



CENTER FOR INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE

ANNUAL REPORT

2006

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Centre for Intercultural Dialogue is a newly established nongovernmental citizens association that has 3 priority areas:

Non-formal Education, Youth Participation and Youth Exchanges; through which we are aiming towards the following goals:

- Promoting and supporting youth participation in the local authorities according to the European Charter for Youth
- Participation brought by the Council of Europe
- Improving the quality of life of marginalized youth groups
- Improving the tolerance among youth by fighting against discrimination of any type
- Support of youth initiatives, projects and activities designed and implemented by young people
- Expertise in Non-formal Education, organizing training courses and seminars for multipliers as well as youth groups and organizations
- Popularisation of the Non-formal education as a tool to develop understanding and cooperation
- Organizing leisure activities with educational purpose and support for youth engagement in cultural activities
- Support for the international youth exchanges for Macedonian youth, and promotion of voluntarism

The Centre for Intercultural Dialogue is formed by members of the non-formal group Youth Alliance Kumanovo, which worked in the area of Kumanovo for nearly 2 years. Our members and founders are young people, students and youth leaders that have significant experience in youth work and are able to develop and implement projects on the grassroots level. This is very important for us, in order to be able to reach our target group, young people from North East Macedonia, but as well youth from all over the country.

LOCAL YOUTH COUNCIL OF KUMANOVO

The Centre for Intercultural Dialogue is the coordinating organization for managing and supporting Local Youth Council in Kumanovo. In total 25 youth leaders from the local schools and organizations are members of the Local Youth Council. The councillors make "resolutions" for the problems youth faces in Kumanovo, and afterwards we forward these resolutions to the youth organizations and the local government. The creation of the Local Youth Council is one of the first steps towards achieving higher level of youth participation in the local area, and hopefully on National level as well. The new youth councillors were offered a training course on youth participation that was done by local experts. The Local Youth Council works accordingly to the European Charter for Youth Participation in the Local Authorities, made by the Council of Europe.

The Local youth Council of Kumanovo has started a very active debate about very important youth issues in the city. On the first session the Local youth Council discussed about the visa

regime, and decided that young people should be offered a free space to travel, explore different countries and cultures. The second session of the Local Youth Council was a debate about the Night Life in Kumanovo, and the Council suggested more activities to enrich the diversity of the nightlife offer for young people in Kumanovo.

The third topic that the council discussed was about the sex education in schools and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases. Also the council discussed about the young people in the NGO sector as well as how to improve the conditions for volunteering, and to recognize the work of the young people in the non-profit organizations.

The Local Youth Council of Kumanovo produced a web site on which all of the resolutions and the work of the Council are being presented. In order to facilitate the participation of young people in the youth organization, the web site contains a list of active youth NGOs from the region as well as their contact details. The publication of the site was financially supported by Forum SYD Balkans programme.

For the youth workers we have published some interesting documents that can be very helpful in developing projects and strengthening the cooperation with both national and international organizations. On the web site you can find the National Youth Strategy, the European Charter for Youth participation and other interesting research papers.

The site is currently available only in Macedonian but soon hopefully it will be translated in English and Albanian as well. The address is: <http://mladi-ku.mkhost.org>

CID plans to continue the work of the Local Youth Council after the official finishing of this project, because youth participation is one of our strategic priority areas.

WORKSHOPS FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION

NB. Although the workshops happened in 2007, thematically they fit in the annual programme for 2006.

The Centre for Intercultural Dialogue organized a youth participation workshop on 20-21 January 2007, which gathered people from GPKT Youth Council and the newly created Youth Council of Kumanovo. A representative from the Greek Youth Net, as well as representatives from the Cultural Triangle of Prespa (Greek NGO) participated as special guests on the workshop. The overall aim was to motivate young people to gain further knowledge about local, regional youth councils, to share ideas and opinion about the possibilities for development of their local youth councils and to discuss future steps. East West Institute logistically and financially supported the workshop. During the partnership-building workshop, the participants were divided into 4 working groups where they had to draft a youth exchange with the thematic priority of the group:

- Motivation of young people- this group developed a youth exchange on active citizenship and how to motivate young people to volunteer.
- European Awareness and Tolerance
- Culture Activities- This group focused on developing activities about art, music and drama
- The last group discussed intercultural learning between the Balkan and EU countries.

