

# Report from "SEE Youth Policy Conference"



**17-20 November 2004,  
Ohrid Macedonia**

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# Report

## SEE Youth Policy Conference

**17-20 November 2004  
Ohrid, Macedonia**

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The points of view and opinions contained in this report do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of Conference donors.

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## Introduction

The Youth Council Prilep, Centre for Institutional Development, Coalition of youth Organizations SEGA (Republic of Macedonia) and eight other partner youth organizations from the SEE region (Youth Councils or leader organizations in youth policy fields) have the pleasure to present the report of the "South Eastern European Youth Policy Conference".

The conference brought together over 55 participants from seven countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro) to share effective strategies and lessons learned in the creation, adoption and implementation of National Youth Policies in the region. Participants included representatives from Ministries of Youth and Sport from five countries, National Youth Councils, and leading youth NGOs involved in the development and implementation of youth policies.

## Conference Background

After the period of transition, which happened in the states of South-Eastern Europe (transition from communism to democratic society), the period of building a modern civil society has begun. In the beginning these countries have ratified agreements and declarations of international community, as a condition for starting the process of membership in the European Union (EU). In this moment there is a lack of interest and long-term approach for joint strategic effort to raise the consciousness of all factors for the needs and problems of youth. All initiatives undertaken so far are related to getting political points, but all that results in long-lasting consequences on youth in the region. When talking about stable and modern region, we are defiantly thinking of the future, because for the time being, we only have a solid base while we lack a long – term development strategy.

The entire region faces the problem of failing to direct the national strategies towards youth development in all aspects of their lives. The omissions are result of the failure to define the needs and problems of youth as well as development of Action Plans, which will in largely contribute to fulfilling and overcoming youth needs and problems. Only international organizations, foreign Governments, and youth organizations from EU countries put effort in the development of youth policies. However, national Governments are not involved in this process. Many countries of this region are in different stages of creating or adopting a national youth strategy or policy, but one major problem for all would be the **implementation** of youth policy. There are not any best practices in the region. Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, and Romania have developed youth policies, but these have not been implemented either entirely or partially, on the other hand many countries think that once they become EU candidate countries, their funding problems will be solved.

## Aims and Objectives

The conference was intended to contribute to more effective development, adoption and implementation of youth policy in South Eastern Europe.

## Objectives

The objective of the Conference was to:

- ☐ Detect factors which influence the development and implementation of youth policies.
- ☐ Contribute to partnership building (strengthening of the regional cooperation)
- ☐ Determine next steps
- ☐ Initiate regional youth policy campaign

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## Results Achieved

The conference was also intended for participants to create strategies for inter-regional cooperation and technical assistance for NGOs involved in different stages of youth policy development. Thus, the conference produced two concrete results:

- Joint Declaration, agreed to by all representatives outlining basic principles of youth policy development and their commitment to continue sharing experiences and expertise; and
- Joint Project Proposal developed for the participants to work together on promoting youth policies at all levels of government (local, national and regional) as a tool to meet the needs of youth and to provide quality approaches to implementation of youth policies.

Expected results of the project are better understanding of youth needs in the region, increased public awareness about youth issues, and applying regional strategies to address youth issues.

The final evaluation provided by the participants provides a solid basis for a very positive assessment of the conference, particular in terms of:

- Increased personal and professional competence of the participants in understanding the processes of effective development and implementation of youth policy;
- Positive and concrete example of promoting the establishment of partnership cooperation in SEE; and
- Recognition of the role of youth NGOs, especially of Youth Council, vis-à-vis the Governments, in process of effective development and implementation of youth policy in their countries.

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## Conference Opening – Welcoming Remarks

### Mr. Zoran Ilieski, President of Youth Council Prilep, Project Coordinator

Dear ladies and gentlemen, representatives of government institutions and non-governmental organizations from the countries in the SEE region, dear guests, good evening.

I am Zoran Ilieski, President of Youth Council-Prilep and Project Coordinator of the “SEE Youth Policy Conference” Project.

It is my pleasure to greet you on behalf of myself, my organization YCP, and our partners, who helped in the organization this conference.

YCP, in cooperation with its partners, at the beginning of this year started to build up the idea for development, adoption and implementation of youth policies in the SEE region, which is the topic of this conference.

We gathered together today, representatives from youth organizations, foundations and government institutions who work in the field of youth, in order to share our experiences in the work on Youth Policy issues in our countries, and to develop joint action for fulfilment of the needs and resolution of the problems of young people.

