	18 killed soldiers, clashes at Raduša; Framework Agreement signed; Evaluation of damages in Aracinovo started; Operation 'Essential Harvest' started;	1 Aug 4 Aug 7 Aug 22 Aug 27 Aug	Blocked humanitarian convoy for Vratnica; Humanitarian convoy to Lipkovo; First delivery of aid to Šipkovic and Vratnica; Pamphlet on IDP rights published; Water supply to the Medical Centre in Kumanovo; Water reservoirs in Aracinovo
Sep	* Continued activities within the IDP programme	Sep - Dec	Training for managing of emergency (humanitarian) activities; New web page established; Continuation of humanitarian convoys; Continuation of humanitarian coordination

In areas difficult to access during the conflict, aid was distributed to the Vratnica municipality ▶

breaking', with which MCIC succeeded to penetrate where other actors in the crisis could not, and to establish examples that this is possible.

A second slogan that reflects MCIC's engagement is 'gap-filling', associating with the flexibility in its operations and the possibility to access persons that need assistance, and who are not involved in the complex aid systems (such as UNHCR and ICRC).

With the Macedonian Crisis Programme (MKC), MCIC provided emergency aid with food and hygiene products to displaced persons in Tetovo, Gostivar, Skopje and Kumanovo (in these areas and in the collective centres where they were accommodated), as well as for people in the crisis areas (Vratnica, Lipkovo region).

Construction was supported for a well and pump station that enabled its own water supply for the Medical Centre in Kumanovo (a city that for 20 or so days had no access to drinking water). MCIC set up seven rubber reservoirs for regular water supply to Aracinovo and Orlanci during the first months after the conflict.

Support was provided to the national humanitarian coordination and the local NGO coordination. Organised by MCIC, training was conducted for managing emergency operations.

MCIC supported three local NGOs for establishing an appropriate crisis organisation, namely: Natira, Gjakonija and Mesecina, which were directly involved in humanitarian aid to displaced persons.

Within the framework of the Return of Displaced Persons Programme, MCIC made repairs to public infrastructure, repairs to houses, distribution of non-food products, confidence building.

Repairs were made to the schools in Brnjarci (Skopje region), Matejce (Lipkovo region) and Raduša, as well as to the day clinic in village Otlja (Lipkovo region). Construction material was distributed for repairs to 647 houses of first and second category in the regions of Tetovo, Skopje, Kumanovo and Bitola. This activity enabled around 3,500 persons to completely repair their housing and to spend the winter in them.

In Aracinovo, sets for returnees were distributed, and fodder was distributed to around 8,300 families (mainly in the Tetovo and partially in the Kumanovo regions, with a total of 34 villages).

Together with four local NGOs, a permanent presence was provided in the collective centres, in order to assist internally displaced persons (IDPs). During this period of three months, 197 meetings were held with IDPs.

"Events are happening these days for which we cannot have our own standpoint, because these are issues that enter into the essence of democracy and our activity as civic organisations..."

Such a Macedonia cannot be built with social injustice, nor with a violent resolving of differences, regardless whether this is militant extremism or cases of disproportional use of state forces.

Such a Macedonia cannot be built with avoiding or covering up the real problems.

This is why we distance ourselves and condemn the violent resolution of conflicts..."



HUMANITARIAN AID FROM ALL TO ALL

On 22 August four domestic NGOs: 'Milosrdie' (humanitarian organisation of the Macedonian Orthodox Church), El Hilal (humanitarian organisation of the Islamic Religious Community), 'Klasje Na Dobrinata' (Spikes of Goodwill) and MCIC, organised a convoy with humanitarian aid for the municipalities of Vratnica (for four villages with ethnic Macedonians and two with ethnic Albanians) and Šipkoviča (populated with ethnic Albanians).

MCIC initiated activities for a joint statement for non-violent resolution of the conflicts, together with five other NGOs with various ethnic backgrounds (El Hilal, Helsinki Human Rights Committee, Roma Humanitarian and Voluntary Association 'Mesecina', Centre for Multicultural Understanding and Cooperation, and the Nansen Dialogue Centre).



▶ Press conference presenting the joint statement for non-violent resolution of the conflict

◀ Part of the joint statement

TRAVELLING TO VRATNICA

Blockade of humanitarian aid for Vratnica at v. Dž epcište, 7 August 2001



The group of vehicles to Vratnica was led by the EUMM team. We had six journalists along. In contrast to the first time, we reached the village of Lešok without stopping. The inhabitants of Lešok lit candles on the remains of the church

and in a sad procession, they went to their homes. We left fresh food for the few remaining inhabitants of Lešok. After a short stay in Tearce, we went towards Vratnica. In the middle of Vratnica, I saw the same persons of two weeks ago, when we brought humanitarian aid for the first time. "It is nice of you to bring all this and we are very grateful to you", said one of the women from the village, "but we do not want to live off of aid. We do not need aid, just free movement to Tetovo, so that we can go to work and live on our salaries". Another woman said what they missed during the past days: "we do not have fresh food - vegetables, hygienic products, medicaments, and we have no fodder for the livestock". I heard one of the other women saying: "there should be aid for all. The Albanians in Jaž ince are in the same situation as we are. They need to be helped as well."

From left to right: Bishop Kiro Stojanov, Catholic Church in Macedonia, Clate Clemmens, European Church Conference, Metropolitan of Debar and Kicevo Timotej, Macedonian Orthodox Church, Archbishop of Tirana Anastasios, Jakup Selimovski, Islamic Community in Macedonia, reverend Conrad Reiser, then General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, Viktor Mizrahi, President of the Jewish Community in Macedonia, and Mihail Cekov, Evangelic-Methodist Church in Macedonia. ▼



We, representatives of the Macedonian Orthodox Church, the Islamic Religious Community in Macedonia, the Catholic Church in Macedonia, the Evangelist-Methodist Church in Macedonia, and the Jewish Community in the Republic of Macedonia, together with the World Council of Churches and the European Church Conference, with the support from the Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation, met at Morges, Switzerland, on 11-13 June 2001, to express our commitment and to pray to God for peace in our joint country Macedonia, and we send the following

JOINT MESSAGE

Violence and conflicts are not based on religion or religious differences, and we refuse to accept them as an act of religious intolerance, because true religion cannot support violence.

We condemn forced displacement, as well as abuse of water and the basic needs of the population, and we call upon our communities to respect human rights, including the right to water and aid, as a basis for sustainable peace.

Peace is too important to be left only to the politicians. Peace is also the responsibility of churches and religious communities.

We reached Jaž ince with the aid. In contrast to the first time when I was met with mistrust and when it was necessary to talk patiently with the village leaders, so that they would accept the aid, now, Zulfi Azizi (president of the village board) met me with a smile and a wide hug. The people were satisfied.

Four domestic NGOs, with joint forces and cooperation provided significant aid for the inhabitants of the Tetovo crisis region, regardless of their ethnic or religious affiliation.

ENABLING COMMUNITIES AND INSTITUTIONS

With the Enabling Communities and Institutions Programme (ECI), MCIC contributed to the sustainable development of communities, especially in the marginalised rural and suburban settlements, by enabling them for organising and managing development initiatives. In parallel with the implementation of financial support in 6 communities (3,315 beneficiaries), MCIC implemented current training and providing advice for groups from the communities responsible for implementation of projects. MCIC supported three communities in preparing project designs for the construction of water supply systems that would improve the water supply to the population.

APPLIED EDUCATION FOR YOUNG ROMA (AER)

At the beginning of 2000, MCIC organised visits to Roma communities and organisations for a group of young Danes from the secondary school organisation Operation Dagsvaerk, who spent two weeks in Macedonia as part of the preparations for this year's 'Dagsvaerk' (Daily Work) - educational and fund raising campaign by means of a one day voluntary engagement implemented by secondary school students in Denmark.

During its 15-year existence and in its 12th campaign, Dagsvaerk mobilises every year secondary school students throughout Denmark for support to educational projects in various countries. The campaign in 2000 will focus on problems faced by young Roma in Macedonia, e.g. on difficulties faced by ethnic minorities in general, including those in Denmark.

This was designed as a simple fundraising event, when thousands of young people took a day off from school and then gave their daily allowance for educational projects in developing countries. On this day devoted to the Roma in Macedonia, 1,200,000 German marks were collected, thus enabling the implementation of the Applied Education for Young Roma Programme.

MCIC received the necessary approval from the Ministry of Education and Science. Three information meetings were held, presenting the programme, conditions and criteria for participation. MCIC received 60 applications from all cities in the country that have a significant Roma population. Of these, 15 organisations from 11 cities were selected.



▲ Работилница во Кочани - важноста на образованието за младите Роми

STRENGTHENING NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (PNJ)

The goal of this Programme was to improve the institutional and organisational capacity of non-governmental organisations in Macedonia. The programme covered a total of: 145 participants from 102 civic associations for training, 60 NGOs that received financial assistance, as well as numerous other organisations and institutions, including the general public, as beneficiaries of the services of providing information, representation and lobbying.



THE VILLAGE WILL LIVE AGAIN

"This winter I had to melt snow in order to do the laundry for myself and my husband and I am not young any more. But it is not only us; God has provided some chickens, a goat, and they have souls and I need to give them water to drink", we were met by Grandma Cveta in the yard of her house in the village of Gorni Balvan. She filled the coffee pot with water from the new faucet. "We have three children and seven grandchildren. From time to time, they come to visit, when they can. Some of them live far away", she added.

Grandpa Kiro, Cveta's husband, remembers that the village was not always as it is now, with old crumbled and abandoned houses. "Around 50 years ago, the village had 150 houses, and now there are 38 with around 80 inhabitants. It was a lively village. The young went to work in the city, but the factories are closing down and they are gradually returning to their birthplace. Here they will work on breeding livestock, and they can barely earn a living. Now we have an asphalt road to the village, and most important, we don't have to worry any more about the water supply. The village will live again", said Grandpa Kiro.

Gorni Balvan finally has healthy drinking water, with assistance from MCIC.

We started to leave. Grandma Cveta, standing on the steps next to the new faucet, remained with unfinished work - her laundry. "I will finish later, but it is good that now I do not have to go to the middle of the village with buckets to bring water from the village fountain", she added.

CIVIC WORLD - MAGAZINE FOR CIVIC SOCIETY IN MACEDONIA

Since January 2001, MCIC started to publish the magazine Civic World, targeting all citizens of the Republic of Macedonia and all interested stakeholders outside of Macedonia. Civic World is printed in Macedonian language, and in electronic form - both in Macedonian and in English language, available at the web pages www.gragan-skisvet.org.mk and www.civicworld.org.mk. Civic World is published once a month, and provides information on activities by all citizen associations and civic initiatives which the editorial office managed to identify or which sent information to the editorial office themselves.



FIRST NGO FAIR IN MACEDONIA

The first NGO Fair was held on 23 to 25 October 2001, at Alexander Palace Hotel in Skopje. Using an area of approximately 1,500 m², 144 organisations presented their activities. Outside of the exhibition part, in educational sessions, round tables and workshops, one could hear the ideas and contemplations about the future development of the sector of civic organisation.

"The NGO Fair was organised at a very high level, both in quantity and in quality. Anyone who tries to deny the importance of the Fair, is making a very big

Exhibition area of the NGO Fair ▼



mistake", stated Goce Todorovski, from the Centre for Civic Initiative from Prilep. "Not because we are part of this event, and not because we belong to the NGO sector, but because of the quality of the event itself. Indeed, a lot of work is still needed, but events like this are an opportunity to promote the sector, an opportunity for contacts and an opportunity for development of the civic society", he added.

The Fair was organised by MCIC, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC).

CIVIC SOCIETY AND DEMOCRACY AWARD (CSD) AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AWARD 'GERT JAN VAN APLEDOORN' (GJA)

The civil society and democracy award for long-term contribution, achievements in the past year and transparency - cooperation is awarded for activities linked with the following topics: civic society, democracy and good governance, promotion and protection of human rights, conflict resolution and tolerance, transparency and providing information or cooperation. In June 2001, the civic society and democracy award was presented for the first time. Recipient is the First Children's Embassy 'Megjaši', for long-term achievements in civic society in Macedonia, on the assertion of children's rights. The awards for achievements in the previous year and for transparency/cooperation were not awarded. The award for sustainable development, on the other hand, is awarded for activities linked with the topics: promotion and support to the right to sustainable development, local and national initiatives for sustainable development, sustainability. This year, the award was presented for the first time to Josif Tanevski for long-term achievements, and to Christina Dickinson for achievements during the previous year.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

With the Post-Crisis Rehabilitation of Kosovo Programme (PCK), which provided assistance primarily in agriculture, MCIC completed its role of direct implementer of activities in Kosovo.

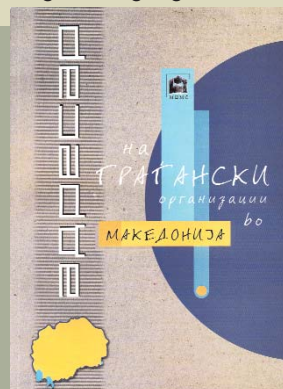
After a two-year presence with emergency operations, MCIC decided to continue development support based on one of the basic principles of development - to support and enable local resources to completely take over the responsibility for their own development. In conformity with this, at the end of June 2001, the office in Djakovica was closed, and together with three local partner civic organisations, MCIC formulated a development programme called Kosovo Transition (KST).

The goal of the KST Programme was strengthening of local NGOs for: further development of civic society, support to the agricultural sector (farmers and entrepreneurs); and focusing on gender issues and retaining attention for minorities (especially the Gorani in the Dragaš municipality). Three local partners are: Kosovo Development Centre (KDC), We Are With You (WWY) and Kosovo Women's Initiative (KWI).

The first recipients of the CSD and GJA awards ▼



The sixth issue of the Directory of Civic Organisations in Macedonia contained data on 1,589 civic organisations. A printed version was published in Macedonian language, and an electronic version in English language.





2002

YEAR OF DETERIORATED ECONOMIC SITUATION

In 2002, MCIC was in the middle of its third mid-term period (2001-2003). The mid-term plans were disrupted by the crisis with armed conflict in Macedonia in the course of 2001. Under these difficult conditions, MCIC stabilised itself in the course of 2002 and returned to the implementation of its long-term development programmes, by gradually reducing activities on emergency aid and support to regions affected by the crisis.

"In 2002, MCIC operated under conditions of implementation of the Framework Agreement, a continued trend of deterioration of the economic situation in Macedonia, and an intensive government campaign against NGOs. The support to the Framework Agreement is still strong, notwithstanding the high level of ethnic mistrust. For the first time, NGOs and the Government clashed seriously over the corruption issue. After the September elections, the new government declared its desire for partnership with NGOs."

VISITING POSITIVE EXAMPLES

"The choice of Karbinici as a positive example was an excellent opportunity to assert our municipality. We met and gained new friends who encounter similar problems in their work. We hope that as good hosts we managed to transfer our experience, our commitments for involving all local potentials, both human and economic, for resolving problems and providing the grounds for further development", said Boris Gavrilov, mayor of the Karbinici municipality.

Bekir Muamedi, director of JKP Saraj, expressed his satisfaction from the visit to Karbinici: "We met with people from another environment, we learned about other issues and problems and the way they are solved. I attained new knowledge and experience on how to set up and resolve problems".

A visit to positive examples - the foundry in v. Karbinici ▼



APPLIED EDUCATION FOR YOUNG ROMA (AER)

The programme was implemented in 15 communities, in cooperation with 15 local associations. The programme included young Roma at the age of 11 to 25 years.

In these communities, a total of 18,984 students attended classes in the school year 2001/02, of which 3,373 are Roma (or 18% of the total number of student in the 15 schools).

Azra Rustemova, 6th grade student from Bitola ▼



SUMMER CAMP IN OHRID FOR 75 STUDENTS

"I did not want to return from the camp at all", said Azra Rustemova, participant in the camp. Azra is a 6th grade student at the Primary School Gjorgji Sugarev from Bitola. "It is very nice in Ohrid; I met with many children; we swam in the lake, played various games, organised a masquerade... all the children became friends. At the end, at parting, we cried. Even though I missed my mother, my sisters, my little brother and my father, I still wanted this to last longer, at least another two to three years. Oh, if it only could", sighed Azra. "I don't want to go back because I know that at home I will again have to sell napkins; again every day to the market, the same trouble; again nothing, again I will not have time to study. But still, this year I will learn the most, even if I remain without textbooks like last year, when I was in the 5th grade, so that I can be excellent again and to be able to go to the summer camp again", she added. The summer camp was held on 1 to 11 July, and it was aimed at motivating the students, to award their efforts and to enable integration among them.

STRENGTHENING NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS (PNJ)

In 2002, this Programme covered with trainings a total of 296 participants, of which 118 in regular trainings, 166 in tailored trainings and 12 in on-the-job training. Financial support was provided to a total of 89 organisations with various types of financial support, of which: 44 organisations received financial support for English language and computer courses, 32 organisations received micro-project financing, 5 organisations received programme financing and 8 organisations received organisational financing.

PROJECTS BY CIVIC ORGANISATIONS IN MACEDONIA

The first issue of this publication covered information about 521 projects of citizen associations and foundations, classified by sectors and target groups. This data should help in establishing a picture of the activities of civic organisations in Macedonia. The publication came out in Macedonian language, and it can be found at www.graganskisvet.org.mk.



From left to right: Tetjana Lazarevska (manager), Sašo Klekovski (representative), Gazmend Kadriu (member of the Board of Trustees of MEDF), A.M.A. van Arden - van der Hoven, Minister of Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and Johannes H.M. Wolfs, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Macedonia

TRANSPARENCY FOR CONFIDENCE

In the course of 2002, there were frequent statements about the lack of responsibility in the operation of citizen associations, which threatened to reduce the public confidence in the civic sector. Support was provided to 9 organisations by publishing their annual report for 2001 and/or publishing summaries of their annual reports in the daily press.

The agreement of financial support to the new Corporate Plan of the Macedonian Enterprise Development Foundation (MEDF) 2002-2006, to the amount of 5,670,000 Euro, was signed on 9 December 2002 in Skopje, by Sašo Klekovski, Representative of MEDF, and A.M.A. van Arden - van der Hoven, Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation. Of these funds, 4,900,000 Euro will be used for financial services (loans and guarantee funds), and 770,000 Euro will be used for non-financial services.

On this occasion, in his presentation of MEDF, Sašo Klekovski, representative of MEDF, stated: "MEDF is different from the other organisations or institutions that deal with this issue, primarily because of its development focus. It is a non-governmental, non-profit organisation, oriented toward reducing poverty. MEDF plays the role of intermediary, promoting innovations. The focus of MEDF is on rural areas, expanding towards the eastern part of Macedonia, and it is opening up towards urban environments".

DIRECTORY OF UNITS OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

With the Directory of the Units of Local Self-Government or Municipalities, MCIC repeated the positive experience from the publication of the Directory of Civic Organisations in Macedonia.

The Directory was intended to improve mutual exchange of information and communication by the municipalities with other actors, including the ministries and their regional units. The Directory includes data on 108 municipalities, of the total of 124 existing municipalities, including the city of Skopje.

The Directory was published in Macedonian and English language, while electronic versions can be found on the web pages www.graganskisvet.org.mk and www.civicworld.org.mk.



SIGNED AGREEMENT FOR THE CORPORATE PLAN OF MEDF 2002-2006



▲ Presentation of one of the participating organisations in the exhibition part



▲ Participants at one of the trainings on gender relations and development



▲ Distribution of egg-laying chickens in the village of Tearce

SECOND NGO FAIR - FORUM OF CIVIC SOCIETY IN MACEDONIA

At the second NGO Fair, 199 citizen associations and foundations participated in the exhibition part. More than 6,000 visitors passed through the halls of the Alexander Palace Hotel, where this event took place. The forum part, being the main focus of the event, offered 31 sessions on topics of importance not only for civic society, but also for the other sectors, both state and private.