ANTI VISA PROTEST IN KUMANOVO

After accepting a resolution on youth mobility against visas by the Local Youth Council of Kumanovo, the Centre for Intercultural Dialogue decided to implement some of the suggestions from the resolution and join in a larger campaign organized by the Young European Federalists of Macedonia against visas. The aim of the campaign was to show to the International and National decision-makers that although the Berlin wall doesn't exist today, still there is a much more dangerous, taller and more controlled wall that divides the European Citizens- it is called the Schengen Wall.

The Centre organized a protest on the main square of Kumanovo, on the 9 November on which young people of Kumanovo had the chance to write their opinion about visas

on a 10-meter long wall of paper that symbolized the Schengen Wall. The wall was afterwards presented to H.E. Erwan Fouere, head of the delegation of the European Commission in Macedonia.

YOUTH ON-LINE INFO NETWORK

The centre for Intercultural Dialogue mainly promotes and supports youth information and therefore we have an on-line mailing list of young people interested in our work, and also interested in the possibilities to join in some activities or to go abroad. The list has already 130 members, mainly coming from Kumanovo, but also from other Macedonian cities where the C.I.D. has local members. We have also some members coming from South Serbia, Kosovo, Bulgaria, Croatia and other Euro-Mediterranean countries. For more information about our network please visit:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Center-for-Intercultural-Dialogue/>

“THREE SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES” PARTY

The Centre for Intercultural Dialogue organized a very special party for its members and guests. There were three anniversaries celebrated. The first one was the ending of the first year of the work of CID, the second anniversary was the creation of the Local Youth Council, and the third anniversary was the existence of the on line info network of CID for two years. The on line network was first created in autumn 2004.

Special certificates of appreciation were awarded to the municipality of Kumanovo, the East West Institute, Forum SYD and local organizations as well as some of the most active members.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Module of European Citizenship: Institutions and Politics of the European Union

Cvetkovska Aleksandra represented the Centre for Intercultural Dialogue on the Training Module about European Institutions and Politics that the Council of Europe and European Commission are organizing every year. The training was giving short introductions to the evolution of the European idea and the processes of European integration. The participants as well discussed about the relationship of institutions to the citizen and their policy towards young people. 30 people from different European countries participated on this 5-day training course that was organized in the European Youth Centre in Budapest

Youth exchange for experiential learning and outdoor education

Matej Manevski represented the Centre for Intercultural Dialogue on the Training Course "HungarYouth- the Common Why?" In HungarYouth participants worked on their skills as a youth leader. The International Synergy Group, who organized the training, works through the so – called 'learning by experience' method, the method how you learned to walk and talk. The programme had parts for theoretical input and for practical work in the community. The youth leaders also learned more about outdoor education. In October this year Matej and Ana will participate on the second part of the training course called "Next Step" where they will work on developing projects.

Summer Camp of the Greek Youth Net: Stand up for Human Rights

Magda Velickovska, Davor Mitevski, Ana Todorovska and Matej Manevski participated on the summer camp of the Greek Youth Net that was organized in July on the island of Samothraki.

Around 400 people participated in this Summer Camp that was organized in cooperation with Amnesty International and was aiming to introduce the topic of Human Rights and to motivate the participants to make an activity for improving the respect towards Human Rights. The Centre for Intercultural Dialogue plans to further develop the cooperation with the Greek Youth Net especially in the field of youth participation and cross-border cooperation.

"Human Rights Education for Youth Trafficking Prevention" Training Course

On the Training Course titled "Human Rights Education for Youth Trafficking Prevention" organized by the Euro-Mediterranean Network for Youth Trafficking Prevention, Stefan Manevski from the Centre for Intercultural Dialogue participated as a member of the trainer's team. The course aimed on raising awareness about youth trafficking and developing projects for the prevention of this problem. It gathered 20 project managers from organizations that plan to work on the prevention of youth trafficking. The Centre for Intercultural Dialogue is motivated to work on this issue in the border region, therefore plans to join the Euro-Med Network for Youth Trafficking prevention.

