

2009



ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	Vision and mission
3	Goals and methods
4	Message of the management
5	Social cohesion and poverty reduction
5	Education modernization project
6	Macedonia without discrimination
8	Developed small and medium enterprises – MEDF management
9	Sustainable local and rural development
9	Local community development
10	Water supply for Jegunovce municipality
11	Good governance, participation and policies towards the people
11	Good governance in Macedonia
13	Deeply rooted and dynamic civil society
13	Institutional development of civil society
15	Accepted cultural diversity, interdependence and dialogue
15	Macedonia – model for dialogue of the cultures
16	Supported process of european integration and regional cooperation
16	Managing the Balkan Civic Society Development Network
17	Partnerships, Public Relations and Support
17	Relations with the Other Actors
17	Public Relations
18	Support – Sustainable MCIC
18	Campaigns for Mobilisation of Funds
20	Organization
20	Council
20	Governaning board
21	Staff
21	Executive Office
22	Independent auditors' report
23	Financial Report 2009

VISION AND MISSION

The vision of MCIC is peace, harmony and prosperity of people in Macedonia, on the Balkans and globally.

MCIC has based its vision on the universal principles of the civil society and participatory democracy, rule of law, balanced and sustainable socio-economic development, non-violence, respect, interdependence and cultural diversity.

The mission of MCIC is to lead changes with new and alternative solutions for resolving the societal problems that affect the other stakeholders and which become part of the mainstream.

GOALS AND METHODS

Long-term goals of MCIC are:

- social cohesion and poverty reduction;
- accepted cultural diversity, interdependence and dialogue;
- sustainable local and rural development;
- good governance, participation and policies for and from the people;
- rooted and dynamic civil society with influences public policies;
- supported process of European integration and enhanced regional cooperation;
- MCIC, independent and credible organization, capable for strong and effective partnerships and alliances based on equality (on national, regional and international level);
- MCIC is an attractive and innovative learning organization, with local roots and global view.

MCIC implements its activities through programme and organizational methods:

- Advocacy (information, raising awareness, education; policy making and influencing; monitoring and calling for accountability);
- Developmental support (capacities and infrastructure);
- Social- humanitarian support;
- Management and implementation.

MESSAGE OF THE MANAGEMENT

The negative effects of the global economic crisis were felt throughout 2009, but the end of the year began to show the first signs of recovery. However, the consequences were of lesser extent and delayed in Macedonia. One of the outcomes of the global economic crisis was the reduction of the budgets of foreign governments for developmental cooperation.

Macedonia continued its efforts for integration in the European Union. The highlights were the visa liberalization and the positive Progress Report of the European Commission. Although it was recommended to start the negotiations for membership, the EU Council of Ministers postponed the decision on this issue for the following 2010.

In 2009, MCIC had a portfolio of 27 projects and a budget amounting to MKD 88 million. The realization of the portfolio was good – 84% of the planned projects and 96% of the budget. The budget for 2009 was 17 percent higher than the one for 2008.

Two new programs started in this period: Institutional Development of Civil Society (IRG) and the Model for Dialogue of Cultures (MDK). On the other hand, two programs were finalized: Local Community Development (LRZ) and Campaigns for mobilisation of funds (KMF), while the program Water Supply of Jegunovce Municipality (VOJ) is in its final stage of implementation and should be closed in 2010.

In 2009 MCIC was committed for developing two draft laws – Law on Associations and Foundations and the Law on Prevention and Protection against Discrimination. The Law on Associations and Foundations is an integral part of the implementation of the Strategy of the Government for Cooperation with the Civil Sector. An important activity is the community forums implemented within the DUM program in the municipalities of Aerodrom, Bitola, Resen, Berovo, Radoviš, Konče and Karbinci.

Furthermore, this year brought the registration of two networks, initiated and established by MCIC: Macedonia without Discrimination (MWD) and the Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN). MCIC is an executive office for BCSDN, while Tanja Hafner Ademi from MCIC was elected for Executive Director of the network.

MCIC had enhanced communication and regular participation in the National Council for European Integration and had actively contributed for establishing the EU-Republic of Macedonia Civil Society Joint Consultative Committee, which held its constitutive session at the end of September in Brussels.

In the public relations department, MCIC has completely redesigned and promoted the new look of its web site, which now offers more information and is technically more advanced. This novelty was positively accepted by the users.

Aleksandar Kržalovski was elected for Executive Director in October 2010, thus completing the composition of the MCIC's Board of Directors.



Sašo Klekovski
First Executive
Director



Aleksandar
Kržalovski
Executive Director



SOCIAL COHESION AND POVERTY REDUCTION

EDUCATION MODERNIZATION

The overall objective of the program is to contribute to modernization of the elementary education in accordance with the EU standards.

Five primary schools were renovated in 2009 in the following rural communities: Konče village (Konče), Crnilišta (Dolneni), Nova Maala (Vasilevo), Kukurečani (Bitola) and Dobruševo (Mogila). This was one of the rare private donations, provided by Sokotab and its partners. This cooperation was established three years ago. The projects were implemented in cooperation with the municipal administrations and school management.

BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS FOR 1,200 STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

Around 1,048 students and 141 employees from five rural schools will study and work in improved conditions thanks to the Education Modernization Project implemented by MCIC in 2009.

The primary schools “Goce Delčev” from Konče and Nova Maala villages are two of the five schools in which MCIC has funded partial reconstruction.

In the school in Konče, the old windows and doors were removed and new ones were fitted. The students, teachers and parents are very satisfied with the improved conditions. “Children spend a lot of time in school and they should feel comfortable there”, says Danče Kostadinova, mother of Kristijan who attends the fourth grade. “My son is amazed with the changes”, she says. “The windows are better than the ones we have at home”, she adds smilingly. “I have two girls in the school”, says Slavica Včkova, “in the second and fourth grade. The difference is obvious, there is no draft, the children do not get sick so often, even those sitting next to the windows – the infamous sitting place,” says Slavica.

The parents of the children attending the school in Nova Maala had a different problem. The unfenced school yard jeopardized the safety of their children. Now, with support of MCIC a wall was built around the school yard. The participants cannot hide their satisfaction from the completed works. “We have done the work efficiently and successfully to the satisfaction of all parents, students and teachers”, says Gjorgji Conev, counselor in Vasilevo municipality. “The positive reactions cannot be described with words. This problem was bothering us for years because the children were not safe in the school as the street and the traffic were very close. The cooperation with the stakeholders was excellent, the process was based on partnership and we were always involved in the process, including the procurement procedure and the selection of supplier. We managed to finalize everything. The municipality had its own participation in the project by landscaping the yard, planting greenery and building pathways”, adds Conev.



With the new windows at the elementary school “Goce Delceev” in Konce, there is no draft and children are getting sick less than before

MACEDONIA WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION

The overall objective of the program is further development of an enabling environment for providing equal opportunities to all people, i.e. non-discrimination in Macedonia.

As part of the program, a study visit was organized to Vienna, Austria for ten participants from the governmental and civil society sector. They had an opportunity to visit the relevant state institutions in Austria as well as civil society organizations working in the field of anti-discrimination. In addition, four training sessions on non-discrimination were organized for 81 participants from the civil society organizations, coordinators on equal opportunities from almost all ministries, representatives of the social work centers, Ministry of Labor and Social policy as well as representatives of the Security Bureau and the Ministry of Interior. The Manual on non-discrimination was re-published as well as the research report “Barometer of Equal Opportunities”. In addition, an analysis of standards and good practice examples in the development of anti-discriminatory legislation was prepared. On June 16, 2009 the Founding Assembly was held of the Alliance Macedonia without Discrimination, which operated as informal alliance since March 2008. The founders of the Alliance are 11 civil society organizations. In this period the Alliance Macedonia without Discrimination prepared the Strategic Plan 2010-2012.

“BAROMETER OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES“

MCIC has published the research report “Barometer of Equal Opportunities”. The research was focused on: perception of discrimination, experiences and combat against discrimination as well as familiarity with the rights and positions on equal employment opportunities.

The results showed that discrimination on political affiliation was considered to be the most frequent type (78%) of discrimination in the Republic of Macedonia, followed by discrimination on ethnical ground (55%) and age based discrimination (48.5%).

“The perceptions not always match the factual situation”, said Prof. Violeta Petroska Beška, one of the authors of the report. “Nevertheless, they are very important”.

The citizens claim they mostly feel comfortable regarding the diversity in their environment; however the need for social distance from the persons with homosexual orientation is highly expressed.

Up to 33.5% of the respondents reported being victims of discrimination or maltreatment during the previous year. The level of discrimination in Republic of Macedonia is much higher than the average level of discrimination in the EU member states.

In a special part of the report, a data analysis was provided through the prism of existing experiences or as Prof. Mirjana Najčevska, the other author of the reports, said “it was

an attempt to problematize the picture from the report”. She also made a relation between the data from the report and the current efforts for adoption of anti-discrimination law and establishment of a special equality body.

The survey was prepared by the Centre for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution, in cooperation with Brima from Skopje on a sample of 1,606 respondents.



From left: Violeta Petroska-Beska, Natasa Postolovska, Aleksandar Krzalovski and Mirjana Najcevska at the promotion of the report

ALLIANCE MACEDONIA WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION ESTABLISHED

The Founding Assembly of the Alliance Macedonia without Discrimination was held on June 16, 2009. The decision to formalize the Alliance resulted from the need for more organized activity in the field of promotion of equal opportunities and protection from discrimination in the Republic of Macedonia. The purpose of Macedonia without Discrimination is to contribute for fair society without discrimination, where all people enjoy equal opportunities and benefit from diversity.

“The usefulness of formalization is not a benefit only for the civil society organizations, or the state bodies, but also for the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia”, says Muhamed Toči, from HDZR “Mesečina”. “MWD is comprised of experienced organizations combating against discrimination on different grounds for years. This experience as well as their skills and knowledge will contribute for the Alliance to efficiently face all challenges in this area”.