The NGO Fair was organised by MCIC, the Open Society Institute of Macedonia (FOSIM), Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) and Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

"I am really impressed by the work of the non-governmental organisations in Macedonia. One can create a real library with everything they have published and printed. This Fair changed my views, my understanding for the work of the non-governmental sector, and now I respect it much more!" - said one of the visitors of the Fair.

STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S NGOs

The Programme provided financial support to the 8 involved organisations: Union of Women's Organisations of Macedonia (SOZM), Organisation of Women's Organisations of Macedonia (OOZM), Union of the Albanian Woman of Macedonia (SAZM), Women's Organisation 'Prestizh' from Bitola, Women's Organisation from Strumica, Women's Organisation from Štip, the Roma Women's Organisation 'Daja' from Kumanovo, and the Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women (ESE). The support was used to engage a person responsible for coordination and implementation of programme activities, as well as for implementation of activities by the organisations. Five issues of the magazine 'Perspektivi' were prepared. These were distributed to 800 relevant non-governmental organisations, government institutions and individuals that deal with this issue.

MACEDONIAN REHABILITATION (MKR)

At the beginning of the year, MCIC had limited activities because of the intensive activities by the international community and the secured humanitarian aid for displaced persons. However, notwithstanding the exceptionally successful donor conference, most of the activities (especially by the international organisations) were significantly reduced or terminated by the end of June 2002.

The Macedonian Rehabilitation Programme (MKR) covered approximately 50,000 beneficiaries, mainly with activities on basic aid (food and non-food products for returnees to the former crisis regions). Displaced persons at the collective centres (especially the youth) were provided with psycho-social support, by performing theatre performances at the collective centres.

CIVIC SOCIETY AND DEMOCRACY AWARD (CSD) AND AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 'GERT JAN VAN APPELDOORN' (GJA)

This year, the Civic Society and Democracy Award was presented to: the Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia, for long-term contributions, the Roma Humanitarian and Voluntary Association 'Mesecina' for contributions in the previous year, and to the city of Skopje for publicity and cooperation.

The Gert Jan van Appeldoorn Award was presented to the Joint Stock Company Komuna and the Polio Plus Association, for contributions in the previous year.

KOSOVO TRANSITION (KST)

The whole concept was based on the support to three local NGOs that implemented the Programme, making them its first beneficiaries. In the course of 2002, a total of 44 projects were implemented. Within the framework of this Programme, MCIC applied the principle of a Liaison Office. One associate was made responsible for the operational management of the Office and for counselling the local partner NGOs.

During this year, 16 trainings were organised for NGOs from the south-western part of Kosovo, as well as round tables, workshops and educational sessions. Two water supply systems were also constructed, and the publication started of two newsletters: Agro Bulletin and Civic Society Bulletin. Ten grants were awarded to other civic organisations.

CAPACITY BUILDING NETWORK (CBN)

Representatives of 13 NGO support centres and ecumenical organisations participated in the first meeting of the network on 18 to 21 April, in Ohrid. "The meeting was meant to define the roles of the partners, determine priority needs for training, identify the involved parties for exchange and joint activities, and create a specific plan of activities for the next one-year period", said Besim Nebiu, coordinator of the Capacity Building Network. During these three days of work, the partners from the region presented themselves and their capabilities, as well as their needs, and managed to formulate a draft plan of activities. The most frequently stressed positive side of the meeting by the participants was the exchange of information and knowledge about other training resources in the region, as well as the possibility to meet other organisations from the region. Also, the participants had a high opinion about the structure of the plan, which for them is a plan for cooperation between the agencies.

The meeting was an initial phase in the implementation of the Programme, whose general goal is to contribute towards strengthening of coordination, cooperation and establishing closer and stronger links between the ecumenical partners in South-East Europe, as a contribution towards peace and stability in the region.



▲ Recipients of the CSD and GJA awards
for 2001

WITHOUT ENTHUSIASM WE WOULD NOT REACH THE END

The 450 inhabitants of the village of Gorno Kolicani reduced their list of problems by one very important problem - water supply.

The villagers showed large enthusiasm and desire for the construction of the water supply system. "Without this enthusiasm and desire, we would probably not have reached the end", said Femi Mustafa, president of the village initiative board.

Gorno Kolicani is a poor village. Very few of its inhabitants are employed. A majority of them work in agriculture and on livestock breeding, but the herds are no longer as large as they used to be. Around 30 families receive social aid. But the villagers do not give up. They use every opportunity to improve their life. Completion of the ground works for the need of the village water supply network is sufficient illustration of this. The extremely difficult terrain for excavation did not discourage them at all. "We prepared for a rabbit, and out came a bear", said one of the inhabitants of Gorno Kolicani, alluding to the fact that they did not expect such a difficult segment for excavation.

Nevertheless, this is already behind them. The difficult life without water remains in the past. "You should know how long our mothers, sisters and daughters suffered. This will make life much easier for them", said one of the inhabitants.

2003

10 YEARS OF MCIC



The Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation continued the activities in its regular programmes: VSZ, OZI, POR, JZN (started in the previous year). New programmes were started: SOS Line Against Drugs (SLD), Capacity Building for Civic Organisations in Macedonia (GKG), Civic World (GSV), Pages for Mutual Understanding (SMR), Support to Displaced Persons (PRL), Linking Religions in Macedonia (PRM), Strengthening Partners in Kosovo (JPK), and the following programmes were completed: PJN (since 2000), TKS and MGK (started towards the end of 2001).

ENABLING COMMUNITIES AND INSTITUTIONS

One of the trainings implemented this year was on the topic 'How to Approach Donors'. Approaching donors is one of the key elements in providing sustainability, not only for citizen association, but also for local communities.

"I have experience in preparing projects and in establishing contact with donors. Sometimes this was successful, and sometimes not. But this is the first time that I participate in training on the basic topic of 'access to donors'. Now I can see the deficiencies from my previous experiences. After the seminar, I have larger confidence and additional knowledge. I will share this experience with the employees at the Municipality", said Stojan Lazarov, mayor of the Konce municipality, participant in the training.

WATER FOR THE MACEDONIAN 'TIBET'

Kucica is a village in the Karbinici municipality with 165 inhabitants, or 34 households, with a Turkish population. It is located on the Plackovica Mountain, at an altitude of 770 meters. With aid from MCIC, it finally got a newly constructed water supply system.

Until now, the inhabitants of this village had to walk to the only fountain in the village and to carry the water in buckets, in order to make bread, or to have a drink.

"We carried the water by hand, or loaded on donkeys!", said one of the villagers, remembering bitterly the past.

"I work with tobacco!", said one of the villagers. "I am 26 years old and I have 2 children; here we marry young! Let me tell you, only the men and children gathered here speak any Macedonian, while the women speak only Turkish, and they usually stay at home, in the house", added the villager.

And still, we see small girls playing with water from the faucet in the yard. Open, close, open, close...



► Official opening of the water supply system in v. Kucica

APPLIED EDUCATION FOR YOUNG ROMA (POR)

Among the other activities implemented with this Programme was the support to an organisation of the World Roma Day under the motto 'We Are All One'.

With a slightly better organised and louder marking of this day than in the past, the Roma from Macedonia again publicly placed the accent on numerous problems they are faced with in the society - starting from prejudice and attitude (dictated exactly by this prejudice) by 'others' towards them, via the problem of children on the street, begging, and up to the general problems that are common for all citizens of Macedonia: poverty, unemployment, education, Framework Agreement...

Participating in the campaign were not only Roma, but also other organisations. In the so called March of Equality, also organised within this Programme, more than one thousand citizens marched - Roma, Macedonians, Albanians, Turks, Serbs and members of other communities living in Macedonia. They showed that gradually, but indeed happening, something is changing in the attitude of people towards each other.



▲ The Roma raised their voice for their rights, 8 April 2003

SOS LINE AGAINST DRUGS (SLD)

The new Programme was created in order to contribute towards reducing social exclusion of persons with problems linked with the use and abuse of drugs, and for the elimination of their marginalisation and stigmatisation. The Association of Social Workers of the City of Skopje promoted at the Centre for Humanitarian Workers 'Dare Dž ambaz' on 14 July this year, a free of charge telephone line for assistance against drugs, through which citizens of the Republic of Macedonia can receive information about drugs, problems linked with the use of drugs and infection with AIDS.

The SOS Line for Assistance Against Drugs will provide information about drugs and AIDS to all interested citizens, parents, educators, health and social workers, and it will provide professional assistance in creating similar services in other cities in the country. As a first step in this direction, partner cooperation was established with the Centre for Social Work in Štip and three volunteers were trained for work at the advisory centre against drugs.



CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CIVIC ORGANISATIONS IN MACEDONIA

Within this Programme, various topic trainings for civic organisations were conducted. One of these is Training in Public Relations.

"Regardless of the fact that for some time I was a journalist in the daily newspaper Dnevnik and at A1 Television, I still do not have a lot of experience in this field. Even though I am familiar with many things from the training, every meeting of this kind is very useful, and what I can see is that the training uses a very good concept", stated Tatjana Andreevska, member of the Citizen Association for the Protection of the Cultural and Artistic



▲ Participants in the training on public relations (practicing on giving a radio интервиењ)



CIVIC WORLD

Within the framework of this new Programme, the publication of the newsletter Civic World continued for the third year. The texts of this newsletter can be found also on the web page www.graganskisvet.org.mk, and the English version on www.civicworld.org.mk. Here one can find interesting information about activities of civic organisations in Macedonia and in the world, as well as various open competitions and calls to organisations for support to various projects.

This year, the seventh issue of the Directory of Civic Organisations in Macedonia was published, covering 1,509 organisations. The provided information about the organisations will enable the beneficiary to find out the possibilities of the organisations individually, but also of specific sectors in general, as well as about civic organisation in general. It gives an idea about the potential of these organisations to become one of the bearers of social changes.

The publication started of Civic Practices, as a result of our search (both of MCIC and of the civic sector) for our 'domestic' understanding of civic society. The search for rooted concepts and practices of civic society is a result of the awareness that civic organisations and initiatives are effective only if they have domestic ownership and if they are rooted in society. Civic Practices should promote and support the development of rooted concepts and practices of civic society in Macedonia.

THIRD NGO FAIR - FORUM OF CIVIC SOCIETY IN MACEDONIA

The NGO Fair - 3rd Forum for Civic Society in Macedonia was held on 20 to 22 November at the Skopje Fair. More than 10,000 citizens visited the exhibition part, where on 135 stands, 205 citizen organisations from all possible civic sectors presented themselves. For the first time, among them was the

European Integration Sector of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, as well as several companies that contribute towards alternative social development. Organised by the Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation, and in cooperation with the Foundation Open Society Institute - Macedonia and the Institute for Sustainable Communities, with support from Danish Church Aid (DCA), the European Agency for Reconstructions,



◀ From left to right: Mirko Spiroski - Chairman of MCIC, Liljana Popovska - Vice-President of the Parliament of RM, Boris Trajkovski - President of RM, Sašo Klekovski - Executive Director of MCIC, and Donato Chiarini - Head of the EU Delegation in RM

the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, and the Macedonian Information Agency (MIA), the Fair created space for exchange of experiences and promotion of mutual understanding and respect of civic organisations, promoting larger dialogue, increasing communications and cooperation, as well as providing information to the general public and other actors about the activities of civic organisations. The Fair enabled the expected exchange of information between the domestic and the 15 organisations representing the region - organisations from Montenegro, Slovenia, Kosovo and Bulgaria.

During the Fair, 48 panel discussions, forums, round tables, educational sessions and socio-cultural events were organised.

CIVIC SOCIETY AND DEMOCRACY AWARD (CSD) AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT 'GERT JAN VAN APPELDOORN' (GJA) AWARD

For the third time in a row, the activities of citizen associations, individuals, institutions, enterprises and other entities in our society received the Civic Society and Democracy Awards, i.e. the Award for Sustainable Development 'Gert Jan van Appeldoorn', for their achievements in the previous year.

This year's recipients were: Boge Cadinovski, Alkaloid, Macedonian Women's Lobby, Environmental Society 'Rosa' from the Caška settlement, and the Citizen Association 'Natira' from the village of Otlja.



▲ Recipients of the CSD and GJA awards for 2002

PAGES FOR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

The Pages for Mutual Understanding 'Megjutoa' (However) have as goal to improve the provision of information to the general public about interethnic relations in Macedonia and to influence the media so that their provision of information on interethnic relations would be objective and comprehensive.

The project is implemented in partnership with the Association of Journalists of Macedonia (AJM), and in cooperation with the Macedonian Information Agency (MIA), and the dailies Dnevnik, Utrinski Vesnik, Fakti, Lobi and Vecer.

'However' will be published 100 times and treats two types of events. One type concerns topics that were treated widely by these printed media, while the other type places events in the category of





2

MCIC THROUGH NUMBERS



3

УЛИЦА
БАЈРАМ
ШАБАНИ

31_a
20 ОКТОМВРИ

51

4

1

23

5_a

9

11

29

29 НОЕМВРИ

ОХРИД

47

КОЧАНИ

27

25

4

27

25

10

ХРИСТО
ОМИРЕНСКИ

4

ТЕТОВО

PROJECT STATISTICS

MCIC monitors its achievements by means of a project portfolio monitoring system, as well as with specific documentation on individual products.

MCIC performs the monitoring of the project portfolio through several parameters: sector, programmes, location, target group and instrument. This review shows the results according to those parameters, in tables per year, in diagrams for monitoring the trends during the whole period, as well as in graphs on the distribution of the overall portfolio according to those parameters.

During its ten years of operation, MCIC implemented 1,083 projects, in 52 programmes, with a total budget of 2.2 billion denars, or around 36 million euros.

Table 3 shows a full review of the sectors and programmes (with implementation periods), as well as the number of implemented projects during the period 1994-2003 (in 1993, programme activities had not yet started).

This review shows the correct data from MCIC's documentation as of 1 December 2003. For a full presentation of the 10-year achievements, realistic estimates were made about possible achievements in the period up to 31 December 2003, and these were included in the statistics.

The structuring of the sectors, grouping of projects per sector, as well as the manner in which their documentation was maintained was introduced at the end of 1995. In order to give a harmonised presentation, the projects from 1994 and 1995 were grouped retroactively.

The division of projects per sector in Table 3 (where programmes are classified per sector, together with all projects), does not correspond with all the cases of division from Table 2, because some projects were distributed subsequently to the relevant sector (e.g., from the programmes for emergency operations, in the sector water supply and sanitation, when dealing with projects on emergency water supply projects).

The majority of projects are implemented in the Civic Society and Democracy sector, and then in the Water Supply sector.

Graph 1. Number of projects per sector

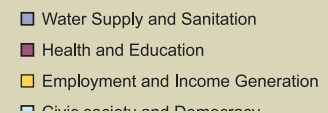
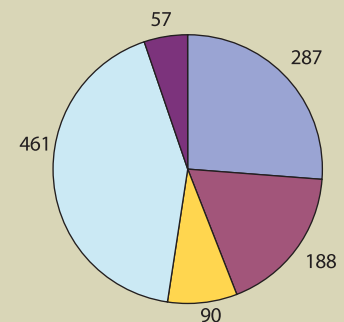


Table 2. Number of projects per sector in the period 1994-2003

Sector	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Bk.
Water Supply and Sanitation	20	47	38	17	18	20	21	25	37	44	287
Health and Education	5	11	7	13	27	12	42	11	35	25	188
Employment and Income Generation (incl. Rural Development)	14	11	10	8	0	13	15	3	13	3	90
Civic society and Democracy	44	39	45	27	35	29	56	38	75	73	461
Basic and Emergency Aid	6	0	0	0	0	16	13	12	9	1	57
Total	89	108	100	65	80	90	147	89	169	146	1,083

Diagram 1. Number of projects per sector

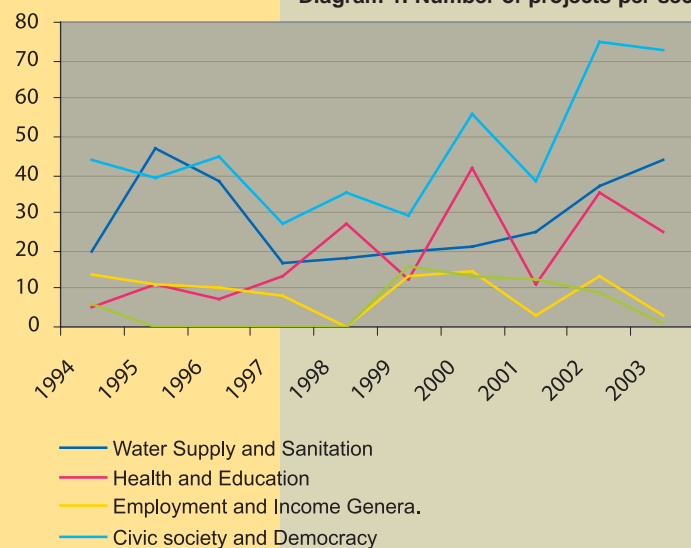


Table 3. Number of projects per sector and programmes in the period 1994-2003

Programmes per sector and year	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Bk.
▪ Village Water Supply (WSP) 1994, 95-97, 98-00	20	44	39	17	18	9	19				166
▪ Water Supply and Sanitation for the Communities (WSZ) 01-03								15	20	19	54
▪ Enabling Communities and Institutions (OZI) 01-03								12	17	25	54
Education and Health Care (incl. Programme for Dignity of the Disabled and Marginalised)											
▪ Village Development Initiatives programme (PSI) 1994, 95-97	9	12	5	3							29
▪ Programme for Dignity of the Disabled (PDH) 1994, 95-97	4	7	2	5							18
▪ Roma Empowerment Programme (POR) 1994, 95-97	1	4	5	8							18
▪ Primary and Health Education for Groups in an Unfavourable and Marginalised Situation (OZO) 98-00					27	4	39				70
▪ Applied Education for Young Roma (POR) 01-04								1	35	22	58
▪ Gouldberg's Plan for the Handicapped (GPH) 2001								10			10
▪ SOS Line Against Drugs (SLD) 03-04										3	3
Employment and Revenue generation (incl. Rural Development)											
▪ Employment Promotion Programme (PPV) 1995, 95-97	2	5	4	5							16
▪ Linking Enterprises Skopje-Thessaloniki Programme (PSS) 99-00						6	6				12
▪ MEDF Programme management *						1	1	1	1	1	5
Civic Society and Democracy											
▪ Civic Society Programme (PCO) 1994, 95-98	44	39	45	27	31						186
▪ NGO Strengthening Programme (PJM) 1999, 00-02						1	20	13	25		59
▪ Civic Organisations Platform (PGO) 03-05										2	2
▪ Civic World (GSV) 03-05										5	5
▪ Capacity Building for Civic Organisations (GKG) 03-05										18	18
▪ Strengthening Strategic Civic Organisations (JSN) 03-06										7	7
▪ Strengthening the Capacity of Women NGOs for Health Education JZN) 00-01							3	2			5
▪ Strengthening Women's NGOs (JZZ) 02-04									4	4	8
▪ Other Programme Activities (OPA) 98-00					4		3				7
▪ It is whole when there is everything' (CIS) 2000							7				7
▪ Human Rights Programme (PCP) 2000							6				6
▪ Building Community Relations (GOZ) 01-02								2	1		3
▪ Support to Inter-religious Co-operation (PMS) 2002									1		1
▪ Advisory Centres for the Civic Rights of Roma (SCR) 02-05									1	3	4
▪ Pages for Mutual Understanding (SMR) 03-05										3	3
▪ Support to Displaced Persons (PRL) 2003										4	4
▪ Breadging Linking Religions in Macedonia (PRM) 03-04										8	8
Basic and Emergency Aid											
▪ Plan for Emergency Operations Shelter Macedonia (PIO) 1999	6										6
▪ Post-Crisis Rehabilitation for Macedonia (PRM) 99-01						36					36
▪ Macedonian Crisis (MKK) 2001						3	11	1			15
▪ Macedonian Rehabilitation (MKR) 02-03								13			13
▪ Враќање на раселените лица (ВРЛ) 2001								9			9
▪ Македонска рехабилитација (МКР) 02-03									11	1	12
Cross-Sector											
▪ Civic Society and Democracy Award (GOD) 01-03								1	1	1	3
▪ Award for Sustainable Development "Gert Jan van Appeldoorn" (GJA) 01-03								1	1	1	3
▪ Small Development Initiatives (MRI) 01-03								2			2
▪ Strategic Initiatives Fund (FSI) 02-03									1	7	8
International Programmes											
▪ Restoring Livelihood in Kosovo (OZK) 1999, 2000						30	31				61
▪ Post-Crisis Rehabilitation of Kosovo (PKK) 00-01							1	2			3
▪ Kosovo Transition (TKS) 01-02								3	44		47
▪ Strengthening Partners in Kosovo (JPK) 03-04										8	8
▪ Capacity Building Network (MGK) 01-03								1	6	4	11
Total	89	108	100	65	80	90	147	89	169	146	1,083

* MEDF programmes: Programme for Micro and Small Enterprise (PMSE) 98-02; Entrepreneurship Support Programme (PPP) 01-02; Financial Services Programme (PFU) 03-06; Non-Financial Services Programme (NFU) 03-06; Sub-Sector Development (PSR) 03-06; Platform for SME Development (PRP) 03-06;

In the Table on locations, the item 'Local' is for projects that are implemented in one city or village in the country. A 'Regional' project means that the project is implemented in several locations in a compact environment. The 'National' group covers the class of projects that are implemented on several different locations, or which concern the general public in Macedonia. The 'International' class of projects covers those that were implemented in Kosovo or in the Balkan region.

