

NEWSLETTER No. 17

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This Newsletter is publication of Balkan Civil Society Development Network. It is published on a monthly basis in English. It is prepared by the Secretariat and edited by Network's Coordinator, Tanja Hafner. On behalf of partner organizations, she heads the Secretariat, which is currently based in the Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation, Macedonia. For more information on the network visit <http://www.balkancsd.net> or contact secretariat@balkancsd.net.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the latest edition of the Newsletter published by Balkan Civil Society Development Network!

The main aim of this publication is to inform partner organizations about latest developments in the network, otherwise published on networks' webpage at <http://www.balkancsd.net>. Each Newsletter consists of short information about the news and other developments in the network. In order to view links contained in the Newsletter choose Text Select Tool in the Acrobat Reader toolbar and copy-past each link into Internet Explorer.

EVENTS

BCSDN Calendar of Events 2004-2006 is now published with information on all implemented activities in 2004 and planned activities in 2005 and 2006. Calendar is available at: http://www.balkancsd.net/WBStorage/Files/Overview_threeyear2004.doc.

PUBLICATIONS

All numbers of network's Newsletters (in PDF format) are available at: <http://www.balkancsd.net/default-en.asp?ItemID=934C424182FB1446A6052D6C1E828D68>

To have your publication published on the webpage send a link, logo and short description of the publication to the Secretariat at secretariat@balkancsd.net.

RESOURCES

All other documents related to the network are available. These include: Programme Overview, minutes of Partnership meetings, Programme Report 2002, 2003, reports from partners' events and external evaluation of the Programme. All texts are in MSWord format and can be downloaded at: <http://www.balkancsd.net/default-en.asp?ItemID=7A3F2923F4FF8548B08670EC4120F3DB>

INFORMATION

This category has been introduced recently to allow easy and direct access to three main BCSDN information services: the mailing list, weekly e-mail alerts and the newsletter. Information category is available at: <http://www.balkancsd.net/default-en.asp?ItemID=FEFFE8F0E77CB3479B0D613A1ED9F36E>

MEMBERS

Member organizations profiles can now be searched in a new **Members database**. Search is possible by 6 desired categories. These categories include: name; country; level of activity; type of activities; topics and issues; target groups/beneficiaries. Name and country categories are closed; i.e. they can be searched through with a limited list of entries, while others are open to users to search with a word of his/her choice. All profiles are also available in alphabetical list. The new database is available at: <http://www.balkancsd.net/default-en.asp?ItemID=345A3593B337A94DBC9D77C3E6AFADC5>

TRAINING DATABASE

The new **Training Database** offers information on available training and consultancy services offered by BCSDN member organizations. The database consists of 34 training courses and 25 trainer profiles that can be searched in two different databases. Search is possible by one category and database at a time. For easy and user-friendly access, please consult a **Short guide** available with each database. If you are interested in obtaining information on trainers, training and consultancy services availability, contact the appropriate organization. For their contact information consult the Members database. Training database is available at: <http://www.balkancsd.net/default-en.asp?ItemID=919B89BB70EBBF4F8FBF4701E05C366E>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The new **search engine** has been integrated into the training database and members profiles. **BCSDN Training Database** now offers a possibility to search through 34 training courses and 25 trainer profiles by different categories. Additionally, search engine has also been implemented into members profiles, which are now located in the new **Members database**. Improvement of both databases should lead to increased promotion of training/consultancy offer to partners and other beneficiaries. The Secretariat welcomes suggestions for further promotion of databases and training/consultancy offer by partners.

Annual Partnership Meeting will be hosted by Diaconia Agapes in Tirana, Albania between 1st and 2nd April. Official announcement of the meeting will be launched by end of February.

WG on special issues: EHO will be organizing WG on diaconal practices in the beginning of May. Detailed information and formal announcement will be made by beginning of March. WG on gender and anti-trafficking (under leadership of WAD) is

being scheduled for September. No data has been sent for first meeting of WG on decentralization and social corporate responsibility/anti-corruption.

Annual and Financial Report 2004 will be provided to members with materials for and presented at the Annual Partnership Meeting.

Activities Plan for 2005 is available on-line in Events BCSDN Calendar of Events 2004-2006

Capacity-building on EU fundraising, lobbying and advocacy

Two activities remain to be implemented: exchange and backstopping/coaching as well as second edition of Balkan Civic Practices. These will be realized based on suggestions from participants at the Regional training held in Skopje in November between March and June 2005.

Capacity-building on mobilization of resources and support

The second round of CB activities (2nd joint priority) will be launched in 3rd quarter of 2005. Questionnaire on needs and priorities of members in this area will be sent to partners by the end of February and will serve as a basis for design of all activities.

Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN) was launched in 2003 by 11 church-related and civil society organizations from the Balkan region (Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro-including Kosovo). The network is committed to sustainable peace and stability, prosperity, harmony of societies in the Balkan region. The mission of the network is to strengthen civil society through developing indigenous civil society concepts, practices and empowering civil society actors. The main objectives of the network are to increase communication with civil society actors in the region as a basis for bi/multilateral co-operation; to increase mobilization of resources and support; to increase knowledge and skills as a base for higher quality of their work and to promote culture of resource-sharing as a basis for efficient/effective network.