The first composition of the Assembly of the Alliance Macedonia without Discrimination was elected at the Founding Assembly. The founders have adopted the Statute, while the Assembly has adopted the draft program and elected the members of the Governing and Supervisory Boards.

Few days later, on June 18, 2009, the constitutive session of the Governing Board was held, where Muhamed Toči was elected for chairperson and Mirjana Najčevska for deputy chairperson. The managing office is located in Polio Plus, while Nataša Postolovska was appointed for acting Executive Director of the Alliance Macedonia without Discrimination.

At the end of 2009, MWD has established National Coordination Body, gathering together the civil society organizations members and non-members of the Alliance, governmental and political representatives, experienced experts in the field of democracy and protection against discrimination.

The founders of the Alliance are Association for Democratic Initiatives, Gostivar; El Hilal, Skopje; Macedonian Center for Women's Rights – Shelter Center, Skopje; Macedonian Center for International Cooperation, Skopje; National Council of Women of Macedonia – SOZM, Skopje; Polio Plus – Movement against Disability, Skopje; First Children's Embassy in the World “Megjashi”, Skopje; Humanitarian and Voluntary Association of Roma “Mesecina”, Gostivar; HOPS – Options for Healthy Life, Skopje; Center for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution, Skopje and the Third Age University, Skopje.



From the Founding Assembly of the Alliance Macedonia Without Discrimination

DEVELOPED SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES – MEDF MANAGEMENT

MCIC performs all managing, professional and administrative works of the Macedonian Enterprise Development Foundation (MEDF) as a managing institution.

In 2009, a total amount of MKD 229,492,150 (around EUR 3.7 million) has been disbursed to 931 clients. The paid amount for loans is 4% higher than the initially planned and the number of clients is 93% higher than the planned. These loans have provided funds for 2,024 jobs, and by using the loans for extending the business activities, the enterprises intend to hire 546 new employees. With the latest round, the total number of beneficiaries as of December 31, 2009 has reached 7,253, or 12,877 existing and 2,847 planned jobs were supported. As in the previous period, most of the funds were paid through the micro credits (loan type 3), covering 909 micro entrepreneurs or 97% of the total number of clients. The financially intermediaries have fully reimbursed the MEDF receivables.

The loans were paid through the accredited financial intermediaries: NLB Tutunska Banka, IK Banka, savings house “Štedilnica Možnosti” and “Horizonti” foundation (accredited for the first time as financial intermediary).



Credit user: Mr. Boge from Katlanovo, in his workshop

At the end of 2009, MEDF has signed the new framework financial agreements with the financial intermediaries and introduced new products for crediting the IT, organic production, tourism, business start-ups and projects eligible for IPARD funds.

MEDF provided program and organizational support for implementation of the program activities of the Macedonian Chambers of Commerce, the

Economic Chamber of North-West Macedonia and the Group for the development of the subsector tomato and pepper, for the period 2009- 2011. In collaboration with the Business Start-up Center, MEDF prepared and promoted the report “Entrepreneurship in Macedonia”, which was part of a larger research about the entrepreneurship around the World.

MEDF, together with the other relevant actors, organized the event European Day of Entrepreneur and the selection of the Entrepreneur of the Year.

In May 2009, MicroFinanza from Italy performed the second credit rating of MEDF, based on the data from 2006-2008, as the consecutive years after the first rating made in 2006.

MEDF received the rating BB+ (2006: BB).

SUSTAINABLE LOCAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of the programme is stimulated local development of rural and marginalized communities through increased participation and organizational strengthening.

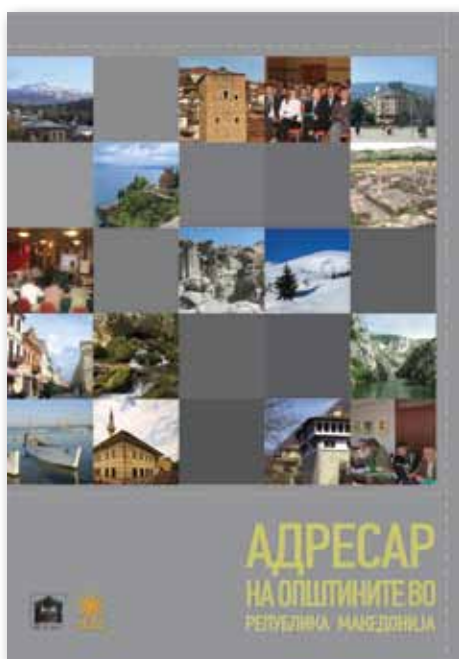
Trainings on project cycle management and human resources management were realized in 2009. In addition, several workshops were held: methodology on evaluation and setting up the local taxes for the representatives of the municipal administration of the 13 focus municipalities within LRZ program; introduction of the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCAP) system, definition of priorities for the communal reforms, control of wastewaters pollution, key performance indicators, GIS solutions for the public utilities and workshop with the Committee for Water Supply and Wastewaters Treatment. Furthermore, four regional workshops were organized for the human resources management in the local governments and a database was developed with the municipal officers responsible for the human resources management. Some of the activities were aimed at strengthening the organizational capacities of the Foundation of Support and Development, Prilep.