The majority of activities are implemented in local communities, directly followed by projects at the national level. In its work to date, MCIC has applied the listed five instruments. The data concerns exclusively activities implemented directly by MCIC (i.e. training courses conducted by MCIC staff, publications, etc.). If the activity foreseen by the project is implemented by some other civic organisation or community, the project is classified under the group of 'Financial Support'.

Until 1997, MCIC had projects with loans. Since 1998, with the establishment of the Macedonian Enterprise Development Foundation (MEDF), this instrument was used exclusively by MEDF, and not by MCIC. At the same time, MCIC started also to apply the instrument of managing other organisation.

A predominantly used instrument by MCIC is Financial Support. This is especially visible during the initial years, as well as in the crisis years (1999 and 2001). Nevertheless, even in the period before the crisis in the region, and especially during the last two years, **there was a trend for MCIC to increase**

Location	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Bk.
International	3	0	0	0	0	31	36	7	49	14	140
National	12	20	19	22	19	10	43	29	39	53	266
Regional	10	7	5	10	15	4	8	9	3	17	88
Skopje	23	24	29	6	12	19	16	12	18	17	176
Local	41	57	47	27	34	26	44	32	60	45	413
Total	89	108	100	65	80	90	147	89	169	146	1,083

Table 4. Number of projects per location, in the period 1994-2003 a

Graph 2. Number of projects per location

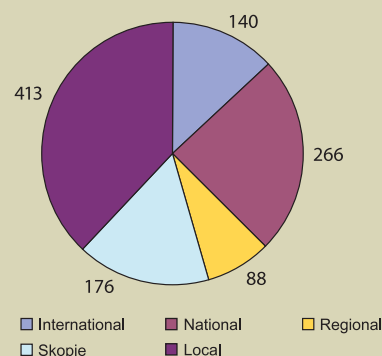
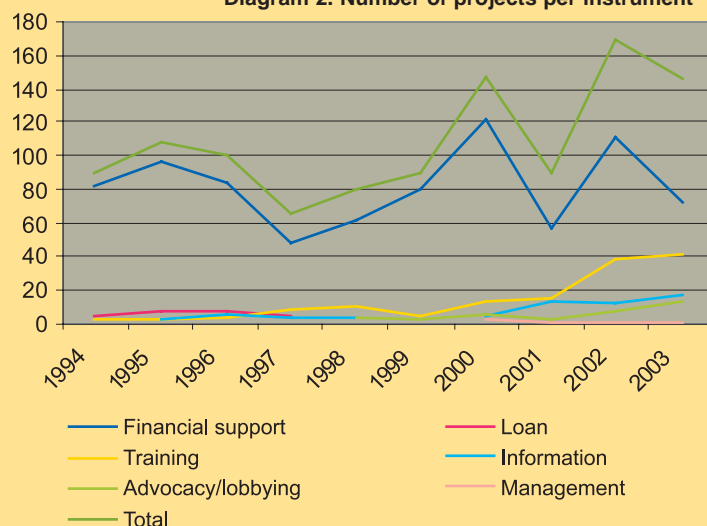


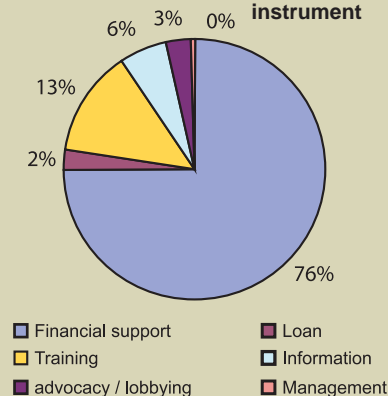
Table 5. Number of projects per instrument, in the period 1994-2003a

Instruments	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Bk.
Financial support	82	96	83	48	62	83	121	57	111	73	813
Loan	5	7	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	27
Training	2	2	4	8	11	5	13	16	38	42	141
Information	0	2	6	4	4	0	5	13	12	17	63
Representation/lobbying	0	1	0	0	3	2	6	2	7	13	34
Management	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	5
Total	89	108	100	65	80	90	147	89	169	146	1,083

Diagram 2. Number of projects per instrument



Graph 3. Number of projects per instrument



activities on training, information, advocacy and lobbying.

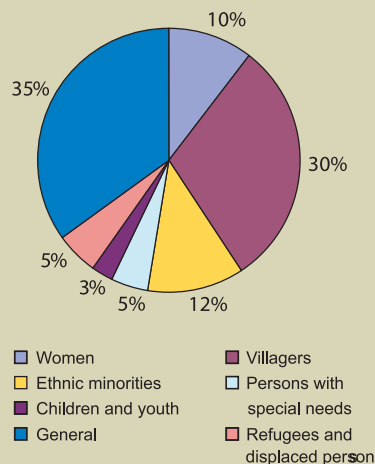
The distribution per target group was made within the listed categories according to the predominant participation of beneficiaries in the projects. In cases of multiple vulnerability of the beneficiaries (belonging to two or more listed categories, i.e. young Roma women in rural areas), only one was considered, the one that was most relevant in regard to the number of beneficiaries and the type of activity by the project.

Table 6. Number of projects per target group, for the period 1994-2003

Target Group	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Bk.
Women	13	5	14	8	15	4	28	2	16	8	133
Villagers	33	56	43	20	18	20	22	31	39	46	328
Ethnic minorities	7	3	7	11	16	0	15	2	35	31	127
Persons with special needs	8	6	2	7	6	2	6	10	0	2	49
Children and youth	10	5	7	6	0	0	0	0	0	2	30
Refugees and displaced persons	0	0	0	0	0	27	0	18	8	4	57
General	18	33	27	13	25	37	76	26	71	53	379
Total	89	108	100	65	80	90	147	89	169	146	1,083

The focus of the activities is on villagers, women and ethnic minorities, as well as on the general public.

Graph 4. Number of projects per target group



MCIC plans the projects in conformity with the needs and demands of the target groups. Product demand is documented since 1997. Organisations of target groups and physical persons submit applications for support to MCIC, which then are distributed among the relevant groups, where they are reviewed and evaluated. Those that are evaluated positively are approved for support. Table 7 shows the demand (P - applications) and the results of the application selection process (O - approved). In 2000, applications for training by individuals, physical persons, are documented in the same way as all other applications (and this is why the big discrepancy of before and after this period).

PRODUCT DEMAND

Table 7. Product demand per sector and programme, for the period 1994-2003

Sector	1994		1995		1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		2001	
	п	о	п	о	п	о	п	о	п	о	п	о	п	о	п	о
Water supply and sanitation	57	17	47	18	46	9	59	16	86	20	142	27	129	27	566	134
Education and health care	53	11	69	29	0	0	123	27	41	10	33	29	0	0	319	106
Employment and revenue generation	107	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	107	6
Civic society and democracy	87	16	71	19	46	0	636	111	551	162	641	139	0	0	2,032	447
Basic and emergency aid	0	0	0	0	41	36	34	11	59	18	25	5	0	0	159	70
International	0	0	0	0	34	14	275	67	0	0	73	37	0	0	382	118
Total	304	50	187	66	167	59	1,127	232	737	210	914	237	129	27	3,565	881

In the Water Supply and Sanitation sector, a total of 287 projects were supported, of which 233 were for water supply and sanitation facilities, and 54 projects for technical assistance.



Table 8 shows a review of the support to this sector. A part of the funds from the Kosovo crisis intended for emergency operations were used for water supply for local communities that accepted a large number of refugees. Because these interventions have a significant influence upon the situation, they are shown in the table separately.

Table 8. Review of support in water supply and sanitation to communities, for the period 1994-2003

EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION - MEDF

Region	Њатер супплс анд сани- татион фор цоммунитиес				Емергенцс оператионс				Тотал			
	No. of comm	No. of proj.	No. of inh	Budget	No. of comm	No. of proj	бр. на жители	буџет	бр. на заедници	бр. на проекти	бр. на жители	буџет
1 Skopje	17	22	20,634	38,904	6	7	20,909	109,438	23	29	41,543	148,342
2 Kumanovo-Kratovo	24	24	11,899	22,086	1	1	4,072	22,101	25	25	15,971	44,187
3 Bregalnica	46	48	21,173	56,829	0	0	0	0	46	48	21,173	56,829
4 Strumica	24	25	14,967	18,217	0	0	0	0	24	25	14,967	18,217
5 Povardarje	32	33	16,544	38,394	0	0	0	0	32	33	16,544	38,394
6 Pelagonija	46	53	20,556	64,288	0	0	0	0	46	53	20,556	64,288
7 Lakes	5	5	3,184	8,645	1	1	1,676	6,029	6	6	4,860	14,674
8 Polog	12	12	10,734	26,353	2	2	7,680	23,527	14	14	18,414	49,880
Total	206	222	119,691	273,716	10	11	34,337	161,095	216	233	154,028	434,811

Table 9. Number of loans of MEDF (per type), for the period 1999 to September 2003

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Tot.
type 1	0	6	2	1	2	11
type 2	1	5	27	26	18	77
type 3	2	3	2	3	4	14
Total	3	14	31	30	24	102

Graph 5. Number of MEDF loans

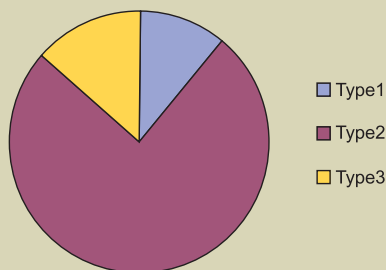


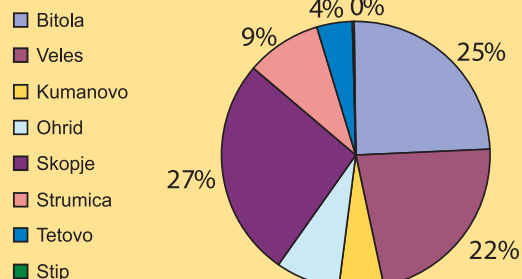
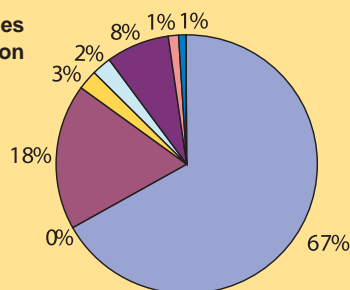
Table 10. Disbursed amount of loans (per type of loan), for the period 1999 to September 2004 (in thousand MKD)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
type 1	0	90,870	12,191	762	3,835	107,658
type 2	3,031	9,774	62,886	67,024	34,827	177,543
type 3	9,295	18,642	6,999	12,634	21,526	69,096
Total	12,326	119,287	82,076	80,420	60,188	354,297

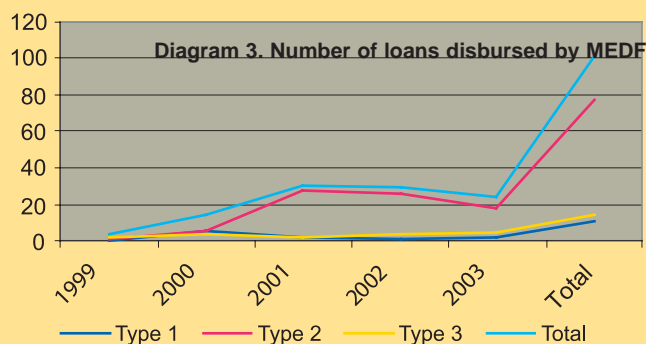
Table 11. Number of loan beneficiaries (per type of loan and region), for the period 1999 to September 2004 (in thousand MKD)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
type 1	0	788	626	3	10	1,427
type 2	1	5	27	26	18	77
type 3	26	94	30	0	105	255
Total	27	887	683	29	133	1,759

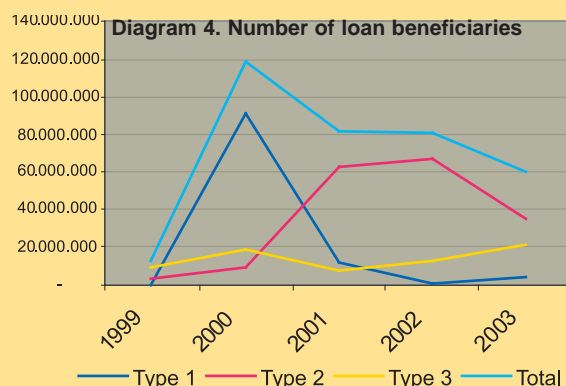
Graph 6. Number of beneficiaries and amount of loans, per region



Since it was established in 1998 and until the end of September 2003, MEDF has implemented 102 loans through the accredited financial intermediaries, with a total amount of approximately 350 million Denar aimed for 1,759 beneficiaries.



MEDF now runs a revolving fund of 285 million denars, and it has implemented projects for non-financial services in a total amount of approximately 55 million denars. Through the accredited intermediaries: Tutunska Banka, Radobank, Stopanska Banka - Bitola, Izvozna i Kreditna Banka, and the Savings House Možnosti, it has processed 3 (three) types of loans, namely: Loan Type 1 - aimed for individual farmers and entrepreneurs/micro enterprises through trade intermediaries; Loan Type 2 - aimed for small enterprises; and Loan Type 3 - aimed for micro enterprises.



The focus until 2002 was on the western and central parts of Macedonia, and since 2003, MEDF works on the whole territory of the country.

CIVIC SOCIETY

During the period 1996-2003, 145 trainings were organised, with a total of 2063 participants, and with a balanced participation by men (46%) and women (54%). The largest number of trainings were on Project Cycle Management (52), which is 36% of the total portfolio of trainings. These trainings were also the most frequented ones, with an average of 17 participants per training.

Table 12. Number of trainings and participants

Training	Trainings	Participant	Men	Women
Project Cycle Management (PCM)	52	901	533	386
Institutional Development and Organisational Strengthening (ID/OS)	29	346	141	205
Administrative Work (AW)	9	144	62	82
Programme Management (PM)	2	33	12	21
Gender Relations and Development (GRD)	16	166	4	162
On-the-job training	2	16	4	12
Basic Skills	18	208	79	129
Public Relations	4	54	19	35
Preparing an application	7	106	72	34
Tailored training on Action Plans	2	26	0	26
Training for Trainers	1	15	1	14
Human Resources Management	1	17	6	11
Visits to positive examples	1	16	16	0
Inter-cultural learning	1	15	8	7
Total	145	2,063	957	1,106

The Civic World web-page is updated regularly since it was introduced in 2001. Visits to the web-page are measured on a monthly basis, and this amounts to around 2,000, with a significant increase (up to 6,000) during the NGO Fair.

Graph 7. Number of trainings per type of training

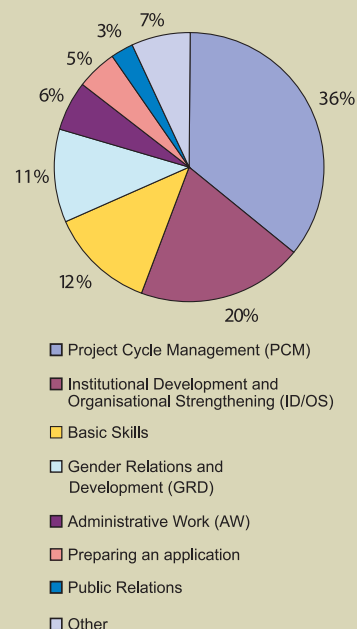
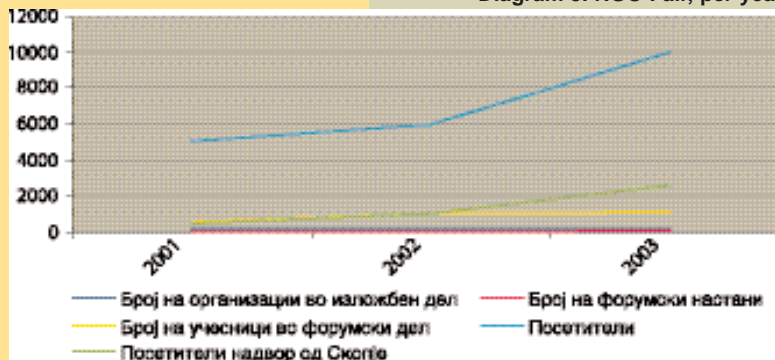


Table 13. NGO Fair, per year

NGO Fair	2001	2002	2003	Вкупно
Number of organisations in the exhibition part	154	199	205	558
Number of Forum events	19	32	59	110
Number of participants in the Forum part	560	1,080	2,000	3,640
Visitors	5,000	6,000	10,000	21,000
Visitors from outside of Skopje	* 500	1092	2600	4,192

Within the framework of three organised NGO Fairs - Forums of Civic Society in Macedonia, a total of 558 organisations were presented in the exhibition area, and 110 Forum events were held with a total of 2,840 participants. There were a total of 21,000 visitors, with a significant increase in 2003 compared to the previous two years. Organised transportation made it possible for 4,192 persons coming from outside of Skopje to visit the Fair.