Meeting of European Youth Councils

From 8-15 September this year Manevski Stefan participated on a European Youth Councils Meeting in Kosovo. The topics discussed during the meeting were: Discussions about the statutes of youth councils, of what they are and sometimes should not be. Also there was a presentation of the divergence of views between the political representatives' expectations and the expectations of young people. Some of the most important topics for the Local Youth Council of Kumanovo were how do the youth councils feel concerned and act on the big challenges that dialogue between people, between religions, between communities or social classes constitute as well as how do the youth councils integrate or could integrate the existence of the European Charter for youth participation, how to promote it and use it. This meeting was an extremely useful step forward for the creation of the Local Youth Council and its work.

Seminar for Intercultural Dialogue and Understanding

Andrej Trajkovski and Ana Todorovska from the Centre for intercultural Dialogue participated on the Seminar for Intercultural Dialogue and Understanding that took place in Die, France. Two topics were discussed during the Seminar:

- Borders of Europe, borders in Europe? Through lectures and workshop, they shared the common and different visions of European integration, the question of European enlargement (good candidates, bad candidates?), the European neighbourhood policy and its relation to the rest of the world.
- What kind of civic and peace networking today? The participants worked on specific networking projects and possibilities for future actions.

Synergy training: the next Step

Ivana Petruševska and Zoran Cenev participated on the Next Step training organized by the Synergy Group. Next Step For Peace was focused on increasing the quality and number of youth projects within the youth programme in cooperation with partners from pre-accession countries and the Balkan region. It was done by focusing on the following areas:

- Personal development training of youth workers, leaders and volunteers themselves in the following areas: leadership, creativity, cooperation, communication, handling conflicts, creativity, self-expression, confidence, trust.
- Giving theoretical background as well as live experience in how to use the methods "learning by experience" and "coaching" for the personal development of the participants of international youth projects

- Providing practical background knowledge, space and time for planning and running projects as well as writing applications within the Youth in Action Programme.

European Module: The Role of Youth Work in Participation, Rome, Italy

Boško Stankovski participated on the European Training Module: The role of Youth work in Participation that was held in Rome at the end of October. The module explored issues like the E.U. aspects of youth participation, the organization and work of local Youth Councils and other forms of Youth participation. The participants also had time to discuss the European citizenship and what it represents to young people in the E.U. and what it represents to youth outside the Union.

The Module offered a lot of possibilities for future cooperation especially in the area of Local Youth Councils, so hopefully next year we will be able to make a study visit to the more experienced youth councils in E.U.

E-Society MK conference

Nebojša Angelov from the Centre for Intercultural Dialogue participated on the international conference E-Society MK, which was organized from 15-17 November 2006 in the hotel Holiday Inn in Skopje. Some of the most interesting topics discussed were: digital network coverage in Europe, protection of intellectual property, and cyber criminal. Nebojša will work on informatics projects for the Centre for Intercultural Dialogue in the future that will aim on using the internet for intercultural learning.

SEE Youth Mobility Fair

Stefan Manevski from the Centre for Intercultural Dialogue participated on the SEE youth Mobility Fair, organized by SALTO Youth SEE resource Centre in Ohrid, Macedonia 15– 19 November 2006. This fair was an excellent opportunity for the organization to create new partnerships for the YOUTH in ACTION programme starting in 2007. 40 organizations were present on the fair and there was an excellent opportunity to present some of our work so far (since June 2006) and to present our plans for the future. The fair was also useful for getting to know the latest trends in youth work in Europe and to develop specific projects for the next year. With the newly established partnerships, CID applied for youth exchanges on the February deadline of Youth in Action programme.

Training For Trainers in HIV/AIDS Peer Education

Filip Arsovski participated on the HIV/AIDS training for peer educators organized by the non-governmental organization HERA in Krushevo, Macedonia 28-31 October 2006. The training course aimed at developing skills to future trainers and to stimulate the dissemination of knowledge in the local communities. The participation on this training course allows CID to improve the possibilities to develop non-formal education programmes especially in the area of prevention from Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

Participation at GPKT NGO fair

The Centre for Intercultural Dialogue participated on the NGO fair, organized by the East West Institute in December in Kumanovo. The NGO fair gathered representatives from different organizations working in the cross border area of North Macedonia, East Kosovo and South Serbia. Andrijana Kolevska, Ivana Petrushevska and Boshko Stankovski officially represented the organization although a couple of other members were present on the fair. This event was very useful for contact making and exchanging experience between the participants, as well as for development of future projects aiming at improving the cross border cooperation.