Eight municipalities received grants for promotion and modernization of municipal services. Also, a study visit was organized for the public utilities in Albania and Serbia, while the regulatory commission attended the Regional Conference.

This year, for the third time, MCIC published the Directory of Municipalities in the Republic of Macedonia. This year, for the first time, MCIC worked on the preparation of the Profiles of organizations, institutions and projects for rural development. Within the "Community Forums" project, three projects selected by the forum of citizens were realized in the municipality of Karbinci: urban development, small sport grounds and children playgrounds.

DIRECTORY OF MUNICIPALITIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC) together with the Association of Local Government Units (ZELS) have prepared for the third time the Directory of Municipalities of the Republic of Macedonia. The new Directory offers interesting information about all 84 municipalities and the City of Skopje. Along the contact details, the Directory presents demographic data, structural organization of the municipality and data on institutions under the municipality. The Directory also provides information on the municipal budgets, existing public utilities as well as updated information on the implemented, ongoing and planned projects. The Directory is published electronically in Macedonian, Albanian and English language.



WATER SUPPLY FOR JEGUNOVCE MUNICIPALITY

The purpose of this program is to provide access to sufficient quantities of healthy drinking water for the communities in Jegunovce municipality. The focus is to improve the water supply in 11 villages of the municipality of Jegunovce as well as in Ozormišće village in Želino municipality.

Two projects were realized in 2009: "Water Supply Infrastructure in Jegunovce Municipality" and "Water Supply Public Awareness Campaign".

"PAY YOUR BILLS FOR HEALTHY WATER "

"Pay your Bills for Healthy Water" was the slogan of MCIC campaign for raising the public awareness for the water supply in Jegunovce municipality.

The purpose of the campaign was to sensitize the residents about the need of individual connections with water meters and payment for the water used by the new waterworks in Jegunovce municipality.

The campaign began with educational classes for the students from the primary school in Šemševo village on the topic "Water means Life". The students had an opportunity to learn and to talk about the water on planet Earth, its circulation, the facts why we need clean water, the consequences of polluted water, use of water, etc. The first educational classes were attended by 58 students from fifth to eighth grades.

In parallel with the educational classes a promotional material was distributed (posters, fliers, glasses, bags, lighters, pens with the logo of the campaign) among the households in Jegunovce municipality and informative meetings with the residents were organized in cooperation with the local neighborhood units.

At the end of the campaign an educational event was organized for the participants from the primary schools from Jegunovce, Žilče and Šemševo. The students participated in educational activities such as drawing, literature and quiz on the topic "Water means Life". Around 40 students took part in this event.

"The water means life for every person on this planet. Every drop of water is worth a fortune, but unfortunately the water is used unreasonable in our country and our environment. If people lose this water that is used unreasonable, our bodies will suffer from disease", wrote Brankica Blaževska, eighth grade student from the primary school "Aleksandar Zdravkovski" from Jegunovce.

"The water in our village is not that good. When we need water we have to go to the neighboring village to get water. The polluted water may bring different diseases. Today the right to healthy water is a precondition for the right to life", wrote Leonora Jonuzi from the primary school Šemševo.

At the end of the event all children received gifts.



The education classes were accepted with great enthusiasm and attended by huge number of people

GOOD GOVERNANCE, PARTICIPATION AND POLICIES TOWARDS THE PEOPLE

GOOD GOVERNANCE IN MACEDONIA

The purpose of the programme is increased responsibility of institutions, civil society organizations and citizens.

This year's activities have covered the networks Macedonia without Discrimination, Civic Platform of Macedonia and Coalition All for Fair Trial. They held several workshops identifying the issues of highest importance for them, after which the experts have developed comparative analyses. Following the analyses, the action plans were prepared. A study visit to London and training on policy making was organized for the member organizations of the coalition.

In 2009 the activities in the framework of the "Community Forums" in Bitola, Resen and Karbinci continued and at the same time they were expanded to the municipalities Aerodrom, Radovis/Konce and Berovo.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN POLICY MAKING

A group of representatives from three civic coalition: Civic Platform of Macedonia, Macedonia without Discrimination and coalition All for Fair Trial participated at the training on "Participation of Civil Society Organizations in the Policy Making".

"The involvement of citizens and civil society organizations in policy making requires two fold activity: on behalf of the government, but also on behalf of the civil society organizations," said Emina Nuredinoska, trainer.

The participants had an opportunity to hear the experiences from Great Britain and the co-operation between the civil society organizations and the state institutions, anti-discrimination mechanisms and standards for fair trials. "I really liked the presentation of experiences from London," said Katerina Koneska from CPM. "This was an opportunity to see how the English system worked." This experience was also interesting for Gjorgji Joševski from All for Fair Trials. "I really liked the London experience, but it made me realize how far behind we are. The reforms they had in 2006 are still too far away for us. I believe we need to make changes, but they should be made in a quality way, without frequent corrections," Gjorgji added.