Diagram 5. NGO Fair, per year



FINANCIAL STATISTICS








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Table 14. Review of revenues per source, for the period 1994-2003 (in thousand MKD)

Revenues	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Tot.
Consortium for Macedonia	66,465	51,474	27,858	49,157	36,799	42,713	47,139	94,691	125,840	93,939	636,075
Action by Churches Together (ACT)	0	0	0	0	0	673,632	352,023	72,125	26,378	0	1,124,158
Other partners	1,080	118	153	531	0	43,524	11,118	3,325	15,133	0	74,982
Govem. and inter-government agencies	38,005	25,804	36,472	6,500	9,369	22,204	20,363	32,086	27,685	3,688	222,176
Extraordinary and own revenues	963	1,314	5,343	8,977	5,293	10,416	60,184	24,355	18,421	13,500	148,766
Total	106,513	78,710	69,826	65,165	51,461	792,489	490,827	226,582	213,457	111,127	2,206,157

The group Consortium for Macedonia includes member agencies (listed in the chapter 'Organisation and Development') and the organisations that were formed with their transformation during this past period (for example, DIA was

In regard to the countries from where the funds originate, the largest support was provided by the Netherlands (more than 30%), followed by Germany and Denmark. Funds from other not-mentioned countries participate with less than 10% of the overall revenues.

State	thousands MKD	percent
 The Netherlands	665,826	30 %
 Germany	475,992	22%
 Denmark	272,455	11%
 Great Britain	150,241	7%
 Extraordinary and own	149,266	6%
 European Union	122,034	6%
 Norway	105,854	5%

transformed into ACT Netherlands), as well as revenues from other organisations that were provided by the Consortium members.

Action by Churches Together (ACT) is the coordination office for emergency operations that includes all the member organisations. The differentiation has been made because of the specifics of this funding, which is exclusively for emergency operations (including post-crisis rehabilitation), which was also the case with the funds that MCIC secured as a response to the crisis in Kosovo in 1999 and in Macedonia in 2001. By means of a system of appeals (a total of 6 in which MCIC participated), funds were provided from 27 organisations.

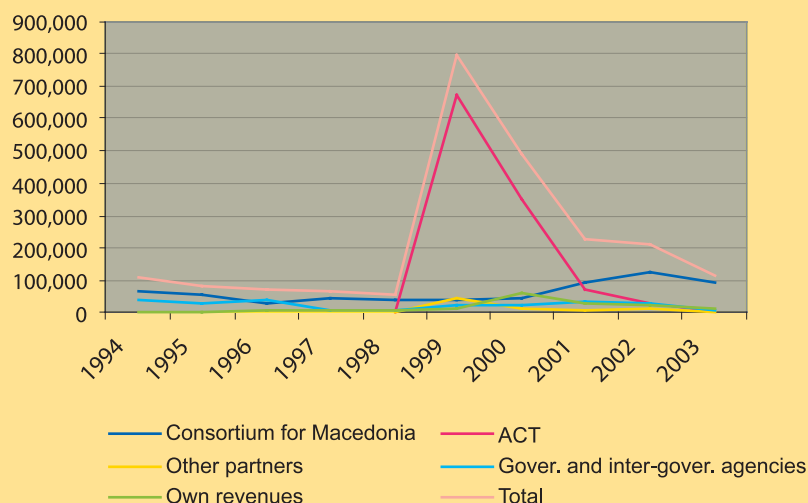
The item 'Other Partners' includes other non-governmental non-profit organisations (such as Caritas from Germany, Solidarity from Greece), as well as enterprises, with which cooperation was established on specific programmes or projects. This group consists of 19 organisations from 10 countries, including two from Macedonia (Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia and Makpetrol).

Government and non-government sources of financing concern the programmes of the European Union (PHARE, LIEN, Partnership, CARDS), the system of the United Nations (in this case, UNHCR), as well as direct donations by the Governments of the Netherlands, Great Britain, USA and Bulgaria (directly, or through their embassies).

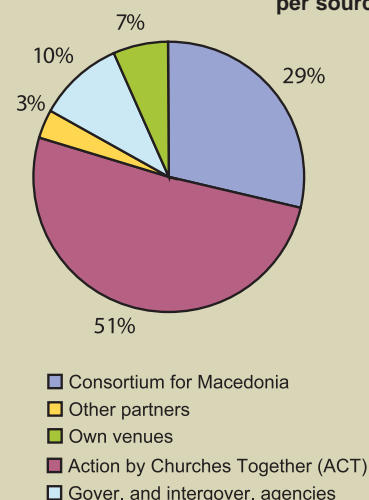
The last item 'Own Revenues' is received from interest, positive foreign exchange differences, extraordinary revenues and revenues from activities (collection of participation for trainings, sale of publications, etc.).

Considering the funds channelled through the ACT system, the member agencies of the Consortium for Macedonia are MCIC's leading donors. Their characteristic is also the periodical stability of the financial support, i.e. they all appear as supporters in at least four years, and most of them in all 10 years of MCIC's operation.

Diagram 6. Review of revenues, per source and per year



Graph 8. Distribution of revenues per source



EXPENDITURES

MCIC registers expenditures per project (direct or charitable expenditures), and then cumulatively and per programme, i.e. sector. MCIC's operational expenses are distributed per programme according to the documentation on used resources (staff, vehicles, premises, equipment).

Table 15 shows the functional classification of expenditures, which means that MCIC's operational expenses are distributed per programme and sector.

Table 16 shows the comparison between the level of direct and operating expenses. Not included are expenditures based on writing off claims and purchase value, which appear in some years.

Agencies	thousands of MKD	Percent
ICCO	398,081	18%
DCA	339,945	16%
DW	336,870	16%
DIA	203,034	10%
CAID	136,546	6%
NCA	105,854	5%
EED	92,816	3%

Table 15. Review of expenditures per sector, for the period 1994-2003 (in thousands of MKD)

Expenditures	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Bk.
Water Supply and Sanitation	5,912	27,154	44,232	35,421	34,167	14,365	41,818	38,821	62,991	78,299	383,180
Education and Health Care	19,322	10,244	9,342	17,928	13,637	1,490	11,494	3,606	21,423	20,728	129,214
Employment and Revenue Generation	11,836	5,188	3,593	8,859	95	4,217	6,464	5,219	5,062	4,000	54,533
Civic Society and Democracy	3,906	8,048	7,326	0	11,221	999	64,428	22,642	33,099	54,595	206,264
Basic and Emergency Aid	29,365	4,601	0	0	0	691,958	13,748	72,271	54,045	1,660	867,648
International Programmes	0	0	0	0	0	199,405	248,411	30,552	29,933	28,840	537,141
Total	70,341	55,235	64,493	62,208	59,120	912,434	386,363	173,111	206,553	188,122	2,177,980

Graph 9. Distribution of expenditures, per sector

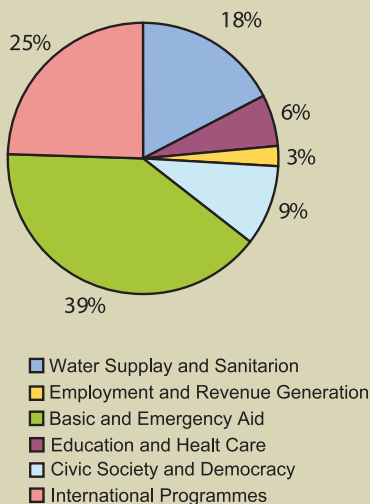
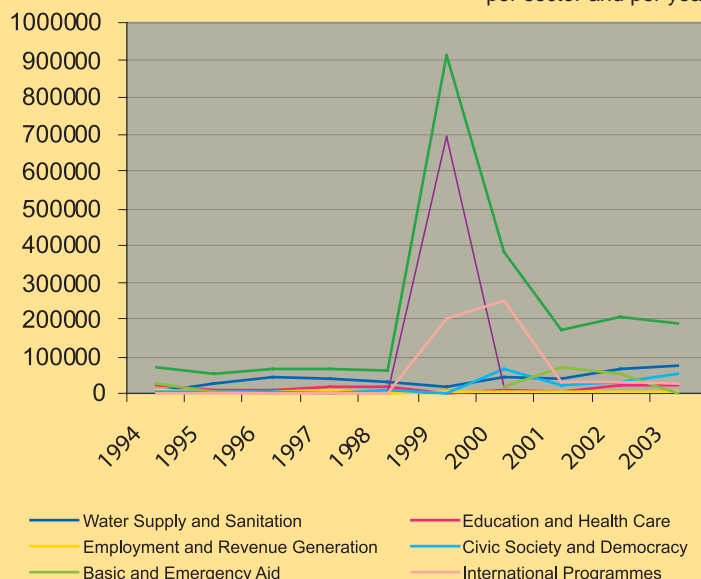


Diagram 7. Review of expenditures per sector and per year

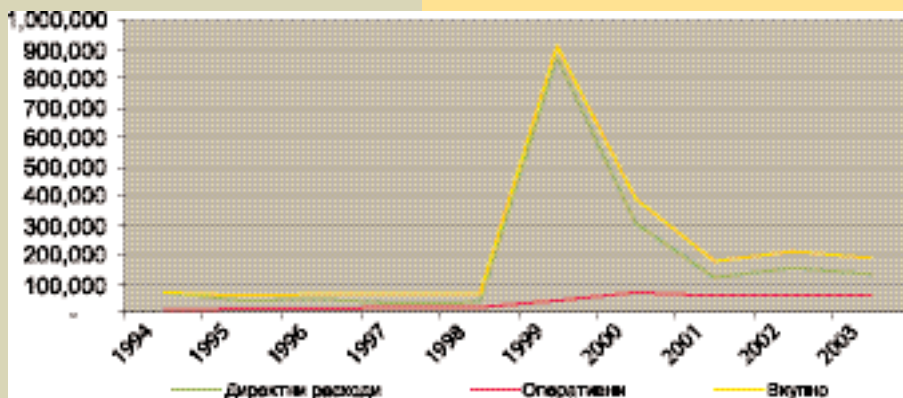


There is a visible difference in levels in years with intensive humanitarian activities (when the operating expenses are less than 10%), and the other periods when the focus is on activities on training, representation and lobbying, where human resources play a key role.

Table 16. Comparison of direct and operating expenses per year

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total
Direct expenses	65,760	44,711	47,496	31,003	34,091	870,843	305,366	116,675	150,524	133,112	1,799,581
% of total	93%	81%	74%	50%	58%	95%	79%	67%	73%	71%	83%
Operating expenses	4,581	10,524	16,997	19,185	23,445	40,978	69,540	56,024	55,366	55,000	351,640
% of total	7%	19%	26%	31%	40%	4%	18%	32%	27%	29%	16%
Total	70,341	55,235	64,493	62,208	59,120	912,434	386,363	173,111	206,553	188,122	2,177,980

Diagram 8. Level of direct and operating expenses per year

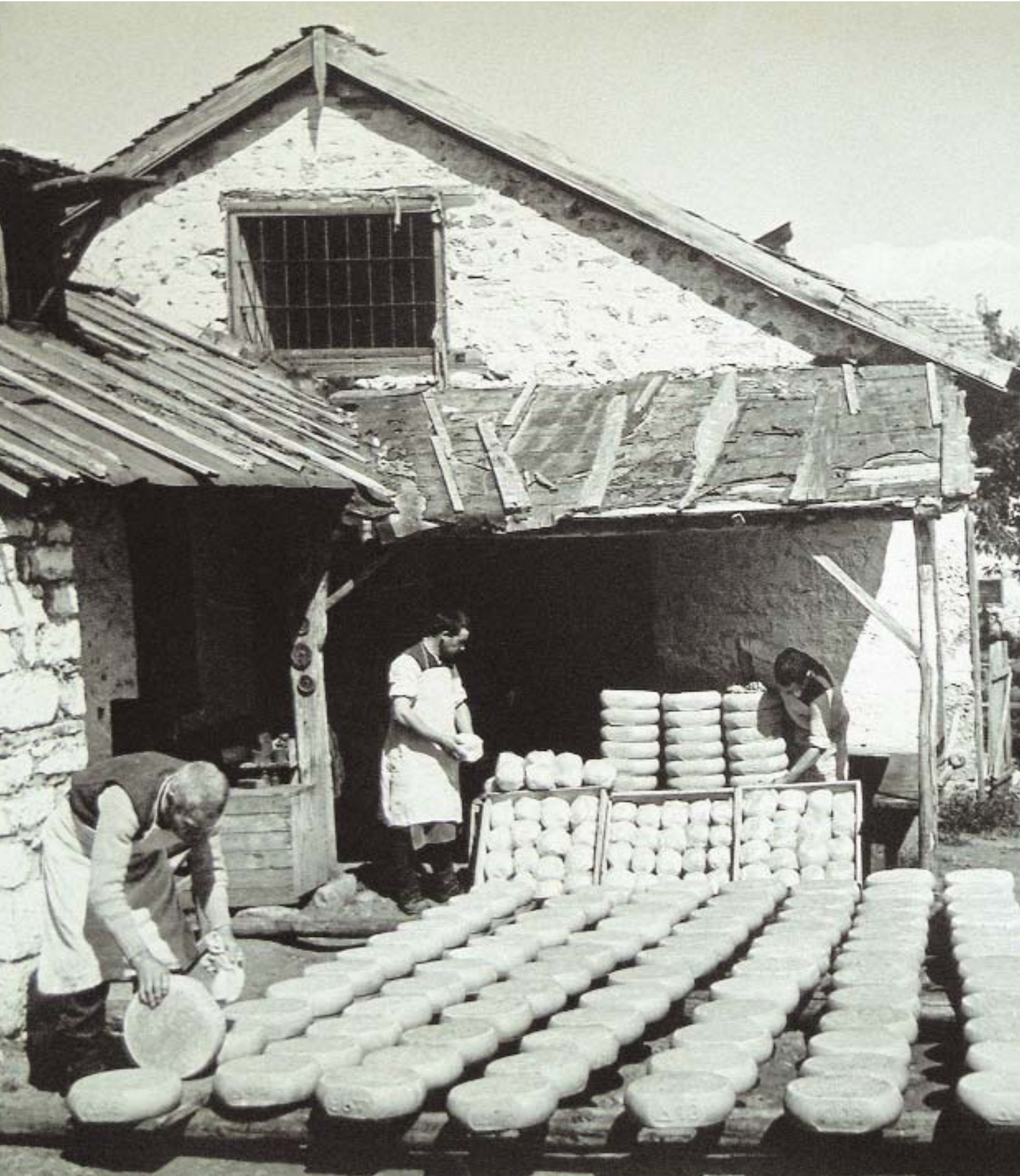


The differences between revenues and expenditures in some years are due to the collection of claims from donors in the following year (for example, 1999), or to booking of claims for the next year in the current year (for example, 2003).

3

**ORGANISATION
AND DEVELOPMENT**





MCIC BODIES

MCIC was founded on 14 December 1993. The seven founders (see the part on the establishment of MCIC) and three other members comprise the first administrative and management structure of MCIC: Assembly, Executive Board and Professional Service, managed by the Programme Director. MCIC was registered in 1994.

Elections for MCIC bodies were conducted in 1994 and 2000. In 1998, in conformity with the Law on Citizen Associations and Foundations, MCIC was re-registered as a foundation, and appropriate changes were made to the by-laws. This includes changes in the names of MCIC bodies into: Council, Management Board and Executive Office (managed by the Executive Director), and changes from member organisations to organisations with a consultative status of first and second category.

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS / WITH CONSULTATIVE STATUS

MCIC has no individual membership, but rather member organisations are constituents. At the beginning, MCIC consisted of ten civic organisations.

In 2000, the former member organisations became organisations with a consultative status of the first category, except for Homos, which attained the status of second category. Consultative status of the second category was attained by 11 other organisations.

ASSEMBLY / COUNCIL

The highest governance body of MCIC is the Assembly/Council, The Council has the following competencies: to adopt, amend and supplement the Charter; adopt general policy and strategy; to adopt the annual report on operations and the financial report, and receive the report by an independent auditor; to select members of the management Board; to decide on merging with another foundation and on MCIC membership in national and international associations and organisations; and perform other work in conformity with the Charter and general acts of MCIC.

REPRESENTATIVES IN THE ASSEMBLY/COUNCIL

The Assembly (meaning until 2000), was composed of representatives (two each) delegated by the member organisations, and a President.

ORGANISATIONS WITH A CONSULTATIVE STATUS

First category:

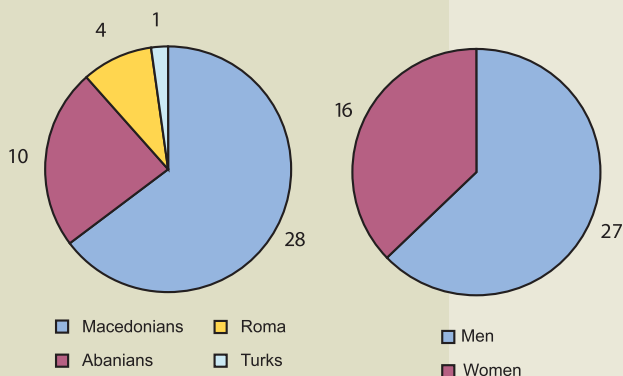
- ▶ Movement of Ecologists of Macedonia (MEM)
- ▶ Humanitarian and Voluntary Roma Society 'Mesecina' (HVRŠ)
- ▶ Youth Council of Macedonia (YCM)
- ▶ Women's Organisation of Macedonia (WOM)
- ▶ Union of the Albanian Woman of Macedonia (UAWM)
- ▶ Union of Women's Organisations of Macedonia (UWOM)
- ▶ Pensioners Union of Macedonia (PUM)
- ▶ Student Union at the University 'Sv. Kiril i Metodij' (SUUKM)
- ▶ Human Rights Forum (HRF) (until 1996)
- ▶ Helsinki Committee on Human Rights of Macedonia (HCHR)
- ▶ Homos
- ▶ El Hilal (since 1996)

Second category:

- ▶ Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality (ESE)
- ▶ Roma Organisation of Women of Macedonia 'Daja' - Kumanovo
- ▶ First Children's Embassy in the World 'Megjaši'
- ▶ Roma Humanitarian and Volunteer Society (RHVS) 'Phurt'
- ▶ Women's Organisation 'Horizont' - Krivogaštani
- ▶ Ecological Society 'Zletovica' - Probištip
- ▶ Ecological Society 'Izgrej' - Sveti Nikole
- ▶ Ecological Society 'Vinožitito' - Štip
- ▶ Single Mothers Society - Štip
- ▶ Union of the Blind in the Republic of Macedonia
- ▶ Organisation of Roma Youth 'Anglunipe'

Organisations where no location is listed have their seat in Skopje.

Graph 10. Composition of the Assembly/Council in the period 1994 to 2003, by ethnic belonging and gender



For the elections in 2000, the procedure for electing representatives in the Council was changed, whereby thirteen members were elected from the candidates nominated by the organisations, seven are individual members (experts in the areas of MCIC activity), four representatives from churches and religious communities in Macedonia and one member from the Executive Office.

A total of 44 persons were elected to the Assembly/Council from 1994 to 2003. The Assembly and Council held a total of 16 sessions, at which 79 issues were reviewed.

