

NEWSLETTER No. 18

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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

WORKSHOP

CfA: WORKING GROUP ON DIACONAL PRACTICES (11-13 May, Feketic, SCG)

Ecumenical Humanitarian Organization (EHO) from Novi Sad, Serbia and Montenegro is organizing the first meeting of the Working Group on Diaconal Practices initiated under the Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN) with the aim to create a place for discussion and exchange of best practices in this field. The meeting will take place between 11th and 13th May, 2005 in the EHO Conference centre/Leunberg Home in Feketic (Vojvodina, Serbia and Montenegro). The deadline for submission of applications is Thursday, 24 March 2005. Find more information on the objectives, workshop agenda and how to participate at: <http://www.balkancsd.net>.

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>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Document for Annual Partnership Meeting, which will take place on 1-2 April in Tirana are to be distributed to partners a week before the meeting including Annual Report 2004.

Capacity-building on EU fundraising, lobbying and advocacy

Two activities remain to be implemented: exchange and backstopping/coaching, which will be realized through the first meeting of WG on diaconal practices (organized by EHO) and backstopping visits on volunteers (Pokrov Foundation and Philanthropy), and second edition of Balkan Civic Practices (devoted to practical information on EU funds).

Capacity-building on mobilization of resources and support

Questionnaire on partners needs has been distributed to partners. Deadline for its submission is Tuesday, March 22. Preliminary results and plans are to be presented at the Annual Partnership Meeting.

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.