Some of the training sessions were dedicated to the legal framework in Macedonia and the existing experiences in this area. "I am satisfied with the entire training", says Katerina, "the games we played aroused everyone's interest and I am positive that even the theory may be presented through exercises".

As part of the advocacy and lobbying course, the participants went through the stages of identification of the issue or problem to be advocated or lobbied for, objectives, partnerships and alliances to be established, dealing with the power. They also discussed the involvement in the policy making, the process of policy making and at the end they analyzed several policy papers.



Part of the participants in the training, during practical exercises

COMMUNITY FORUMS

With an aim of establishing participatory approaches in identifying the priority needs of the communities, MCIC has implemented activities in six municipalities in 2009. The ongoing activities continued in Bitola and Resen, while the municipalities of Aerodrom, Radoviš/Konče and Berovo joined the project.

In the course of 2009, five forum sessions were organized in Resen and in Bitola. The



Citizens of Bitola greet the selection of priority projects that will be financed by the program

citizens of Resen voted for “Improving the Water Supply in Prespa” project, while the citizens from Bitola voted for building sport grounds in the school yard in Kišava village and for the following projects: Tumbe Kafe – basic infrastructure, Tumbe Kafe as a sport and recreational complex and Tumbe Kafe as cultural historical landmark and opportunity.

The municipalities of Aerodrom, Radoviš/Konče and Berovo were part of the new cycle. In Berovo the forum session was focused on the budgeting, whereas the residents gave proposals to be included in annual program of Berovo municipality for 2010.

In Radoviš/Konče a inter-municipal forum was organized, where the residents of both municipalities resolved the problems affecting the two municipalities. They focused on the water supply and wastewaters.

In the municipality of Aerodrom, the most important topic for discussion was the “Improvement of Educational and Working Conditions in the Schools and Nurseries”. The residents discussed their concepts for resolving different problems in the educational institutions.

ROOTED AND DYNAMIC CIVIL SOCIETY

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY

The overall objective of the program is enabling environment for effective functioning of civil society organizations.

In 2009, MCIC continued to actively participate in the work of the working group on drafting the new law on associations and foundations. The Progress Report on the Implementation of the Strategy for Cooperation of the Government with the Civil Sector was presented, the Advisory Committee for implementation of Civicus – Civil Society Index was held, while in Brussels the first meeting took place of the Joint Consultative Committee of the European Economic and Social Committee with the Republic of Macedonia.

Nine trainings were held on “Capacity Building for EU-funding” for 190 participants. Eight of the trainings were for the Kosovo civil society organizations. The topics included: access to EU funds, public relations, human resources management, strategy on financial sustainability, training of trainers and presentation skills. Total of 83 participants from civil society organizations and other institutions attended the training.

DRAFTING OF NEW LAW ON ASSOCIATIONS AND FOUNDATIONS

MCIC has been dedicated to the improvement of the legislative framework for the civil society since 1995 and has participated in the Working Group of the Ministry of Justice that was established in 2007. This Group gives a significant contribution in preparing the text of the new law.

Following an intensification of the activities, in June 2009, the Working Group held a three day workshop in Mavrovo. MCIC continued with the active participation and support of the Working Group. After the progress made with the preparation of the text during the workshop, the MCIC’s members of the Working Group took the responsibility to conclude the provisions of the Draft law.

The Working Group held six more meetings. During this period several coordinative bilateral meetings were held with the Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia, the European Center for non-profit law and the Ministry of Justice.

The new Law on Associations and Foundations is expected to introduce several novelties. The legal and natural persons, domestic and foreign citizens and minors under certain conditions will have the opportunity to establish associations. The Draft Law allows an informal association as well. One of the biggest and most important novelties for the sustainability of the civil society sector is the opportunity to generate income, that must be used for the purposes of the organization. In the same direction, an introduction of the status of public benefit organizations should be made. Part of the novelties, such as the introduction of the vocabulary of used expressions and more comprehensive general provisions both for the functioning of foundations and for the termination of organizations, mean a clarification of the provisions of the existing Law on Associations and Foundations.

Apart from implementing the International regulations and practices the new law will be directed towards resolving the daily obstacles and problems in the development of the civil society.



From one of the meetings of the Working Group that prepared the text of the Draft- Law

JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE EU – REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA STARTED ITS ACTIVITY

On September 25, 2009 the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) was host of the first Joint Consultative Committee EU – Republic of Macedonia (JCC), a joint consultative body with the task of monitoring relations between the EU and the Republic of Macedonia from the point of view of civil society. The JCC will promote contacts and discussions between civil society representatives from both sides on issues of common interest.



From the inauguration meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee in Brussels

The JCC members welcomed the proposal of the European Commission to grant visa free travel to citizens of the Republic of Macedonia and called on the other EU institutions to follow suit. JCC members also asked for the accession negotiations between the EU and the Republic of Macedonia to be opened as soon as the benchmarks set in the Accession Partnership are met. Several conclusions were adopted at the meeting.

This newly established body is comprised of 12 representatives of the civil society from the EU and Republic of Macedonia.