▼ Session of the MCIC Council in 2000



Table 17. Composition of the Assembly/Council in the period 1994 to 2003

Members	Organisation	Term	
Mirko Spiroski	President	1994	2004
Andon Markovski	SPM	1994	2004
Aneta Andonova	MSM	1994	2000
Biqana Stevanovska	DEM	1994	2000
Boris Davitkov	FCP	1994	1996
Vaska Kalinska	SOZM	1994	2000
Vite Isjanovski	SPM	1994	2000
Zoran Kostov	MSM	1994	2004
Ivan Tulevski	FCP	1994	1996
Jordanka Kusitasevska	OZM	1994	2000
Muhamed Toci	Mesecina	1994	2004
Meto Jovanovski	HKCP	1994	2004
Mitko Krzovski	SSUKM	1994	2000
Mucereme Rusi	SAZM	1994	2004
Nadezda Gerasimova	OZM	1994	2000
Nurije Kadriu	SAZM	1994	2004
Ramadan Sejfulov	Homos	1994	2000
Ramadan Qani	Mesecina	1994	2000
Savka Todorovska	SOZM	1994	2000
Seljam Arifi	Homos	1994	2000
Sašo Strezoski	SSUKM	1994	2000
Sveto Stefanovski	DEM	1994	2000
Hatixhe Isljami	HKCP	1994	2000
Abdurauf Pruthi	El Hilal	1994	2004
Bexhihudin Shehapi	El Hilal	1994	2000
Bukurie Bajrami	SAZM	1994	2004
Teuta Krašnica-Cuckova	-	1994	2004
Vasilka Bož inovska	OZM	1994	2004
Daniela Stojanova	DEM	1994	2004
Biljana Gerasimovska	ESE	1994	2004
Nataša Gaber	-	1994	2004
Dilbera Kamberovska	Daja	1994	2004
Zejnula Fazliu	-	1994	2004
Dejan Bojkovski	MSM	1994	2004
Dime Velkovski	SSUKM	1994	2004
Aleksandar Mihajlovski	EDZ	1994	2004
Ivan Tulevski	-	1994	2004
Dragi Kostadinovski	MPC	1994	2004
Mihail Cekov	EMC	1994	2004
Gjoko Gjorgjeski	MPC	1994	2004
Dimce Mitreski	MCIC	1994	2004
Samet Skenderi	Mesecina	1994	2004
Gjuner Ismail	-	1994	2004

EXECUTIVE/MANAGEMENT BOARD

Members of the Assembly/Council elect a 10-member Executive/Management Board. A total of 19 persons have been members of the Board during this ten-year period. The Management Board of MCIC: adopts future and annual work programmes and plans; adopts financial plans; adopts the annual financial report; decides about MCIC funds within the framework of the financial plan; decides on establishing awards and recognitions; adopts acts that regulate the operation of the executive Office; appoints an Executive Director; establishes companies and other legal entities.

The Executive/Management Board held 147 sessions and has processed 1358 agenda items.

▼ Elections for the Management Board, 2000



BIOGRAPHIES

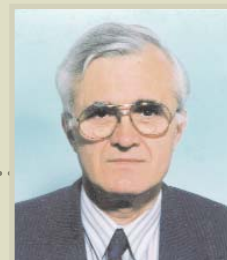
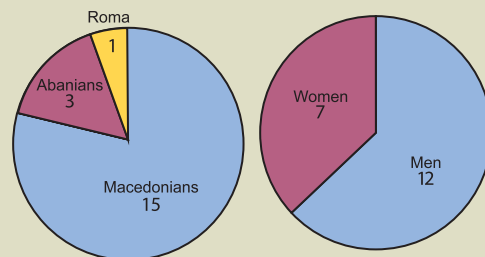
Prof. Dr. Mirko Spiroski, born on 03.02.1948 in the Tetovo village of Lešok. After graduation at the Faculty of Medicine at the University 'Sv. Kiril i Metodij' in Skopje, he continued his education and today he works as a doctor in medical sciences, assistant professor in physiology at the Work Unit Institute on Physiology, BOAL Institutes at the Faculty of Medicine - Skopje. During his many years of professional engagement, he has been active as president of the Independent Trade Unions for Health, Pharmacy and Social Welfare of the Republic of Macedonia. After the constitutional assembly of MCIC, he became the president of the Executive Board, which later was renamed into the Management Board. Since 1998, he is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Macedonian Enterprise Development Foundation. He speaks fluent English.

Dr. Ivan Tulevski, born on 11.06.1938 in Skopje. By profession he is a doctor, specialist in neuro-psychiatry. For years he was manager of the Day Care Hospital for Alcoholism and Other Addictions at the Hospital for Nervous and Mental Illnesses 'Bardovci' - Skopje, and now he is retired. He is one of the founders of MCIC.

Table 18. Composition of the Executive/Management Board in the period 1994 to 2003

Members	Term	
	1993	2004
Мирко Спироски	1993	2004
Димитрије Бужароски	1993	1994
Зорица Велковска	1993	1994
Иван Тулевски	1993	2000
Љубомир Цуцуловски	1993	1994
Нано Ружин	1993	1994
Наташа Габер-Дамјановска	1993	2004
Савка Тодоровска	1993	1994
Сашо Клековски	1993	1994
Теута Крашница-Чучкова	1993	2004
Драги Костадиновски	1994	2004
Зејнула Фазлиу	1994	2004
Зоран Костов	1994	2000
Михаил Цеков	1994	2004
Мухамед Точи	1994	2004
Нурије Кадриу	1994	2000
Букурије Бајрами	2000	2004
Билјана Герасимовска-Китановска	2000	2004
Свето Стефановски	2000	2004

Graph 11. Composition of the Executive/Management Board in the period 1994 to 2003, by ethnic belonging and gender





... **Prof. Dr. Nano Ružin**, born on 31.07.1952 in Skopje. After attaining the title of doctor of political sciences, he worked as manager of the Institute for Social Work and Social Policy, at the Faculty of Philosophy - Skopje. He is currently ambassador of the Republic of Macedonia to NATO. He is one of the founders of MCIC.



... **Dr. Nataša Gaber**, born on 09.10.1962 in Skopje. She is a doctor of political sciences. She works as research advisor at the Institute for Sociological and Political and Legal research. Since the establishment of MCIC she has been a member of the Management Board. She speaks fluent Greek, English and French. She is one of the founders of MCIC.



... **Savka Todorovska**, born on 09.08.1948 in Veles. After completing her education, she worked as journalist at the Macedonian Television. After her term as President of the Women's Organisation of Skopje, she became President of the Union of Women's Organisations of Macedonia. She is one of the founders of MCIC.

Sašo Klekovski, (see the section on Executive Director).



... **Teuta Krašnica-Cuckova**, born on 28.10.1943 in Priština. Completed the Faculty of Law at the University 'Sv. Kiril i Metodij' in Skopje. She began her professional career in 'Studentski Zbor' (Student Word), and continued at the Macedonian Radio - Radio Skopje (Second Programme), as editor-commentator in the health sector. She is a renowned activist in several civil associations: Civic Peace Movement, 'životna Iskra' (Spark of Life), FeBaNGO. She speaks fluently French and Serbian. She is one of the founders of MCIC.

Prof. Dr. Dimitrije Bužarovski, born on 08.08.1952 in Skopje. Doctor of sciences, professor at the Faculty of Music Arts - Skopje.

Velkovska Zorica, born on 29.11.1952 in Skopje. Completed the Faculty of Economics, Deputy President of the Independent Trade Unions on Health, Pharmacy and Social Welfare of the Republic of Macedonia.

Prof. Dr. Ljubomir Cuculovski, born on 01.09.1948 in Bitola. Doctor of sciences at the Faculty of Philosophy, assistant professor at the Faculty of Philosophy - Institute for Philosophy - Skopje.



... **Dragi Kostadinovski**, born on 31.08.1950 in Skopje. After graduating at the Faculty of Theology, he continued his education at the Faculty of Philosophy, where he attained the title of Master of Science. He continued his professional engagement at the Macedonian Orthodox Church (MOC) as priest and general secretary of the Humanitarian Organisation 'Milosrdie' (Mercy). He speaks fluently English, French and Russian.

Zejnula Fazliu, born on 28.08.1955 in v. Kondovo. After completing the Faculty of Theology 'Al-Alhail' in Cairo, he started working for the Islamic Religious Community in Macedonia. He is fluent in Arabic.



Zoran Kostov, born on 11.05.1964 in Skopje. He graduated in Studies for Journalists at the Faculty of Law in Skopje. His master's degree was on studies of communications at the Institute for Sociological and Political-Legal Research in Skopje. He is doing his doctoral studies on communications at the Faculty of Law in Skopje. He is employed at NIP 'Studentski Zbor' (Student's Word) in Skopje since 1988. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Macedonian Enterprise Development Foundation (1998-2003).....



Mihail Cekov, born on 05.08.1947 in Strumica. After completing the Theological Seminarium at a German college, he became employed at the Evangelist-Methodist Church, as a supervisory elder. He speaks fluent German.



Muhamed Tochi, born on 01.07.1972 in Gostivar. After completing his education, he is active in the civic sector. He came to the post of member of MCIC's Management Board from the Roma Humanitarian and Volunteer Society 'Mesecina', where he is a coordinator in the human rights sector.



Nurie Kadriu, born on 01.03.1945 in Tetovo. She graduated at the Pedagogical Academy, Group for Mathematics and Physics, at the University 'Sv. Kliment Ohridski', Skopje. After completing her studies at the faculty, she started working as a teacher. Since 1994 she is the president of the UAWM branch for Skopje. In 1999 she was one of the founders of SAW 'Perspektiva' (Outlook) and she has the function of vice-president of the Society.....



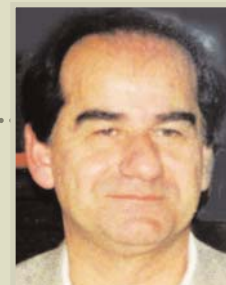
Bukurije Bajrami, born on 07.06.1952 in Rostuše. Last-year student at the Faculty of Medicine in Skopje. She came to MCIC's Management Board from the Union of the Albanian Woman in Macedonia. She is also an activist at the Union of the Albanian Woman in Macedonia.



Biljana Gerasimovska-Kitanovska, born on 26.02.1969 in Skopje. By profession, she is a doctor in general medicine at the Nephrology Clinic. She is fluent in English, French, German and Italian. She is president of the Women's Organisation for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women - ESE. She has worked in the areas of: women's health, creating networks of health workers and non-governmental organisations, Fight Against Family Violence, and evaluation of projects and programmes of non-governmental organisations. She is the author of several books on the above mentioned areas of activity.....



Sveto Stefanovski, born on 11.03.1947 in v. Dobrenoec in the Kicevo area. He graduated at the Faculty of Philosophy, University 'Sv. Kiril i Metodij' in Skopje. He is employed as editor-in-chief of the journal 'Ekologija' (Ecology). For years he has been a member of the Movement of Ecologists of Macedonia.



EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Table 19. Review of personnel

Associates per group	Период
Executive Director	
Saso Klekovski	1993 -
Development	
Roman Papadimitrov	1994 - 2003
Aco Kocovski	1994-2001
Herbi Elmazi	1994-1996
Dimce Mitreski	1994 -
Qupco Kocovski	1994-1999
Dusica Boskovska	1994-1997
Mirjana Fotevska - Elefterijadis	1999-2001
Nikola Ikonov	1999-2001
Vladimir Lazovski	1999 -
Nahida Zekirova	2000 -
Aleksandar Gumberovski	2001 -
Aleksandar Jovanovski	2002 -
Emergency Operations 1999	
Albert Hani	1999-2000
Aleksandar Curciev	1999-2001
Elisaveta Bejkova	1999-2001
Goce Solev	1999-2001
Goran Velkovski	1999-2001
Sinisa Stojkoski	1999-2001
Kostadin Gramatkov	2001
Employment	
Tejtjana Lazarevska	1997 -
Joana Josifovska	1999 -
Emina Mahmutovik	1999-2001
Hamsi Behluli	1999-2001
Lara Krsteva-Icokaeva	1999-2001
Qupco Tosev	1999-2003
Vasil Minoski	1999-2001
Vlatko Danilov	2000
Lazar Nedanoski	2001 -
Afrodita Musliu	2001 -
Sonja Jovanovska	2002
Lirim Hajredini	2003 -

The Executive Office performs management, as well as professional and administrative tasks, i.e. it carries out daily operations, services MCIC bodies and administers the policy and programmes approved by them



▲ JThe core of the Executive Office since 1994: Herbi Elmazi, Sašo Klekovski, Aco Kocovski and Dimce Mitrevski.

Civic Society	
Lucija Popovska	1995-1999
Suncica Sazdovska	1998 -
Valentina Ciceva	1994 -
Besim Nebiu	1995-1998
Goran Buldioski	1998-1999
Liljana Alceva - Jovanovska	1998 -
Fatmir Bitiki	1999-
Kalin Babusku	1999-2003
Neda Maleska -Sacmaroska	1999 -
Aleksandar Stamboliev	1999 -
Kustrim Hoxa	2000-2003
Florent Bajrami	2000-2002
Emina Nuredinoska	2001 -
Krenar Kuka	2001 -
Emergency and Int. Programm.	
Aleksandar Krzalovski	1995 -
Aleksandar Stevanovski	1999 -
Salih Alili	1999-2001
Gorji Tane	2000-2002
Tahir Nuhi	2000-2002
Tanja Hafner	2003 -
Derviça Haxik	2003 -
Miodrag Kolik	2003 -

Information	
Gonce Jakovleska	1996 -
Aneta Trajkovska	1998-2001
Daniel Medaroski	1999 -
Jane Stefanov	1999-2001
Kresnik Ajdini	1999-2000
Darko Dimitrovski	2000-2001
Suzan Sakir	1999 -
Gramoz Sabani	2001 -
Filip Stojanovski	2001 -
Daniela Stojanovska	2001 -
Adis Rahik	2002 -
Administration and Finance	
Aleksandar Buzarovski	1995 -
Toni Gicev	1994-2000
Vesna Bogdanovska	1994 -
Danilo Mitov	1999 -
Marjan Dimitrov	1999 -
Mirjana Kunovska	1999 -
Milka Miova-Bozinovska	2000 -
Biljana Vucurević	2001 -

During the period 1999-2001, MCIC had offices in Djakovica and in Dragaš (Kosovo, FRY), where local staff was engaged: Eranda Kumnova, Rajmonda Purini, Ismet Isufi, Ardita Rizvanoli, Avni Kasumaj, Kushtrim Kuki, Mevlije Dafota, Leonora Kuludra, Petrit Zrza, Il Bardi, Abert Dafota, Vegim Nura, Astrit Dafota, Husein Ismaili, Avdi Ferizi, Edmond Kuludra, Arbana Zhara, Bujar Bunari, Afrim Rudi and Seat Nuhiu.

▼ MCIC staff in 2003



SAŠO KLEKOVSKI

He was born on 13 April 1966 in Skopje. He is married to Ana, and has two children, Angelina and Nikola. He completed education at the Faculty of Medicine in Skopje. In addition, he attained professional education in management, gender studies and mediation. At the end of the eighties and beginning of the nineties, he managed the Union of Students of Medicine of Macedonia and the Student Union of the University 'Sv. Kiril i Metodij'. In 1993 he was one of the founders, and since 1994 he was director of the Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation. Since 1998 he is the representative of the Macedonian Enterprise Development Foundation. He is member in numerous committees, and at present he is also member of the Emergency Committee of ACT International. The Advisory Committee of DCA, the Management Board of 'Transparency' Macedonia, and the management Board of the Open Society Institute of Macedonia. He has also attained international experience in consultancy missions to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Georgia.



PAVEL ROMAN PAPADIMITROV

He was born on 21 March 1965 in Zgorželec, Poland. He graduated at the Faculty of Economy in Skopje - 'Economic Policy and Development'. In 1996, at the Sally Oaks College in Birmingham, England, he completed the advanced course on 'Management and Development', and in 2002 he attained his master's degree at the University of Trento, Italy, on the topic 'Local Economic Development for the Balkan Countries'. He joined MCIC from the start, since 1994, as manager of the Development Department. He was responsible for the implementation of several programmes, primarily on village development and water supply. He is a member of the Board of the Award for Sustainable Development 'Gert Jan van Appeldoorn' and of the Assembly of the Women's Organisation ESE.



TETJANA LAZAREVSKA

She was born on 19 May 1961 in Tetovo. By profession, she is a graduated economist. She has prior work experience at the Youth Council of Macedonia. She works at MCIC since September 1997, as manager of the Employment and Revenue Generation Department.



SUNCICA SAZDOVSKA

She was born on 17 August 1970. She graduated at the Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy, at the University 'Sv. Kiril i Metodij' in Skopje. After completing her studies, she worked at the State Statistical Office until 1998 on the 1994 Census, as well as on research projects on employment, unemployment, health care and welfare, which the Statistical Office conducted together with the World Bank. She is employed at MCIC since September 1998 as project associate in the Civic Society Programme, and since December 1999, she is the manager of the Civic Society Department. She is responsible for planning, coordinating, organisation and implementation of programmes for strengthening civic society organisations in Macedonia. She has completed trainings on programme management, human resources management and on training and facilitation.





LUCIJA POPOVSKA

She was born in Skopje. She is Programme Director for Europe and Central Asia of Habitat for Humanity International; she lives and works in Budapest since January 2001. She cooperates with the Council of Europe for almost ten years as trainer and consultant. Her main focus is on management in NGOs and informal education. Lucija is part of the MCIC team since 1996, where she managed the Civic Society Development Programme in the period 1996-2000; she has worked on MCIC emergency programmes in Macedonia and Kosovo, and since 2000 she cooperates with MCIC on projects linked with NGO development in south-eastern Europe and on the Roma Education Support Programme. She has worked earlier at the Youth Council of Macedonia as the Secretary for International Relations.



ALEKSANDAR BUŽ AROVSKI

He was born on 19 May 1965 in Skopje. He completed education at the Faculty of Economy in Skopje. He has worked previously in Maktrans, Skopje, and Proleter, Skopje. At MCIC he is since 1995, at the post of Manager of the Finance and Administration Department.



ALEKSANDAR KRŽ ALOVSKI

He was born on 19 June 1969 in Skopje, and he is proud of his Galicnik heritage, where he married Klimentina in 1996. He has one child, Danail. He graduated at the Electro-Technical Faculty in Skopje. During this period he was active in three student civic organisations. On 1 December 1995 he was employed at MCIC as project associate in the Civic Society Programme. In 1999 he became responsible for the coordination of programmes in Kosovo, communication with partners from the ACT network, as well as for project cycle processes. Since 2001 he is the coordinator for emergency programmes linked to the Macedonian crisis and the post-crisis rehabilitation, as well as for MCIC's regional programmes.



GONCE JAKOVLEVSKA

She was born on 13 July 1969 in Radoviš. She graduated at the Faculty of Political Sciences at the University in Belgrade. After completing her studies, she started working for the local television in Radoviš, where she was editor for two years. She was employed at MCIC in 1996, as public relations assistant. She has participated in the creation of and works as editor in MCIC's printed editions. She is the editor-in-chief of Civic World. She is responsible for public relations and contacts with the media. She has completed trainings in programme management, human resources management, and facilitation.

GRAMOZ SHABANI

He was born on 10 May 1971 in Priština. He graduated in 1997 at the University 'Sv. Kiril i Metodij' on Art History with Archaeology. He worked at the Humanitarian Organisation El Hilal as project manager from 1994 to 1997. In 2000-2001 he worked at the Macedonian Information Agency as journalist/ translator. He started working at MCIC in June 2001 as project associate in the Macedonian Crisis Programme. Since June 2002 he works as information associate.



DIMCE MITRESKI

He was born on 5 November 1968 in Prilep. He completed the Faculty of Civil Engineering in Skopje. Previously, he was member of SUUKM, as the secretary for sport and social policy. He started working at MCIC in 1994, from the start. He was engaged in the Development Department as project associate for the programmes: 1994-2000 Village Water Supply (VWS); 2001-2003 Water Supply and Sanitation for the Communities (WSS) and Enabling the Communities and Institutions (ECI); 1999 Emergency Operations Programme (SHM) and Water Supply and Sanitation for the Communities and food support for refugees and host families; 2000 Post-Crisis Rehabilitation for Macedonia (PRM). At present, he is project associate in the Development Department (WSS and ECI programmes).