This conference has a special importance for the SEE region, and is a great possibility to build cooperation between main actors in youth policies.

I hope that in the next three days we will fulfil our common expectations and will make a contribution to the development and implementation of youth policies in our countries and the region of SEE.

Especially, I would like to thank our donors, which supported this conference – CARE International, Development Cooperation Ireland Department of Foreign Affairs, ISC, USAID, CID and FOSIM.

I would also like to thank the project team and partners who gave maximum effort in the preparation and organization of the conference.

Special thanks to D-r Omer Sulejman, Honorary Consul of Turkey in Macedonia, who came for the opening of the Conference.

Dear friends in the next days enjoy in the beauty of Ohrid and Macedonia, work together and make new partnerships.

Have a nice evening.

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**Mr. Petar Siljanovski, Deputy Director of Agency of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Macedonia**

Respected participants and guests,

We are at the beginning of the Conference for Youth Policy in SEE. The participants are governmental and non-governmental representatives who are dealing with youth questions in this region.

Before we start with the work, as a representative of the Agency of Youth and Sport I would like to emphasize on the cooperation of the Agency of Youth and Sport as governmental institution with the non-governmental sector, especially in the process of developing of National Youth Strategy for youth in the Republic of Macedonia as well as the further cooperation in its implementation.

Because the main aim of this conference is exchange of experience between the participants, I will say few words about the National Strategy for Youth in the Republic of Macedonia.

The National Strategy for Youth in the Republic of Macedonia is designed to touch upon several important issues.

Firstly and basically, the strategy is based on the results - each proposed action has implementation strategy.

Secondly, the strategy also insists on mutual cooperation of more state institutions and the youth organizations in its realization and in the implementation of every action and program separately.

It is very important to establish long-term mechanisms for involving young people and youth organizations in the processes of decision making.

The third, the policy for youth in R. Macedonia must be decentralized at the level of the local government, so that each unit of the local self-government to develop common and preventive local youth policy. It is certain that such local youth policy is closest to young people: the local service for youth directly makes influence on the quality of their life and they determine their wish or orientation about the type and location of further education, forming family, employment. The role of the central in that part is enabling of the necessary postulates, such as similar legislative and regulations.

The role of the Agency of Youth and Sport in the future will be to follow up on the local strategies and give directions especially in relation to prevention policies for youth of the risk groups.

Moreover, only 20% of the young people in R. Macedonia have any benefits or have visited local youth services. One of the main aims of the strategy is to reach higher number of young people especially social involvement of the young from the risk groups and the young with the special needs, which in this moment do not have approach to the existing youth programs.

When speaking of these programs and services, at the local and national level, it should be noticed that they are quite fragmented and there is no coordination between their carriers. One of the things that we emphasize is increased coordination between the implementers of these activities and services at national and local level, in order to direct all material and human resources and potentials in qualitative offer of projects and programs, which will be based on the true needs and interests of the young people.

Especially important aspect whose role was profiled during the process of making the strategy is the volunteering. The activities of the strategy, as well as all other documents, legislative and the financial support which should be provided by state and the local bodies should be directed to support the promotion of the voluntarily work among young people.

Finally, I would like to stress your role during this Conference. The need of exchanging of positive experience is more than necessary, as in relation to our program activities for dealing with youth issues, also and for successful implementation of the strategy.

I wish you successful work.



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**Ms. Elizabeta Buova, representative from Department for EU Integrations of Government of Republic of Macedonia**

Thank you for granting me the opportunity to speak at this forum of guests from Macedonia and the region. I would like to acknowledge the work of the coordinators and congratulate them for having chosen this theme.

I come from the Sector for European Integration in the General Secretariat of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, the central coordinative body of the Government for the process of European Integration. Starting from the premises that the greater part of those of us who are employed at the Sector for European Integration are generalists who are able to follow the policies of a number of sectors in the country as well as recognize and seek their complementarity and synergy, I see our participation in this forum and our contribution in the debate from that perspective.

The process of European Integration is closely tied to the development of youth policy in the Republic of Macedonia. We took active participation in the preparation of the Youth Strategy of the Republic of Macedonia by means of our comments and participation in the debates and fore. We embarked upon this activity with the full awareness of the experiences of other countries, of our organizational scheme, and of European trends and practices. I must also stress, however, that in our approach we are guided by our key documents, by the National Strategy for Integration of the Republic of Macedonia in the European Union, as an umbrella document which unites all strategies and plans for the development of the country in any of its domains. To be precise, we take care to have complementary, synergic, and balanced efforts and to avoid redundancy or the simple waste of time, effort and resources.