Members of the Macedonian delegation are Mile Boškov and Lidija Grupčeva – representatives of the Employers; Vančo Muratovski and Slobodan Antovski – representatives of Trade Unions and Sašo Klekovski and Darko Aleksov – representatives of the General Interest group.

The co-chairs of JCC are Ms. Vladimíra Drbalová, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC, Czech Republic), and Mr. Sašo Klekovski, First Executive Director of the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation.

ACCEPTED CULTURAL DIVERSITY, INTERDEPENDENCE AND DIALOGUE

MACEDONIA – MODEL FOR DIALOGUE OF THE CULTURES

The purpose of the program is to improve the inter-ethnic relations through institutionalization of the success model.

As part of the activities aimed at supporting the Interreligious Council in Macedonia, several trainings were realized on public relations, access to EU funds and preparation of applications and human resources development for 37 representatives of the religious communities. Also a study visit to Netherlands was organized for the Orthodox Faculty of Theology and the Faculty of Islamic Studies. The program has also supported the maintenance of the web-site of the Commission for Relations with Religious Communities.

Part of the program was the analysis of the situation of non-majority communities. In cooperation with the Association for Democratic Initiatives (ADI), we selected the municipalities of Gostivar, Kičevo, Struga and Debar in order to monitor the sessions of the municipal councils and the process of using the Badinter's principle in the decision making on cultural, linguistic and identity issues. In addition, the work of the Commission for Relations with Religious Communities was monitored.

MCIC and Mediation Northern Ireland (MNI) started the MOST Project – International Dialogue for Civic Leadership.

“BRIDGE” BETWEEN MACEDONIA AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Learning and networking project aimed at addressing issues of segregation through the creation and development of international linkages, the exploration of good practice and the up-skilling of local mediation practitioners to work in an international basis.

This is the idea behind the MOST (Most is the Macedonian word for “bridge”) Project, which will be implemented from 2010 to 2012 by the MCIC and the Mediation Northern Ireland (MNI) from Belfast, financially supported by the European Regional Development Fund “Investing in your Future”.

The project is based on the similarities between Macedonia and Northern Ireland in relation to the conflicts and the ongoing work to resolve these conflicts (Ohrid Framework Agreement and the Good Friday Agreement) as well as MNI and MCIC's experiences gained through the implementation of previous activities.

The project is based on three strands. MCIC is involved in the first one – transnational exchange of good practices. Six exchange visits are foreseen between Macedonia and Northern Ireland and the bordering areas of the Republic of Ireland. The visits will be focused on policing, local government, faith, media, youth and housing.

The Most Project held its official launch on November 25, 2009 in the Parliament of the Northern Ireland. The opening remarks were made by Peter O'Reilly, MNI's Director and Mary McAnulty, project manager, while the First Executive Director of MCIC, Sašo Klekovski, was the keynote speaker for the evening delivering presentation on Macedonia.



Sašo Klekovski holds a speech at the promotion of the project MOST at the Parliament in Northern Ireland

SUPPORTED PROCESS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

MANAGING THE BALKAN CIVIC SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT NETWORK

The Balkan Civic Society Development Network (BCSDN) is a network of 12 civic and civil society organizations from 9 Balkan countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Romania, Slovenia and Serbia. MCIC manages the Executive Office of BCSDN.

HISTORIC STEP – BCSDN HOLDS ITS FOUNDING ASSEMBLY

Eight years after being initiated as a pilot project and over 5 years since its transformation into network, BCSDN has formally become a legal entity with 11 founders civil society organizations. On July 6, the Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN) held its Founding Assembly in Skopje, Macedonia. The Assembly adopted the main acts, the Statute and the Strategic Orientation 2009-2011 and elected the Council, the Board and the Executive Director.



Participants at the Founding Assembly of the Balkan Civil Society Development Network

BCSDN members are 11 Balkan organizations: Albanian Civil Society Foundation (Albania), Centre for Development of Non-Governmental Organisations (Montenegro), Centre for Information Service, Co-operation and Development of NGOs (Slovenia), Civil Society Promotion Center (Bosnia and Herzegovina), NIT/Cenzura (Croatia), Civic Initiatives (Serbia), Diaconia Agapes (Albania), Kosovar Civil Society Foundation (Kosovo), Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (Macedonia), Opportunity Associates Romania (Ro-

mania) and VESTA Association (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

The Assembly confirmed that the current Executive Office of the network, the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC), would continue to be the host institution.

BCSDN Executive Director is Tanja Hafner Ademi.

PARTNERSHIPS, PUBLIC RELATIONS AND SUPPORT

RELATIONS WITH THE OTHER ACTORS

MCIC cooperated with domestic organizations and institutions and agencies, members of the World Council of Churches and other international organizations.

The Civic Platform of Macedonia (CPM) has defined the strategic goals and directions and adopted the report on implementing the working program of the Platform. MCIC representatives, elected by CPM, actively participated in the Joint Consultative Committee of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) with Republic of Macedonia and the National Committee of European Integrations.