ACO KOCOVSKI

He was born on 26 July 1963 in Skopje. He has graduated at the Faculty of Architecture in Skopje. From February 1994 to June 2001 he was project assistant at MCIC (Village Development - Water Supply; Roma Empowerment Programme; Programme for Dignity of the Disabled and Marginalised; Primary and Health Education (PHE); Sanitation for Refugee Camps). In the period August 2001 to June 2002 he worked at Children's Aid Direct (CAD). Since June 2002, he is at ACTED.

VALENTINA CICEVA

She was born on 28 February 1969 in Skopje. In 1993 she graduated at the Faculty of Technology-Metallurgy in Skopje, at the Department for Basic Polymer Organic Engineering. After graduation she started working at the Statistical Office of the Republic of Macedonia, as associate in the department for collecting and processing data on university education in the Republic of Macedonia, where she worked until 1994. In May 1994 she joined MCIC as administrative secretary in the Administration and Finance Department. Since December 1999 she works in the Civic Society Department as project assistant/trainer.

BESIM NEBIU

He is Programme Manager at Habitat for Humanity International for Europe and Central Asia. He lives and works in Budapest since 2003. He works as trainer and consultant on topics linked with organisational and programme management and community development. In the period 1995-1998 he worked at MCIC as programme assistant in the Civic Society Development Department. In 1998 he worked as coordinator on the Community Development Programme at the Institute for Sustainable Communities. In 2001 to 2003 he cooperated with MCIC in the Capacity Building Network for South East Europe (CBN), as well as in the NGO training programmes. At present, Besim is a member of the Board of the MCIC Award for Sustainable Development. He graduated at the Faculty of Economics at the University 'Sv. Kiril i Metodij'.

LILJANA ALCEVA-JOVANOVSKA

She was born on 20 February 1970 in Veles. She is a technology engineer, graduated at the Faculty of Technology-Metallurgy in Skopje in 1993. At present, she is attending post-graduate studies in human resource management at the Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research in Skopje. In the period 1994-1998, she worked at UTP International in Veles, and at the same time, she was an active member of the Ecological Society 'Vila Zora' from Veles. She started work at MCIC in 1998 as a trainer at the Civic Society Department. She participated in the design and delivery of training to civic society associations, including also associations of entrepreneurs and representatives of local self-government.

VLADIMIR LAZOVSKI

He was born in Skopje on 9 August 1997. He is a student of journalism at the Law Faculty in Skopje. His first work experience he attained at MCIC, starting in May 1999, first as translator/junior project associate, and since March 2001, he is project associate at the Development Department. He speaks fluent English and German. At present, he is engaged in the programmes: Applied Education for Young Roma, Pages for Mutual Understanding, and SOS - Line Against Drugs.

FATMIR BYTYQI

He was born on 26 October 1975 in Skopje, and graduated at the Faculty of Economy at the University in Tirana in 1999. He started at MCIC without any previous work experience, almost directly after graduation in August 1999. In the beginning, he was engaged as project associate, and after participating in several trainings at MDF Holland,, amongst which is also Integrated Project Cycle Management, he started to work as trainer. In the period March 2002 - December 2003, he was engaged as MCIC's representative in Kosovo, for the Kosovo Transition Programme. At present, he works as trainer at MCIC, in the Civic Society Department, as a coordinator for the Strengthening Partners in Kosovo Programme.

KALIN BABUŠKU

He was born on 5 April 1973 in Basel, Switzerland. He graduated at the Faculty of Dentistry at the University 'Sv. Kiril i Metodij' in Skopje. He started work at MCIC in November 1999 at the Civic Society Department as project associate. He is responsible for planning, coordinating and implementing projects and programmes on strengthening civic organizations in Macedonia and promoting the civic sector. He worked at MCIC until September 2003. He is now employed at the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

JOANA JOSIFOVSKA

She was born in Skopje on 19 August 1970. She completed her studies at the Faculty of Economy in Skopje and attained the title of graduated economist. In 1994-1996 she worked at Tranzit (Bogdanci), representative office in Skopje, as administrative and financial officer. In the period 1996-1999 she worked at Makprimat DOOEL, Skopje, as manager of the export-import sector. Since 1999 she works at MCIC in the Employment Department, as project associate.

NEDA MALESKA-SACMAROSKA

She was born on 18 June 1971 in Skopje. She graduated psychology at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje and she is attending post-graduate studies at the Institute for Social Work and Social Policy at the Faculty of Philosophy in Skopje. In the period 1996-1998 she worked in the areas of marketing and production. In 1999 she started working at MCIC, on the concepts of gender equality and capacity strengthening of women's NGOs, at the Civic Society Department. At the same time, she also works on delivering trainings in the area of human resource management and facilitation methods and techniques.

ALEKSANDAR STAMBOLIEV

He was born on 28 January 1977 in Skopje. He graduated at the Faculty of Economy in Skopje in 2001. In the period 1996-1999, he was an active member of AIESEC in Skopje. In 1997-1999, he worked in the areas of marketing and production, when he prepared several projects on market research and marketing. He started working at MCIC in December 1999, as administrative secretary at the Administration and Finance Department, until July 2002. Since then, he works as project associate, event organizer in the Group for Cross-Sector and Regional Programmes, and he is the responsible associate for the Award for Civic Society and Democracy and the Award for Sustainable Development. He was also engaged in the second and third NGO Fair - Civic Society Forum in Macedonia.

DANIEL MEDAROSKI

He was born in Ohrid on 24 May 1973. He graduated at the University 'Sv. Kiril i Metodij' in Skopje, at the Faculty of Philology, in the group for Macedonian language and English language and literature. He is an editor in Macedonian language. He has worked at the publishing house NIP 'Prosveten Rabotnik', the Save the Children Fund from Great Britain, and OSCE. He is a volunteer at NPEC Erina, Skopje. At MCIC he is since 1999, in the Information Department.

NAHIDA ZEKIROVA

She was born on 8 April 1970 in Berovo. She completed studies on applied and educational physics at the Faculty of Natural and Mathematical Sciences in Skopje, i.e. at the Physics Institute. Her first experiences and familiarisation with a vision of non-governmental work she attained by establishing and doing volunteer work in the Roma Youth Organisation Anglunipe. Since October 2000, with the start of the Applied Education for Young Roma Programme, she started working for MCIC as project associate.

EMINA NUREDINOSKA

She was born on 16 April 1974 in v. Žirovnica. She graduated at the Faculty of Law in Skopje in 1997, and she is currently a post-graduate student on international law at the Faculty of Law in Skopje. Since June 2001, she is employed at MCIC as project associate. In the period July to December 2001, she was directly involved in MCIC activities linked with support to internally displaced persons. At the Civic Society and Democracy Department she works in the segment of lobbying and representation, towards strengthening the institutional capacity of civic organisations and creating an enabling environment for them.

LAZAR NEDANOSKI

He was born on 3 January 1976 in Ohrid. He completed the Faculty of Tourism in Ohrid, and is now attending post-graduate studies on monetary economy at the Faculty of Economy in Skopje. He is employed at MCIC since June 2001. Until February 2002, he worked in the Civic Society Department as project associate, in the NGO Strengthening Programme. Since February 2002, he is working in the Employment Promotion Department as project associate for MEDF programmes, i.e. on the Micro and Small Enterprises Programme until June 2002, and now on the Financial Services Programme.

CONSORTIUM

The Consortium for Macedonia was established in 1995. The table below shows the members of this organisation.

Table 20. Member agencies of the Consortium

Organisation/Name	Country		Кратенка	Период
World Council of Churches	World Council of Churches	Netherlands	WCC	1995 -
Dutch Interchurch Aid	Dutch Interchurch Aid	Netherlands	DIA	1995 - 1996
Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation	Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation	Netherlands	ICCO	1995 -
Dan Church Aid	Dan Church Aid	Denmark	DCA	1995 -
Christian Aid, UK	Christian Aid	G.Britain	CAID	1995 -
Evangelische Entwicklungsdienst	Evangelische Entwicklungsdienst	Germany	EED	1995 -
Swiss Interchurch Aid	Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen Schweiz	Switzerland	HEKS	2000 - 2002
Norwegian Church Aid	Norwegian Church Aid	Norway	NCA	2002 -

Table 21. Review of members, per mandate

Претставници	Организација	Период
Alexander Belopopsky	WCC	1995 -
Jacques Willemse	DIA	1995 - 1996
Karel Rigters	ICCO	1995 - 2000
Grè Cornelius	ICCO	2000 -
Jørgen Thomsen	DCA	1995 -
Antony Mahony	CAID	1995 - 2002
Lisa Bournelis	CAID	2002 - 2003
Kate Bingley	CAID	2003 -
Caroline Kruckow	EED	1995 - 2000
Felicitas Menz	EED	2000 -
Madeleine Hirsch	HEKS	2000 - 2002
Anne Caroline Tveøy	NCA	2002 -

The work of the Consortium during this period was marked by the representatives of the member organisations responsible for Macedonia, the Balkans or the region of Eastern Europe.

In the period 1995 to 2003, the Consortium for Macedonia was chaired by three of the above mentioned representatives. Their biographies are presented below.

▼ From the Consortium session in 2001



Christian Aid

HEKS



JACQUES WILLEMSE
Chairman 1995-1997

Jacques Willemse was born on 28 January 1949, on the southern seashore of the Netherlands (Zeeland); he grew up on a farm, studied theology several years, but completed social work. He was active in the Movement Against Apartheid in the late sixties and worked many years as volunteer in the Dutch section of Amnesty International as editor of their publication. He has worked as social worker with refugees in the Netherlands; he was co-organizer of the Dutch Council for Refugees, and he is still active as member of the management board of several organisations of refugees.

He started working for Dutch Interchurch Aid in 1980 as associate for emergency (humanitarian) operations. He was chairman of a large humanitarian consortium, comprised of 12 church agencies, at the "Nose of Africa" in the eighties. He was co-organizer of national fundraising campaigns for large disasters, such as African draughts, the earthquake in Turkey, hurricane Mitch in Central America.

He was chairman of the Consortium for Macedonia in the mid-nineties.

Presently, he is senior adviser for emergency (humanitarian) and refugee issues at the Protestant Church in the Netherlands.



JØRGEN THOMSEN
Chairman since 2000

He is the coordinator of the programme of Dan Church Aid (DCA) for Europe since 1994. He is responsible for programme development and coordination of activities for crisis management, long-term development and representation in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). As a representative of an agency from Western Europe, he was involved in the establishment and development of national ecumenical platforms for social programmes in 7 CEE countries since 1994. He is a member of the Consortium for Macedonia since 1995, and its chairman since 2001. He is the co-author and editor of 45 publications on development policy, refugees, third world indebtedness and alternative economy, and ecumenical theology, during the period 1990-2002. He is the chairman of the working group Aprove CEE since 2000. In 1990-1994 he was the General Secretary of the Ecumenical Council of Denmark. He has a master's degree in theology and he is an active priest of the Lutheran Church of Denmark. He is 42 years old, married, with two children.



KAREL RIGTERS
Chairman 1997-2000

My name is Karel Rigters and I am 63 years old. I studied tropical agriculture and I have worked in Ghana (Western Africa) as agricultural expert among the savannah farmers for 13 years. My work included collection of fruits of the local farmers and training and supervision of village personnel for progress. This was a development programme of the churches in Ghana, in cooperation with the churches from the Netherlands and the World Council of Churches (WCC).

In 1975 I was invited to work for ICCO at the Africa Department, and later in 1993, I started to coordinate emergency and development activities in Central and Eastern Europe for the Protestant church organisations from the Netherlands, in cooperation with WCC. From this post I chaired the Consortium for Macedonia several years, until 2000, when I retired. A very significant part of the work of the Consortium was to establish and nurture links among the ecumenical agencies from the east and west. During this whole period I was completely convinced of the importance of discussions, exchange and solidarity among the civic organisations of Europe, which were gradually established. My current position is exactly in this direction. I work as agricultural consultant in Romania, and I was offered again to participate in certain aspects of agricultural work in Africa.







WHAT HAS BEEN SAID AND WRITTEN ABOUT US





Maybe the best way to describe MCIC is to quote what others have said about MCIC: evaluators, partners and associates, the media.

Besides the focus on results and transparency, MCIC considers the evaluation of implemented activities, as well as of concepts and methodologies as crucial to the development of the organisation.

The evaluations were an enormous experience for MCIC. First of all, because of the conclusion that the external insight into the operation of MCIC does not have to correspond with the internal perception. Furthermore, many new things were learned, which helped to profile subsequent activities. But also, in order to overcome the feeling, to perceive evaluation not as control, but rather as a mechanism to learn, whereby the items of disagreement give an excellent opportunity for discussing open issues and finding constructive solutions.

At the beginning, the evaluations were conducted by external consultants. Then, we went over to parallel internal and external evaluations, and lately, the practice is to conduct a joint (external and internal) evaluation, in order to use the advantages of the two aspects of evaluation.

1995-1997 Mid-Term Evaluation, MDF (the Netherlands) 1997

"The still young organisation MCIC plays a pioneer role in the quickly changing Macedonian society."

"One of the most important factors of success is the strong organisation of groups of beneficiaries."

"MCIC should play the role of facilitator: formulating an exact type of support and finding a third party for implementation."

"At MCIC there is a very strong management, with an accent on performance, a style that showed to be effective in the beginning phase of MCIC."

1998-2000 Mid-Term Evaluation, FAKT (Germany) 2000

"Directly and indirectly, MCIC achieves a positive influence at the level of individuals, of communities and of the society, because it establishes examples and models that influence the other actors in society."

"The legitimacy and justification of operations outside

MCIC - A LEARNING ORGANISATION

of Macedonia is accepted and a regional engagement is recommended - South East Europe, in the sense of capacity strengthening of local organisations."

1998-2001 MEDF Evaluation, Claus Cuiper (the Netherlands), 2001

"MEDF is a unique organisation, which created a unique approach to development strategies and systems that introduce the identified target groups of micro and small enterprises into the process of economic development.

MEDF established an efficient and effective model of organisation, without separate staffing, but with a management agreement with MCIC.

Notwithstanding the unpleasant effects of the crises in Kosovo and Macedonia, the programme succeeded to achieve its original goal (loans, beneficiaries, services).

The revenue exceeds the expenditures after the second year, and thus, the organisation became financially sustainable."

Strengthening Women's Organisations (JZN), Helen Dorbashire (G. Britain), 2001

"The programme deals with a clearly identified need - developing the capacity of women's non-governmental organisations to resolve issues related to gender equality."

"It was concluded that there is a need for non-governmental organisations involved in the programme to undertake the responsibility for developing programmes on gender equality and gender relations."

Strengthening Non-Governmental Organisations (PJN), Intrak (G. Britain), 2002

"It is not easy to find values, such as tolerance, difference, voluntary action, cooperation and peace, just one year after the Ohrid Framework Peace Agreement, but when they are found, they live within MCIC and among its partners."

"The various programme components: training, information, representation and lobbying are mutually complementary, and the procedures used in the programme are open and transparent. The programme practices the principle of variety, thus promoting the concept of tolerance and multi-culture."

Emergency Operation Programmes (MKC and RDP), Moccoro (G. Britain, 2002

The evaluation of the crises programmes introduced the phrase "icebreaking - gap filling" which rather clearly and precisely reflects MCIC's engagement.

EVALUATION OF ACT PROGRAMMES IN KOSOVO (2000-2002)

MCIC also participated in three evaluations of ACT, for the operations in Macedonia and Kosovo in 1999-2001. The main findings regarding MCIC were: innovation in designing support; and uniqueness in its own positive example on the possible cooperation of people with different ethnic and religious affiliation within the Balkan context.

Kosovo Transition (TKS), Moccoro (G. Britain), 2002

"A tailored approach is needed towards the needs for capacity building, for each supported organisation individually."

Gender perspectives in MCIC's mainstream, Helen Dorbashire, 2003

"Gender perspective was included in MCIC's mainstream since the beginning of its activity, but not at a systematic level in all sectors and programmes. It is recommended to train the staff on gender relations and to link directly elements of gender-sensitive development into the project cycle."

"It is necessary to expand the perspectives of equality (not only gender but also ethnic, religious and other) in the work of MCIC."

Capacity Building Network (MGK), Intrak (G. Britain), 2003

"The network is innovative and promising within the Balkan context, with a potential for sustainability and development."

"It is necessary to develop a common vision for the involved partners, in order to strengthen commitment and the understanding of each other, yet retaining the relatively loose structure."

"It is recommended to develop a regional concept for capacity development, based on local experiences, their exchange and discussions."

Revitalisation of conflict areas, FAKT/MCIC, 2003

"A higher level of development activities is required in the areas affected by the crisis in 2001, in order to balance the development at the level of the whole country."

"An integrated approach to local development should be applied, where the local authorities will play a key role, and the central government would increase its involvement, visibility and coordinative role."

"In regard to the existing tensions in the country, it was concluded that there is a need to develop an integration concept, which could be a role for civic organisations."

Applied Education for Young Roma (POR), FAKT/MCIC, 2003

"Involving civic organisations (Roma and other), primary schools and Roma communities in order to develop mutual trust and relations, is a good approach to improving participation by Roma children in primary education."

"It is necessary to strengthen the activities on representation and lobbying that would include state institutions in order to provide system solutions for the educational problems of the Roma."

Evaluation of organisational support methodologies, MDF/MCIC, 2003

"A discussion is needed on the understanding of the term 'capacity building', both within MCIC and the Macedonian context."

"Various instruments are needed for the levels of intervention - individually, organisationally, by sector and for the whole society."

Finally, this evaluation stressed the idea behind the title of this text - that MCIC is an organisation that learns.

PARTNERS AND ASSOCIATES ABOUT US

During this period of ten years, MCIC established communication and cooperation with a large number of actors:

- ▶ domestic civic organisations,
- ▶ local communities,
- ▶ state institutions and local self-government,
- ▶ university,
- ▶ media,
- ▶ suppliers,
- ▶ international partners and associates.

A fragment of what they have said about MCIC is presented here.

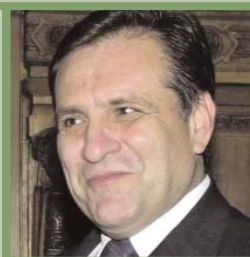
FROM THE FORMAL ASSEMBLY

At the beginning, I would like to congratulate you with this important anniversary and to express my pleasure that I can be here today on the occasion of the ten year anniversary since the establishment of the Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation.

I am especially pleased because many experiences connect me with MCIC, starting with the first Inter-Religious Conference in 1996, as co-organisers, through the humanitarian coordination during the Kosovo crisis in 1999, when I was Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, and continued communication as President of the country during our crisis in 2001, and the communications for overcoming the blockade of humanitarian aid for the crises regions, and three consecutive years, from 2001 to now, concerning the NGO Fair - Forum of Civic Society in Macedonia.

MCIC inspires with its vision, its readiness to involve all interests, objectivity, and the desire and courage to face the biggest challenges and difficult and dangerous situations. Therefore, I will always be open for cooperation.

Boris Trajkovski, President of the Republic of Macedonia



With sincere arch-pastoral and brotherly feelings, I congratulate you on this significant and successful ten-year anniversary.

I congratulate you on your past elevated and beneficial humanitarian role, on the impressive achievements and the courage with which you enter into resolving numerous issues. Congratulations also on your input to international cooperation of non-governmental and governmental organisations in our countries, with whose support ideas become reality, with love to mankind and humanity.

May God bless us to see other such joint anniversaries, festivities and joyous events.

Gospodin Kiril, Metropolitan of Polog and Kumanovo





I am especially pleased to be one of the main supporters for establishing MCIC. Macedonia and the region in general needed such a serious organisation, which showed to be successful not only during the crises in the region, but also under peace time conditions. Especially dear is the excellent and intensive cooperation that MCIC had during the entire time of its existence with the El Hilal organisation.

