

NEWSLETTER No. 24

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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 BCSDN Secretariat 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 news in the network and networks' website <http://www.balkancsd.net>. Each Newsletter consists of short information about the news from the website and "Announcement Board", which covers monthly reports on 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

CONFERENCE

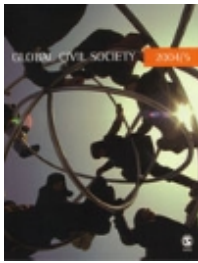
CfA: ECAS CONFERENCE ON BUILDING NETWORKS BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN THE ENLARGED EUROPE, 21.-22.10.2005, Turin, Italy (deadline: ASP)



The European Citizen Action Service (ECAS) is glad to announce the organisation of a conference on "Making Europe local – Building networks of cooperation and dialogue between civil society and public administration in the enlarged Europe" in Turin, Italy, on October 21 and 22 2005. This event will follow-up on the "Cooperate" project and the event in Bologna last October, which attracted more than 200 people to discuss issues such as the inclusion of NGOs in the Structural Funds and the dialogue and cooperation between sectors. Read more at: <http://www.balkancsd.net>.

PUBLICATIONS

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY YEARBOOK 2004-5 PUBLISHED



The London School of Economics and Political Sciences has released the fourth volume of its Global Civil Society yearbook. It describes the nature and history of global civil society and includes issue-oriented case studies, important records and data, as well as articles on current issues. Read more at: <http://www.balkancsd.net>

LINKS

Nineteen new links have been added to the website. These include links to funding, and training sources (Charitynet.org, the Resource Alliance, ECAS, INTRAC, MDF, PCM Group, EU Centre, Economic Reconstruction And development in South East Europe, EAR, World Bank Group for Civil Society, Trust for Civil Society in Central & Eastern Europe, Centre for Democracy and Reconciliation in Southeast Europe, Idealist.org) and regional networks (BINET, SEECRAN, SEE Environment Info, SALTO-Youth, Policy for Culture network, SEEECN).

WEB SURVEY-preliminary results

Preliminary results from the web survey on information-sharing tools and services have been distributed to partners on Tuesday, 20 September. The survey shows that the weekly email alerts, the website and the mailing list are the most commonly used and appreciated. The full preliminary results will be available on the website next week. Partners who have not yet send in the survey are encouraged to do so ASP.

WEB & MAILING LIST STATISTICS

Since its registration, the BCSDN website (<http://www.balkancsd.net>) has welcomed 1.987 visitors; 701 visits from March to December 2004 and 1286 from January to September 2005. Thus, the number of visits has more than doubled in 2005 in comparison to 2004. The total number of page views in the same period is 5.698 pages. There is 4 visits per day and 11 page views per day on average. The mailing list (balkanacs@yahoogroups.com) has 39. Since January 2005, 11 new members joined the list. For more details on the statistics, please contact the Secretariat.

Revision of capacity-building activities due to EU grant

Revised programme and budget have been finalized and are pending the signing of the contract with the EC (still no information on the exact date of the signing). The draft schedule of activities and budget will be shared with partners once the contract is signed. A start-up meeting of partners will be held before activities start, but latest in December so there is enough time for partners to plan implementation and participation in activities.

Follow-up to capacity-building on EU fundraising, lobbying and advocacy

BCSDN will support participation of its members (non-APRODEV partners) in the APRODEV General Conference “Sustainable Development in European Integration: the Role of Civil Society Organizations”, which will take place on 7-9 November 2005 in Brussels. The announcement with the agenda and specific information on the support has been distributed to partners on Thursday, 22 September. For further information the participation refer to the message or contact the Secretariat.

WG on special issues

Preparations are being made for the first meeting on the WG on decentralization to take place during the Macedonian NGO Fair. An announcement will be circulated soon with more details.

Macedonian NGO Fair

The annual NGO “happening” – the 5th Macedonian NGO Fair-Forum will take place in Skopje between 9-11 December. On the Fair, over 200 CSOs present their work each year and discuss important issues in about 60 round tables and workshops. Since the beginning, the regional component has been growing in terms of the topics and stand presentations. Partners are invited to express interest to present their organization or give ideas for a debate, workshop etc. at the Fair. There is no participation fee for regional participants and basic travel and accommodation costs for one representative per organization could be covered. For more information please contact the Secretariat.

Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN) was launched in 2003 and is an informal network of 1 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.