MCIC was also one of the initiators for establishing the Alliance Macedonia without Discrimination, which was formalized on June 16, 2009. The members worked intensively on drafting of and lobbying for the anti-discrimination law.

The cooperation with the local government units and the state institutions was regular.

The National Committee of European Integrations, whose member is MCIC's Executive Director, Aleksandar Kržalovski as representative of the CPM, actively continued its work. Ten sessions were held, during which the conclusions and recommendations of Macedonia's activities and the documents on EU integration were reviewed, discussed and adopted.

MCIC is realizing the regional cooperation through the Balkan Civil Society Development Network, as one of its founders and members. The cooperation with the Delegation of the European Commission and the European Commission in general was realized through several activities, such as the consultations on the Progress Report of the Republic of Macedonia, IPA components, EIDHR Call for Proposals, etc.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Twelve issues of the electronic newsletter were released in 2009. The Annual Report was published in electronic form (on CD) in Macedonian, Albanian and English language. At the end of the previous year, MCIC has promoted its new web site. It is updated regularly and part of the content is available through other social media, ensuring greater visibility of MCIC's work. In 2009, there were 100 appearances in the domestic media.

SUPPORT – SUSTAINABLE MCIC

In 2009, MCIC has submitted 26 applications to 11 different donors of which 10 were approved, 11 were refused and 6 are still pending. The three pending applications at the end of 2008 were rejected.

CAMPAIGNS FOR MOBILISATIONS OF FUNDS

The purpose of the program is to contribute for financial sustainability of MCIC by strengthening the public awareness on certain burning issue, its alleviation or resolution.

This program was finalized in 2009. As part of the program, the Directory of Organizations of Macedonian Emigrants and two survey reports on “Social Responsibility of Citizens” and “Relation towards Traditional/ Secular Values” were published.

FIRST DIRECTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS OF MACEDONIAN EMIGRANTS

The Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC) and the Emigration Agency of the Republic of Macedonia published the first edition of the Directory of Organizations of Macedonian Emigrants.

The purpose of this Directory is to improve the dissemination of information on the organizations of Macedonian emigrants, both among them and in the Macedonian public at large. The Directory provides information on 583 organizations, from 24 countries.

“We are happy with these pioneering efforts, but also aware that the Directory offers only the contact details of the organizations of Macedonian emigrants and should be further upgraded in future”, said Aleksandar Kržalovski, Executive Director of MCIC, at the promotion of the Directory. “We expect this to be a challenge for both the organizations that are and those that are not part of this first edition, so that in future we could produce a Directory containing all relevant information on the organizations and their activities”, he added.

President of the Washington-based organization

“United Macedonian Diaspora”, Metodija Koloski also attended the promotion. “We are pleased that we obtained such publication,” Koloski said at the promotion. “The Diaspora needs such information aimed at facilitating the mutual communication as well as at improving the communication between the organizations and citizens from Macedonia with the organizations of emigrants”, he added.



The Address book will be a useful instrument for communication among immigrants

NEW TEST OF THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF CITIZENS

For several years in a row, MCIC is examining the social responsibility of citizens. This enables monitoring of the social movements and making the plans on the basis of verified information instead of assumptions.

The new survey showed a trend towards moderate degree of public spirit in Macedonia. Minority of citizens (40.4%) tried to express their positions through participation at a protest (demonstration, rally). The survey showed small interest of citizens for active participation in voluntary activities in the community (only 27.4% of the respondents participated in such activities). Majority of citizens (51.9%) still find the state as most responsible for meeting the societal needs.

The trust in the solidarity of citizens has increased from 39.3% in 2007 to 49.3% in 2009, while the number of people giving charity rose from 64.6% last year to 70.9% this year. One in four citizens is a member of a civil society organization, half of them being inactive. The political parties mobilize more citizens. The citizens mainly associate with the members of their close/wider family and friends.

The data on responsibility for environmental protection are overwhelming. Only one in five citizens feels responsible for environmental protection.

For the first time in 2009, MCIC has explored the relations towards the traditional (secular) values in Macedonia. The survey showed that in social terms, Macedonia was a traditional i.e. socially conservative country. The support for the traditional values i.e. the opposition to divorce is 58.9%, while to homosexuality is 91.6%. The World Value Survey also confirms this as the traditional values in Macedonia are enhanced.



ORGANIZATION

The new composition of the Governing Board of MCIC was elected in May 2009. Eight members out of 11 nominated candidates were elected for members of the Governing Board. Rizvan Sulejmani was elected for Chairman, while Kočo Angjušev for Deputy Chairman of the Governing Board. The procedure on completing the Board of Directors was finalized in 2009. The Nomination Committee has nominated, while the Governing Board has elected the candidate Aleksandar Kržalovski for Executive Director of MCIC.