Abdurauf Pruthi, former President of HO El Hilal



'It is Whole When There is Everything' is the title of the campaign that MCIC launched and implemented at the time when it seemed that all the links of mutual understanding, tolerance and action towards common goals were broken. The campaign slogan describes in a wider sense what MCIC does - joining in common efforts for development and renewal, and involving rather than excluding people. These are basically the numerous constructed water supply systems, creating possibilities for new employments, development of civic society and democracy, and support to marginalised groups.

MCIC acts both as a leader and a partner, creates new networks for action, offers a model of engaged and courageous intervention, supports various outlooks in perceiving problems. This is a necessary component in building sustainable development, whereby each man, group and community play an active role, and where the expected results are defined, as well as the possibilities to improve living conditions.

After 10 years, the effects of MCIC's work are visible and inspiring. The commitment to work on promoting peace, development of civic society and support to groups that act in these directions, make the strategic goals of MCIC feasible.

Biljana Gerasimovska - Kitanovska, president of the association ESE



Greetings from the World Council of Churches and from many other friends and colleagues from all over Europe and wider.

Congratulations from 'Action by Churches', the international network of churches and agencies for humanitarian aid.

From a small and vulnerable baby, MCIC grew into a very respectable colleague and partner organisation. You grew into what we had hoped you would be: a professional organisation, but close to its roots; a multi-disciplinary organisation, without losing its direction; and organisation that is truly rooted in the various cultural, religious, social and ethnic compositions of people in Macedonia.

An organisation that developed its own policies, organised its own activities and which became a supporting organisation for other organisations in the region. Here, I would like us to remember Gert Jan van Appeldoorn, a pioneer who helped MCIC grow in the early nineties. He died a few years ago, but in many ways he is still with us to date.

MCIC's history is closely linked with the people of Macedonia during the last ten years. There were both accomplishments and falls. However, even during the darkest days, MCIC encouraged us, the friends abroad, not to despair! We are grateful for these encouragements. As you can see today, it was worth it.

Jacques Willemse

DOMESTIC CIVIC ORGANISATIONS

The Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation (MCIC) is a successful organisation, with a clear vision and mission, quality and successful staff, which marks visible and significant successes in the implementation of its programmes. I believed in this since the first day when it was established, and today I am happy and proud that I am one of the founders of this notable organisation.

Savka Todorovska, *President of the Union of Women's Organisations of Macedonia*



During these 10 years, MCIC became the synonym for an organisation that paves the road for creating a sustainable civic society. Even though there were difficulties on this road, the colleagues from MCIC knew how to deal with them. Not only was MCIC the initiator for numerous positive changes, but it also offered solutions, and all this together strengthened the awareness about the importance and the role of the NGO sector. By commitment and transparency in their work, MCIC won the trust of citizens and of civic organisations.

Dragi Zmijanac, *Executive Director of FCEW Megjaši*



As the leader of a small and young association, such as Polio Plus, I always felt sure and secure in the cooperation with MCIC. I simply knew that neither I, nor my associates, could "go wrong" in our relations with someone from MCIC's team. MCIC helped us with training, consultations and two small grants, but they helped us the most in the process of self-evaluation and self-development. It is no small matter to stand in front of a kind of giant of an NGO and not to feel at all small or inferior.

Zvonko Šavreski, *director of Polio Plus*



There are several civic organisations in the Republic of Macedonia that contributed to the development of civic society, and during the past 10 years MCIC was one of the leaders in this sector.

More than 10 years have passed in the development of the civic sector in the Republic of Macedonia. If we look back, then MCIC gave the largest contribution to development. It developed communities without hesitance, and helped them become integrated with society; it was a lighthouse for all of us in this sector.

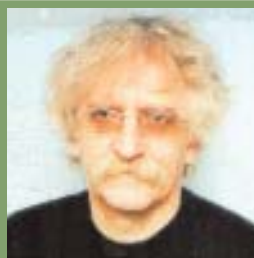
Ramadan Pini, *President of HVRS Mesecina, Gostivar*



Since I became familiar with MCIC from the very beginning, and as I followed its development, I am happy to be able to say that for me, MCIC is: an organisation in which I believe; which, in moments of doubt believes that it can succeed, which induces hope; an organisation that meets the various expectations and needs of citizens, in various environments, following diligently its mission; an organisation with which we proudly present ourselves outside of the boundaries of Macedonia.

Daniela Stojanova, *manager of the Secretariat of the network of environmental NGOs from SEE, MEM*





During these ten years, MCIC undoubtedly became one of the pillars of civic society in Macedonia. High standards in design and implementation of projects, openness towards smaller actors, focus on sustainability, readiness to build partnerships and an integrated approach both in the civil sector and in transgressing sector boundaries - these are just some of the qualities that I come up with when I try to define in short my opinion about MCIC. Furthermore, the cooperation between MCIC and FOSIM is one of the best proofs that the story about the fragmentation of the civic sector in Macedonia is just one more stereotype with which some people try to degrade the picture about pluralism and the level of development of civic society here.

Vladimir Milcin, Executive Director of FOSIM



Well "armed" people with progressive democratic - civic and altruist ideas, and in first place successful analysts and visionaries, who were the founders and creators of the Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation, contributed towards overcoming the ten-year stepped upward road to the pedestal of the non-governmental sector in the Republic of Macedonia, which is built and created by more than 5,000 members from this point of the Balkans.

Bajram Sulejmani, president of the Ecological Society Natira



Since it was established, MCIC profiled itself as an organisation that works on the development of civic society, and during its ten-year existence, it proved this. MCIC is an organisation committed to raising awareness and sustainable development, an organisation that adapts itself to the time and conditions. Something by which citizens recognise MCIC today is the support to the development of rural (village) communities, usually with water supply, and support to projects on health care and education, and, of course, support to the institutional development and advancement of the Macedonian non-governmental sector.

We clearly remember the virtue of MCIC to stand at the Blace border crossing and to help in accepting 350,000 refugees from Kosovo. The greatness and conscience of MCIC during this period was confirmed with the decision to direct its activities to Kosovo during this period, and to open offices in this province in order to help preventing the overflow of the conflict.

MCIC was 'guilty' for the first NGO Fair held in Macedonia, in 2001, and the goal of this event was to promote civic organisations and their cooperation, as well as improving relations with the public. The NGO Fair is today a regular annual event of the civic organisations in Macedonia. 'It is Whole When There is Everything' is the slogan of MCIC's campaign that wanted to promote the general, forgotten human values, by promoting tolerance, understanding, peace and stability in the country. This slogan remained popular and widely used. Happy tenth birthday, and wishes for a still bigger and faster development of the Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation, and thus, development of the Macedonian civic society.

Igor Tasevski, Centre for Civic Initiative - Prilep

LOCAL COMMUNITIES

We had our first contacts with MCIC at the beginning of 1994, when we started the implementation of two very important projects for the inhabitants of v. Slavej. The first project was the construction of a water supply system in v. Slavej. The second project was technical support to the apparel factory Slavej, the only larger facility in the municipality of Krivogaštani. This meant the future for work and the existence of 50 employees, predominantly women from Slavej and the neighbouring settlements. With its engagements and actions during the past 10 years, MCIC grew into a basic promoter and driving force of communal development in rural communities. The fact that until 1993 there were only 4 village water supply systems on the territories of the municipalities Prilep, Krivogaštani, Dolneni, Topolcani and Vitolište, and with the assistance of MCIC during the past 10 years, water supply systems were constructed in more than 40 villages, is a success and a result that deserves respect. I am convinced in the professionalism, commitment and persistence of the people that lead MCIC, and I am sure that also during the forthcoming period, MCIC will expand its successful operation in improving the quality of life in rural communities and on the development of civic society in Macedonia.

Nikola Kirkov, director of the factory 'Slavej'



MCIC is a non-governmental civic organisation and one of the few who succeeded to be present everywhere where there was a need for aid. It was present during the refugee crisis. It managed to deliver food during the armed conflict and it was also actively involved in the renewal of infrastructure facilities in the areas that were affected by the armed conflict in 2001. MCIC is also the main driving force of the non-governmental sector in the Republic of Macedonia, and it is almost the only one that works on solving the most vital problems in rural communities - water supply and sanitation. In the many years of cooperation with them, we have implemented water supply project in 5 villages in our municipality, and the population in these places will be eternally grateful for this. In cooperation with them, we learned how to solve even the biggest problems easily and quickly, and that sometimes even good ideas received from them can solve large problems. I congratulate them on their 10-year anniversary and I wish them successful work in the next period.

Ljupco Dimitrov, president of the Local Community of v. Dorfulija, municipality Lozovo



A problem that burdened the villagers of v. Gorno Kolicani, namely, a lack of sufficient drinking water, was the main reason why the Initiative Board for the construction of the water supply system in this village sought contact with this non-governmental organisation MCIC. Since the very beginning, the cooperation was in a manner that could be described with words of praise. MCIC prepared the project for the construction of the water supply system, it took care of the technical implementation, and closed the financial scheme for construction of the water supply system without the earth works. We can stress with pleasure that everything that was promised and agreed by MCIC was implemented in full and on time, without any comments on our side. Finally, we would not have anything more to say except that we express once again our enormous gratitude to MCIC and we wish them many successes in their further work. We would be more than happy if our country would have more such non-governmental organisations.

Femi Mustafa, president of the Initiative Board for the construction of the water supply system in v. Gorno Kolicani



STATE INSTITUTIONS AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT



MCIC is one of the pillars of development of the Republic of Macedonia in the field of civic society and democracy, working persistently, seriously and with commitment on finding the true relationship between the individual and the community. It works on unification, promoting cooperation between the various structures of society, in the interest of the citizens and the country. It acts as the pillar of the NGO sector, as a bridge between this sector and the state. It draws to the surface some 'forgotten' topics and aspects, supports marginalised groups and areas, giving the people confidence in their own capabilities and the power to change and improve the world, and with this, all of us.

I am a witness of this for years: as someone from the city of Skopje and the Cabinet of the Mayor, as an activist in the women's movement through the Macedonian Women's Lobby, and of course, as a regular visitor to the fairs of the NGO sector, which grew into a holiday of initiatives, creativeness, spiritual wealth and energy of our Macedonian society.

Liljana Popovska, *Vice-President of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia*



The role of MCIC during the past 10 years was significant in raising and developing awareness about what it means to be active in the civic multi-ethnic society.

MCIC's manner of operation introduced new standards in the non-governmental sector in Macedonia, hereby promoting the principles of solidarity, humanity and cooperation. During the past 10 years, MCIC was a pillar in providing assistance to all those who were in need of this. This implies non-governmental organisations and direct beneficiaries of their humanitarian aid - the citizens.

The Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation and its humanitarian mission were especially visible during the Bosnian and Kosovo crises and the crises in specific parts of Macedonia, in a manner that gives us the right to conclude that MCIC is an organisation that deserves full respect.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy had a successful cooperation with MCIC during the past 10 years, and it is of the opinion that MCIC is an example of how all humanitarian organisations should behave, operate and act.

Boge Cadinovski, *manager at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy*



The municipality of Karbinci exists for seven years, and we had our first contact with MCIC in 1997. My first impression was that this organisation of young people is 'not serious', which had taken upon itself to resolve serious problems. But it is good that this was not so, because where would our end be today? Thanks to the knowledge that MCIC has about the difficult life of villagers, the bad living conditions in the village, developed criteria, 'sustainability of projects', and the vision for resolving these problems, the biggest problem in the municipality of Karbinci was resolved - water supply to the settlements.

MCIC is a non-governmental organisation in the true sense of the word, which unites good people from the world and from Macedonia in resolving problems that mean life to people - drinking water. MCIC does not show off, but it works, and the results are felt by all the inhabitants of the Republic of Macedonia. The organised and transparent manner of operation, the determined criteria for awarding financial support, and for management and maintenance of facilities, and the trainings which it conducts, are an example for the other organisations in Macedonia.

Congratulations with the anniversary and may Macedonia have more organisations such as MCIC!

Boris Gavrilov, *Mayor of the municipality of Karbinci*

In our country there is a large number of non-governmental organisations that exist and act in the various areas of society.

During the past years, MCIC has become the synonym of a non-governmental organisation, which with its actions changes social events in a positive direction. Everywhere where the support to communities by the state was lacking or was insufficient, MCIC managed to supplement this existing gap through its support with high professionalism.

Through financial and organisational support by MCIC, we managed to resolve the basic problems in many settlements, step by step. The citizens of Bojane, Kopanica, Arnakija and wider, have felt directly the support in resolving problems with the supply of drinking water. The local government in the municipality of Saraj is deeply grateful for the support provided to the citizens, and also for the strengthening of the institutions of local self-government.

If the example set by MCIC would be followed by other citizen associations, foundations and state institutions in the Republic of Macedonia, the outlooks and the social development of the state would certainly be far more positive.

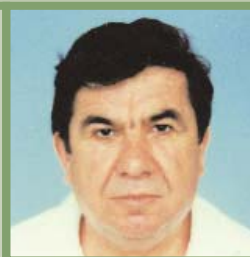
Imer Selmani, Mayor of the municipality of Saraj



UNIVERSITY

I know the Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation as an organisation that is involved in resolving hydro-technical infrastructure problems in the Republic of Macedonia. This is a relatively small organisation, but with a large capacity, and capable of implementing significant infrastructure systems. In the selection of facilities for implementation, besides special conditions foreseen in their acts, it also sets conditions for a clear definition of the obligations it undertakes, especially when it acts in partnership with other investors. It performs dynamic control during the implementation of facilities and tries to ensure that the work is conducted with quality and fully in compliance with the project documentation and the undertaken obligations. The beneficiaries of the facilities, with whom I had the possibility to talk to, have a high opinion about the seriousness, competence and performance of the employees of the organisation. This is also my conclusion about their work to date.

Prof. Dr. Živko Veljanoski, professor at the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Skopje

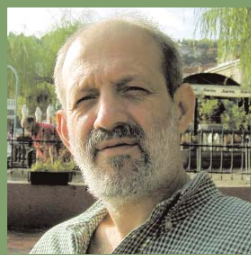


MCIC is the only non-governmental organisation in Macedonia, which besides implementing its own statutory goals, cares also about the status and situation of the NGO sector in the Republic of Macedonia. With its assistance, it was possible for the NGOs in the Republic of Macedonia to be involved in the enactment of the new Law on Citizen Associations and Foundations; also, with the publication of the Comments on the Law on Citizen Associations and Foundations, it made it possible for a large number of organisations to re-register in conformity with the stipulations of the new law and to continue their operation, without having to invest special funds. Their leading role in leading and developing the NGO sector in the Republic of Macedonia is reflected also in organising and promoting meetings with NGOs on changes and supplements to the existing law. At the end, I would like to thank them for the support they provided in promoting the new ideas expressed in the draft changes to the law, and at the same time, to wish them many such anniversaries.

Prof. Dr. Borce Davitkovski, professor at the Faculty of Law, Skopje



MEDIA



During the past 10 years, MCIC traversed a difficult road - in a country where the NGO sector cannot find its place, to sustain, and hereby to grow. Today, MCIC is at the top of non-governmental organisations in Macedonia. But, MCIC has yet to face the biggest difficulty - to prove that it can indeed sustain here. If at the next anniversary we conclude that MCIC is able to celebrate it with dignity, this will be a certain indication that the organisation managed to sustain, as well, at a time when the donors are withdrawing and you need to find the real domestic financing of activities that are beneficial for the society.

Iso Rusi, editor-in-chief of Lobi



I started working together with MCIC in such a way that I was not even aware of this; I simply thought that this was very natural and very logical. Even though I knew very little about MCIC until a few years ago, numerous activities of MCIC appeared on the pages of 'Utrinski Vesnik' in a very non-imposing and natural manner, but very useful and essential. Without the intention to arbitrate, to preach or to provide final solutions, MCIC managed in an educational civic manner to impose topics for contemplation, and thus to influence the awareness of our reading audience.

The page Civic World that is published in 'Utrinski Vesnik' is so natural that actually, it is a parameter of mass identification. On the other hand, the pages of 'Megjutoa' (However), which are published at the same time in several daily papers, are an obvious example of our differences and different perceptions. These differing views on the same events reflect relatively clearly our reality. With MCIC's intervention, every Thursday, an enormous reading audience in Macedonia can become familiar with the various interpretation of our reality, and at the same time draw their own conclusions about our mentality, professionalism and bias. The editors who work on this need slightly more courage and freedom to publish more prominently the differences regarding the same event. It may be the best to give the right to MCIC to edit these pages themselves, in order to avoid bias, but I am sure that they would refuse this, just like any serious non-governmental organisation.

In any case, MCIC is one of the most essential, non-imposing non-governmental organisations, which performs its work thoroughly, and which has achieved enormous successes. During these ten years, MCIC has become the synonym of civic society.

Erol Rizaov, director and editor-in-chief of 'Utrinski Vesnik'



It is not an 'easy task' to write a few words about the team that really knows and is able to implement professionally the foreseen projects, and thereby to achieve an excellent cooperation with journalists! The intention of the previous sentence is an effort, at least in short, to describe my years of experience on the cooperation with MCIC!

Talking professionally as a journalist, in the years of the armed conflict in the country (even though we continue to cooperate even now), I encountered MCIC as one of our main and most reliable contact in order to reach the areas in the country that were inaccessible until then!

The goal of this organisation was and still is to provide assistance to persons that were affected by the winds of war! For example, I found myself on such a voyage to the Tetovo village of Vratnica. Hours of waiting because of the blockades on the Tetovo-Jažince road, negotiations, insecurity... ended thanks to the team from this organisation, to the joy of all, and foremost of the persons for whom the assistance was intended. After 40 days of being cut-off from the city, the citizens of Vratnica and Jažince received food regardless of the ethnic community to which they belonged. Through its work, this organisation received its well deserved serious position among the many non-governmental organisations in the country!

Happy birthday and I hope for many years of mutual cooperation!

SUPPLIERS

We work with the Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation (MCIC) since it was established. We have many years of successful cooperation. Thanks to the trust that we developed mutually, we managed to create better living conditions in a large number of villages.

MCIC's manner of operation is an example and must be complimented - from problem identification, promoting village initiative, to complete implementation and problem resolution. The segment of water supply and sanitation, where we are involved as implementers, is a part where a large number of current problems arise.

The persons employed in this sector offer unselfishly their assistance in resolving each problem. During the construction, they are always present in order to supervise and control the project, until it is finished and put into operation. We are therefore hoping that for many years to come, we shall participate as a team in the implementation of MCIC's long-term goals.

***Ratka Kirovska**, director of Banko-Komerc, Veles*

Од a modern organisation of European ranking. It proved this with enormous skills and sense for work, and by starting many initiatives for supporting investment facilities in the area of infrastructure. At the same time, I use the occasion of the ten-year anniversary of its existence to wish MCIC further growth and fruitful work in the next period.

***Maliq Selmani**, Director of Imako*



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

MCIC is a well-known organisation in Kosovo and it will be remembered as such forever. During the most difficult times that Kosovo went through, MCIC was deeply involved in assisting. MCIC and its members were very engaged in assisting the whole region. Their engagement varied, and what they did especially concerns the so called emergency phase. The engagements were of a various nature, but very important.

If anyone goes through the region, he will notice everywhere traces left by MCIC. The traces do not have just a symbolic or material significance. Much more is the influence upon the feelings and thoughts of people. Simply, when you ask even the most common person about MCIC, he will tell you a lot about MCIC. The words of the people will almost always be the same: Thank you, MCIC.

Working as a member of the local staff at Djakovica, I had the possibility not only to work and to meet my obligations, but also to achieve a lot more.

Sašo, Aleksandar, Fatmir and all the others employed at MCIC, besides the investments and support which they made possible, they also invested in people. They started training us on various topics, especially in the area of 'civic society'.

As a result of this, KDC is one of the most successful NGOs in Kosovo. Everything started when KDC was established with a grant from MCIC. This was followed by a quick development. KDC was supported continuously and achieved this level where it is now.

I use this opportunity, which accidentally corresponds to the end of the year, to express my congratulations on the 10-year anniversary, with wishes for a great success.

MCIC is an international organisation that will play a large role in the further development of the region and Europe. I hope that in these processes, KDC will be together with MCIC.

Once again, congratulation!

***Ismet Isufi**, Executive Director of the Kosovo Development Centre (KDC)*





It was a great pleasure to work in partnership with the Macedonian colleagues from MCIC. I clearly remember my first meeting with MCIC. This was almost 3 years ago. I was surprised by the committed young staff at MCIC. I experienced a large professionalism, motivated staff, open people, to deal with all the difficulties that we were faced with in the region. MCIC faced many social and economic problems in Macedonia, and they addressed some of them.

Usually, they were pioneers in many actions, where these needed to be implemented, but they also responded very carefully to the needs of the most vulnerable.

During the last two years, in cooperation with other partners from the region, MCIC and EHO work intensively on developing and building network capacities, which is a unique thing in the

Balkans. I believe that this partnership will lead to the development of a large circle of trainers in the region, who will work together on the development of civic society.

Robert Bu, Project Coordinator of the Diaconal Centre,
Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation - EHO



Something that impressed me the most in MCIC is the institutional will - both, of the Management Board and of the staff - to be unique, even within the context of divisions. You managed to remain together during the Kosovo crisis, and even during the unrest in Macedonia, and you attained respect because of your objective decisions. This is a reflection of your professional competence and your individual human qualities. We, from the Dan Church Aid, are proud to have cooperated with MCIC as a partner and as an example of civic society in Europe.

Jørgen Thomsen, Dan Church Aid



Respected,

In the name of the World Council of Churches, I have the honour and pleasure to congratulate MCIC on its ten-year anniversary.

WCC is proud because it was linked with the establishment of MCIC and because it was involved in many phases of your work. Under the very often difficult and changing conditions, MCIC served consistently and effectively those who had the largest need in the Macedonian society.

MCIC was founded with a vision of multi-confessional and multi-ethnic society, because of which, its composition is an effort to reflect the relationship among the churches, religious communities and various ethnicities. WCC actively supports this dimension of MCIC's work, whereby we recognise the Centre as a unique platform for dialogue and cooperation between the churches and communities. We are especially grateful for this cooperation, which MCIC offered to WCC.

We hope that in the future we shall continue to see the growth of MCIC, as a central part of the changing open Macedonian society, where the various traditions, cultures and religions in Macedonia will find their space. WCC shall continue to work on the implementation of this vision in your country, together with MCIC and the churches and religious communities.

We are grateful for your commitment and leadership, as well as of the whole staff and management of MCIC. May God bless your work, communities and your whole country.

With the best wishes,

Alexander Belopopsky, Office Manager for Europe
at the World Council of Churches

As a former chairman of the Consortium for Macedonia, I congratulate wholeheartedly the members of the Management Board, the management and employees of MCIC, on a well done job during the past ten years. Looking back upon these ten years, one can only admire the comprehensive development of MCIC, especially in regard to the development of human resources in the Board, among the staff, as well as among the foundation, groups and organisations linked with MCIC. Indeed, the speed of things takes away the breath: MCIC walked the road from distributing humanitarian packages to a multi-disciplinary humanitarian and development organisation, with tentacles not only in every part of the territory of the Republic of Macedonia, but also in the region, and with numerous international contacts, through which it disseminates knowledge and implementing activities.

The following ten years will probably be the next goal. The challenges facing MCIC are enormous; I am sure that human rights, promotion of peace and advancing civic society will be high on the agenda. I hope that the time of armed conflicts will not come again, and that MCIC shall be able to continue with its development work, to be respected by the public, and to remain objective.

Just like in the past, flexibility will be required. It is possible that MCIC will start to work on new disciplines during the next years.

I am very sorry about one thing - ICCO decided to terminate its financial support after some time. Experience teaches us that non-financial support almost certainly leads to a break in contacts. It is always the intention to maintain contacts, but the pressure of everyday obligations does not enable implementation of these intentions. This is the most deplorable, but evidently, it cannot be avoided. On the other hand, there will be new agencies that will come up with new views, which may be stimulating for MCIC.

I greet you all and express my respect.

Karel Rigters, retired (former Director of the Europa Desk of DIA and ICCO)



Dear friends, colleagues from MCIC, members of the Management Board and the Council, congratulations on this important event in the history of your organisation.

I wish you all the best for the next period. When an organisation enters into its second decade, it already reaches the period of its maturity, which carries with itself a larger responsibility. Younger institutions and organisations will see in you a positive example.

This is nothing new for you; you already do this in a manner that deserves respect. We from ICCO are completely confident that also during the next decade, MCIC will be a leader towards peace, democracy and development in Macedonia.

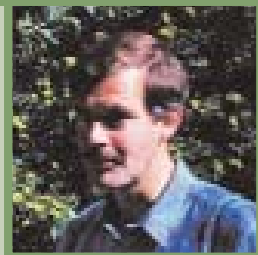
On my own behalf, I would like to add that I appreciated very much your friendship and hospitality during the past years, and I hope we shall continue this during the forthcoming years.

Grè Conelius, officer for Europe at ICCO



The best word that I can use in describing the spirit of MCIC is a word with historical meaning in the region: friendship. The sincere idealism and commitment, which are the essence of MCIC, live in the tolerant individuals that comprise the staff. This group of people is a team that showed a significant capacity to adapt and to develop during the past ten years, from implementing development and emergency (humanitarian) programmes, to a strong voice of civic society in the country. It was a pleasure to work with MCIC, where I learned a lot, and I wish you all the best for the next ten years.

Anthony Mahoney, former programme officer for Eastern Europe at CAID



In April 1999, during the chaotic Kosovo crisis, I was delegated by the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) to Action by Churches Together (ACT), with the task to establish a regional coordinative mechanism for ACT, with a seat in Skopje. I departed urgently to Macedonia and came to MCIC, the local ACT member from Macedonia, together with colleagues from several international ACT member organisations.

In the chaos of June 1999, MCIC managed to support and to implement several projects for the Kosovo refugees, together with the ACT member organisations, such as: managing a refugee camp, water supply and sanitation, support to host families, etc.

Later, the focus was moved to Kosovo to projects in urban, as well as to distant rural areas with minority groups and with Kosovo Albanians. In the period 1998-2002, ACT cooperated with MCIC at a very satisfactory level in Macedonia and in Kosovo.

I was impressed by the will to deal with an extremely difficult situation, against a lack of experience in similar crisis situations. The knowledge about and understanding of the local circumstances, the people and the culture, were very useful for all of us who came to help. And thanks to the young, committed and competent staff, all this functioned very well. With the increased knowledge about MCIC, I became more and more impressed by the work of MCIC and its approach to communities. In an environment with multi-ethnic and multi-confessional tensions, an organisation such as MCIC, which is based on various interest groups, may play an important role in developing relations, development of communities, exchange of information, etc. MCIC has this role.

MCIC helped politely the regional office of ACT in Skopje, organisationally, offering enormous support by its employees, and among them also by the executive director. From the time I have spent in Skopje, I have good memories, especially thanks to MCIC and its friendly and supportive staff. I developed many long-term friendships, for which I am very grateful.

I would like to congratulate MCIC on these successful ten years, and to wish it all the best in the years to come. I personally, and we from ACT, hope to continue the good cooperation with MCIC.

Thor Arne Prois, executive director of the ACT Coordination Office

During the past ten years, MCIC grew into an agency with a vision that exceeds the borders of Macedonia... A vision about the Balkans, exactly as it should be: multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, with inter-religious dialogue, cooperation and coexistence. All their programmes, regardless of their size, carry this motive, this light-motive. With more agencies such as MCIC, the Balkans would not need international support and it would be self-sufficient.

MCIC also contributed significantly to the establishment and rapid development of a local civic sector, which became one of the pillars of the country.

Lejla Dž aferovic, Appeal Officer at ACT International

MCIC works with a large number of organisations from Macedonia and from the Balkans since it was founded. These organisations express themselves very positively regarding their cooperation with MCIC, and especially about the accessibility of MCIC staff, whenever they need this.

MCIC programmes are relevant to the needs of the target group. MCIC tries to find those activities that are most needed in order to enable the beneficiary organisations to implement their own activities and to work with other donors and agencies.

MCIC is an organisation that learns. MCIC's staff is committed and has a huge will to learn and to expand their knowledge. The concept of a learning organisation is especially important for a developing organisation - in reflecting on what has happened, thinking what this would mean for the future, making new plans, and implementing the learned elements, within a continued process of systematic learning.

Jan Bruinsma, MDF consultant, the Netherlands

**ХУМАНИТАРНИ ПАКЕТИ ЗА 12 ИЛЈАДИ ЛИЦА
Еднократна помош за две
црковни кујни од МЦМС**

Македонскиот центар за меѓународна соработка, како резултат на зголемираното на бројот на раселените лица од денеска ќе почна со дистрибуција на 3.000 пакети хуманитарна помош. Помошта, првенствено, е наменета за раселените и стари лица од Тетово, како и за сите лица што имаат потреба од помош.

Пакети со храна и со хигиенски производи, како и кебиња за тие што имаат потреба, ќе им бидат поделени на 12 илјади раселени лица.

Во дистрибуцијата на помошта ќе бидат

вклучени и хуманитарната организација „Ел Хилал“, Мисионерско-хуманитарната дејност на сепската митрополија на МПЦ „Г.Акоција“, гостинарското здружение на Ромите „Месозот“ на гостинари на Македонија.

МЦМС еднократно ќе црковните кујни во црквите „Павле“ и „Св.Петка“ бидејќи дека како резултат на борба зголемен бројот на лицата што живеат во селото Луковица.

**ПРОДОЛЖУВА ДИСТРИБУЦИЈАТА НА ХУМАНИТАРНА ПОМОШ
Сточна храна, кебиња и
хигиенски средства за загрозените**

Македонскиот центар за меѓународна соработка (МЦМС), во текот на вчерашниот ден дистрибуираше помош во повеќе села во кризните подрачја. Така, во Лешок се дистрибуирани 100 вреќи сточна храна и заедно со претходната дистрибуција, што изнесуваше 20 вреќи сточна храна, се обезбедени по две вреќи за семејство.

Сточна храна е дистрибуирана и во селото Слатино, а вчерашната дистрибуција од 53 вреќи, заедно со претходната од 50 вреќи, е наменета за вкупно 50 семејства стички Македонци и стички Албанци, кои живеат во Слатино. Хуманитарна помош добија и жителите од селото Луковица. Во ова село на 60

ПОД ПОКРОВИТЕЛСТВО НА МАКЕДОНСКИОТ ЦЕНТАР ЗА МЕЃУНАРОДНА СОРАБОТКА

**ПРОМОВИРАНО СПИСАНИЕТО
„ГРАЃАНСКИ СВЕТ“**

Македонскиот центар за меѓународна соработка (МЦМС) вчера, во Домот на АРМ, го промовира списанието „Граѓански свет“ и ВЕБ-страницата „МК НВО свет“, посветена на граѓанското

општество во Македонија. Списанието го промовира Сашо Клековски извршен директор на МЦМС, кој притоа рече дека целта на „Граѓански свет“, што е наменето не само за невладините орга-



Саемот на НВО предизвика голем интерес

Околу 150 невладини организации активни во земјата од сите сектори, од вчераше се претставуваат на саемот за невладини организации во хотелот „Александар палас“ во Скопје. Саемот на НВО, кој првпат се одржува во Македонија, предизвика голем интерес кај граѓаните. Тој е обид за трансформација на НВО-секторот во Македонија. На изданиите штандови невладините организации илустрираат книги, постери, фотографии, информативни листови за нивното дејствување, уметнички ракотворби и друго.

Ова е одлична можност

(Б.И.)

ВЧЕРА ВО МЦМС

Доделени наградите за развој на граѓанското општество и на демократијата

Првата детска амбасадор на светот „Меѓаш“ и д-р Јосиф Тивневски и Кристина Димитров се првите добитници на наградите што, годишно, ги востанови Македонскиот центар за меѓународна соработка, кој членственичките тие во иднина да стајат и традиционални. Наградите се доделуваат на лица или на организации, кои најмногу придонеле во развојот на граѓанското општество и на демократијата воопшто, или во текот на минатата година, дале голем придонес во унапредување на јавноста и на информирањето, а се доделува и една награда за одржлив развој, во името на Херт Јан ван Алсдорп,

Наградите се доделуваат на лица или на организации, кои најмногу придонеле во развојот на граѓанското општество и на демократијата воопшто, или во текот на минатата година, дале голем придонес во унапредување на јавноста и на информирањето

преку Сашо Клековски, претседател на МЦМС, на замечаната конференција за новинари. Наградите, во вид на диплома и од паричен износ, официјално им беа връчени на самонамената свеченост во просторијата на МЦМС.

Првата детска амбасадор на светот „Меѓаш“ е добитник на наградата за граѓанско општество и кротија поради нивни себни придонеси во дните и во националните иницијативи за развој

ни, туку и за владините органи, медиумите и целата домашна и меѓународна јавност, е да ја подоинформирањето меѓуиските здруженија на шната и меѓународната

исанието ќе излегува месечно на 16 страни македонски јазик, а англиската верзија ќе достапна на ВЕБ-страницата www.mcms.org.mk/osvet.

J.J.



**го отвора патот на граѓанска доверба
Граѓанскиот сектор -
клуч кон демократијата**

Претставниците на медиумите се согласни дека НВО, многу малку се застапени во нив, во неопходно е и самите организации да се погркаат со своите активности да бидат доволно интересни за јавноста

НВЛАДИНИТЕ организации претставуваат значаен и клучен елемент во развојот на демократијата. Тие, одиграваат улога во унапредувањето на Република Македонија. Од изминатите осемнаесет години, без исклучок, неважно од внатрешна или од надворешна припадност, тие се потпираат на својата потреба, пред сè на материјалната, објективна и социјална. Ова, меѓу другото, го прават генерално секретар на добротата на претседателот „Граѓански свет“ Јосиф Тивневски, на професионалните медиуми на невладините организации.

Извршниот директор на Македонскиот центар за меѓународна соработка Сашо Клековски, кој заедно со Католничките служби за

заедно со Институтот за трајни развој, е организатор на оваа интердисциплинарна, смеа дека првпат НВО-секторот унапредувањето на јавноста во Македонија.

Самата организација, вели тој, не може да се вклопи што пакето НВО во организацијата е акордирањето, за да се соопостави на дејноста на јавноста.

Сепак, на одговорната треба да се вклопи НВО-секторот на јавноста. Сепак, првпат се вклопи во јавноста. Сепак, првпат се вклопи во јавноста. Сепак, првпат се вклопи во јавноста.

М.ДАНКОВИЌ

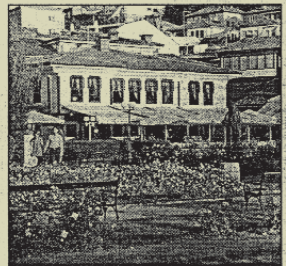
ВО ОРГАНИЗАЦИЈА НА МЦМС

Курс за родовите односи

Вчера во Охрид, во рамките на Програмата за јакнење на женските невладини организации, во организација на Македонскиот центар за меѓународна соработка, започна едномесечен курс за родовите односи и развој. Курсот ќе го спроведува претставникот од МЦМС и од женската невладини организација „Е.С.С.“ (Еманипација, солидарност и еднаквост на жените). Оваа програма инаку предвидува обука на вкупно 96 жени за период од две години, а со

овој курс ќе бидат опфатени 16 жени од невладините организации. Во текот на курсот на кој ќе земат учество по четири претставници од Организацијата на организациите на жени на Македонија, СОЖМ, Организацијата на жени од Штито и од Е.С.С. ќе бидат обработени повеќе теми. Соопшталното потекло на родовите односи, „Стереотипи, норми и предности во општеството“, Родово поднесба на трудот и тројната улога на жената, и др.

А.П.



Година	Организација
1994	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Municipalities of Sveti Nikole, Gazi Baba and Radoviš ▶ Humanitarian Organisation Homos, Skopje ▶ Scouts Unit 'Goce Delcev', Sveti Nikole ▶ Macedonian Orthodox Church 'Sv. Kiril i Metodij', v. Štuka, Strumica ▶ Roma Humanitarian and Volunteer Society "Mesecina", Gostivar (letters of appreciation also in 1995, 2002 and 2003, and to the branch in Debar in 2001)
1995	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Rehabilitation and Education Centre 'Sveti Naum Ohridski', Skopje
1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Local Community Gorica, v. Rakitec, Radoviš ▶ Union of Women's Organisations of Macedonia, Skopje ▶ Local communities of the villages: Vrbjani, Prilep; Štuka, Strumica; Brezovo, Demir Hisar; Velebrdo, Gostivar; Edrenikovo, Strumica ▶ First Children's Embassy in the World 'Megjaši', Skopje (also in 1997) ▶ Ecological Society 'Lipa', Kumanovo ▶ Humanitarian Association 'El Hilal', Skopje
1997	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Roma Society 'Cerenja', Štip ▶ Local communities of the villages: Suševo, Vasilevo; Mamutcevo, Veles; Gorno Orizari, Veles; Strišovci, Probištip
1998	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Local communities of the villages: Vldevci, Vasilevo; Nemanjici, Sveti Nikole ▶ Macedonian Orthodox Church (also in 2003) ▶ United States of America and the European Union
1999	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Student Union at the University 'Sv. Kiril i Metodij', Skopje ▶ Union of Agricultural Producers' Societies of RM, Skopje ▶ Serbian Community in Macedonia, Skopje Ø Single Mothers Society 'Aurora', Štip ▶ Humanitarian Organisation 'Mir', Skopje ▶ Republic Community for Cultural-Scientific Events of the Macedonian Muslims ▶ Municipality of Kondovo Ø Environmental Press Centre, Skopje
2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Women's Organisation 'Rosana', Rankovce ▶ Local communities: Sava Kovacevik, village Banjani, Cucer Sandevo; village Bojane, Saraj; ▶ Women's Organisation of the municipality Kriva Palanka ▶ Macedonian Orthodox Church (also in 2003) ▶ Union of Women's Organisations of Macedonia, Skopje ▶ Council of the municipality of Kruševo
2001	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ecological Society 'Flora', Kriva Palanka ▶ Student Union at the Faculty for Teachers and Educators, Bitola ▶ Municipality of Zelenikovo
2002	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Public Healthcare Organisation Psychiatric Hospital, Skopje ▶ Centre for Culture, Communications and Education of the Roma 'Svetla Idnina', Kocani ▶ Local communities of the villages: Ratae, Jegunovce; Belovište, Vratnica; Gorno Kolicani, Studenicani ▶ Municipality of Saraj ▶ ZORA - Joint Organisation of Displaced Persons from Aracinovo ▶ Union of Scouts of Macedonia, Skopje
2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Primary School 'Goce Delcev', Štip ▶ Local community of the village Peširovo, Sveti Nikole ▶ Union of the Blind in the Republic of Macedonia, Skopje ▶ Society of Disabled Persons, Radoviš ▶ Municipalities of Vratnica, Kumanovo and Mogila