COUNCIL

- Ahmet Jašarevski
- Behixhudin Shehapi
- Bekim Imeri
- Biljana Gerasimovska–Kitanovska
- Vladimir Todorović
- Gazmend Ajdini
- Dilbera Kamberovska
- Dušica Perišić
- Duško Kantardžiev
- Gjoko Gjorgjeski
- Gjuner Ismail
- Elena Nikolova
- Zvonko Šavreski
- Ilo Trajkovski
- Jagup Selimoski
- Kelmend Zajazi
- Kočo Angjušev
- Mihail Cekov
- Pepo Levi
- Rami Qerimi
- Ratko Lazarevski
- Rizvan Sulejmani
- Slavko Veleovski

GOVERNANCE BOARD

1. **Rizvan Sulejmani**, Chairman, PhD in Political Science, Director of Political and Intercultural Studies in Skopje
2. **Kočo Angjušev**, Deputy Chairman, PhD in Technical Studies
3. **Biljana Gerasimovska–Kitanovska**, Medical Doctor, Master of Nephrology, employed in the Clinical Centre Skopje, President of the Women's Organisation for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women - ESE
4. **Behixhudin Shehapi**, Chairman of the humanitarian organization "El Hilal", Skopje
5. **Goran Mihajlovski**, Editor in Chief of the daily newspaper "Vest"
6. **Gjoko Gjorgjevski**, Macedonian Orthodox Church
7. **Jagup Selimoski**, Islamic Religious Community in Republic of Macedonia
8. **Slavko Veleovski**, Mayor of Mogila Municipality

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At the end of 2009, MCIC had 20 employees.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Council of Macedonian Center for International Cooperation

We have audited the accompanying financial statements (page 2 to 27) of Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as "MCIC"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2009 and the statement of revenue and expenses, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the MCIC's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the MCIC's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects the financial position of Macedonian Center for International Cooperation as of December 31, 2009, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

Deloitte doo

Deloitte DOO
Skopje
March 9, 2010

Audit. Tax. Consulting. Financial Advisory.

Member of
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

FINANCIAL REPORT 2009

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2009

(in thousands of denars, 1EUR=61.1741 MKD)

Description	Note	2009	2008
A.ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property and equipment	12	13,970	14,907
Long-term deposits	13	7,696	7,662
Long-term investment	14	660	350
Total non-current assets		22,326	22,919
Current assets			
Short-term loans	15	38,500	16,700
Trade and other receivables	16	14,589	12,136
Cash and cash equivalents	17	49,156	75,365
Total current assets		102,245	104,201
TOTAL ASSETS		124,571	127,120
B.EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Equity			
Funds	18	99,749	106,132
Surpluses of expenses over revenue	18	(1,212)	(6,383)
Total equity		98,537	99,749
Non-current liabilities			
Provision for employee benefits and jubilee awards	19	416	342
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	20	1,418	2,250
Deferred revenues	21	14,421	18,081
Accruals	22	9,779	6,698
Total current liabilities		25,618	27,029
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		124,571	127,120

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009

(In thousands of Denars, 1 EUR = 61,1741 MKD)

Description	2009	2008
A. REVENUE		
Donations and grants		
Norwegian Association of Municipalities (KS)	28,711	9,000
Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.v. (EED), Germany	14,807	17,209
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)	10,199	1,923
Socotab, Switzerland	3,059	4,607
Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)	3,009	2,814
Phillip Morris, USA	2,936	-
EU (Progress, EIDHR)	1,390	4,807
DANIDA/DCA	-	2,768
Other	4,288	1,823
TOTAL DONATIONS AND GRANTS	68,399	44,951
Other income		
Revenue from other social and training activities	3,964	7,571
Revenue from services to MEDF	7,420	7,429
Revenue upon unspent funds with no repayment obligation	384	1,518
Revenue from recovered VAT for social programs	627	-
Exchange gains	196	205
Travel expenses refunded	129	729
Reimbursement of expenses from employees	112	679
Collected claims from insurance companies	32	-
Claims compensation	-	1,818
Capital gain on sale of equipment	-	769
Write off of payables	-	198
Surpluses	-	122
Other	3	35
Total other income	12,867	21,073
Interests and positive foreign exchange difference	5,740	2,850
TOTAL INCOME	87,006	68,874
B. EXPENSES		
Social programs expenses		
Water Supply of Municipality Jegunovce (VOJ)	28,951	6,129
Local development of Communities (LRZ)	7,391	6,280
Modernization of Education (PMO)	5,187	4,310
Macedonia without Discrimination (MBD)	4,020	8,925
Good Governance in Macedonia (DUM)	3,682	380
Model for Dialog between the Cultures (MDK)	2,235	0
Institutional Development of Civil Society (IRG)	2,162	1,000
Management of Balkan Network for Civil Society (RBM)	619	703
Campaigns for Fund Mobilization (KMF)	451	3,182
Completed programs in previous years	1,619	945
Bridging Religious in Macedonia (MSM)	-	3,035
Strengthening of the Actors in Civil Society (ORR)	-	2,271
Total social programs expenses	56,317	37,160
Operating expenses		
Gross wages and salaries to employees	17,372	20,226
Other operating expenses	13,510	16,618
Information and publication	625	885
Total operating expenses	31,507	37,729
TOTAL EXPENSES	87,824	74,889
Surpluses of expenses over revenue before tax	-818	-6,015
Income tax	-394	-368
BILANCE	-1,212	-6,382

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