With the actors involved in this sphere, we have put into practice an open channel of communication, and we try to constantly inform each other and to follow the activities in this domain.

The Sector for European Integration is a body which differs significantly from other governmental institutions in its approach, maybe because of the fact that the type of work is such that it imposes a wider scope of activities, as well as a possibility for greater openness to cooperation. The Sector cooperates with local and foreign non-governmental organizations in this and in other fields, through the process of European integration. Only to name a few of the activities:

- The Sector for European Integration for the third year in a row now participates in the NGO Fair;
- A Unit for Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Macedonia and the NGO sector was recently established at the initiative of the Sector for European Integration, and we have high expectations from the work of this unit, the task of which will be to act as an interface between governmental institutions and bodies on the one hand, and the civil society and its representatives on the other.
- With the support of the German Government and GTZ, we have been granting resources on an annual basis for the realization of projects implemented by NGOs in the direction of promoting the European integration process among certain target groups; here, we must mention the partnership with AEGE, the Youth Education Forum, the Institute for European Integration, the European Movement, and others;
- In collaboration with AIESEC, starting from this fall we have enabled internships for students and graduate students from foreign countries in the Sector for European Integration, and parallel to that we have assisted in sending interns abroad;

The Sector for European Integration is trying to establish partnerships and activities which will engage the youth in the development of the country, especially in the implementation of the European integration process, which we know is not short term and whose integration and convergence component never end. One of the activities aimed at this target group is the annual contest for granting scholarships for post-graduate studies in Western European countries in the field of EU / EI.

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Several embassies joined us in these activities. The aim is to assist, with our support, in the training of cadre which, with the knowledge acquired that will be competently involved in the process of European Integration in the Republic of Macedonia.

By undertaking the aforementioned activities, the Sector is clearing the way – and at the same time setting an example and an incentive for other institutions in the country – to shape a similar and open approach to cooperation with the NGO sector, and in particular to cooperation with young people.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November, 2004, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia signed the Framework Agreement with the European Community and its Member States as a Protocol to the Stabilization and Association Agreement between the Republic of Macedonia and the European Community and its Member States, with which we have acquire open access to all current Community Programmes. What is most important for this forum is the information that in fact, the Republic of Macedonia now has free access to Community Programmes in the field of education, and, most importantly, to the Youth Programme and its activities. A lot has been achieved with this step: one year after the Thessaloniki Summit the European Union commitment has been fulfilled, by that enabling a sizeable part of the civil society sector and an especially big segment of the youth in Macedonia as well as in South East Europe to have access to these programmes.

In the end, I would like to emphasize that the Sector for European Integration remains open to cooperation with all interested parties, while at the same time, as a part of its responsibilities and competencies it will continue to follow all the activities on the European Union level and will secure the corresponding information as well as reactions from local institutions.

Thank you for your attention. I wish you a successful and fruitful session.

**Elizabeta Buova**  
**Head of the Institution Building Unit**  
**Sector for European Integration**  
**Government of the Republic of Macedonia**

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## **Mss. Stephanie Rust, the Country Director of ISC in Macedonia**

It is an honour for me to be here. Having worked, lived and traveled in many of your countries, it is really a pleasure for me to address you all gathered together here for such an exciting conference.

The Institute for Sustainable Communities work in Macedonia is funded by the United States Agency for International Development. The USAID Mission Director Dick Goldman is not able to join us today but he sent a letter to all of you that I would like to read later on.

All of your countries are at different stages of developing and implementing national or regional youth policies. I think you will agree with me that it is in every country's best interest to create and implement a youth policy – not only because it is a requirement of EU accession, but because it's the right thing to do - youth will shape the kind of countries you become.

Youth policies shouldn't only be for youth, but developed with youth. The only way to develop an effective policy is to involve young people in the process.

ISC is very proud that a youth policy has been developed in Macedonia this year. I want to recognize members of the Coalition SEGA, its coordinator, Youth Council-Prilep, and the Agency for Youth and Sport for being such energetic, professional and committed partners in this process.

This is the first time in Macedonia that NGOs, experts, national government officials, municipalities, businesses, and youth themselves have worked together to develop a national policy. The Agency for Youth and Sport initiated and facilitated the entire process. The Coalition SEGA gathered input and recommendations for a draft policy during two youth NGO forums in February and August of this year involving over 50 NGOs who gave opinions and suggestions. Then 15 public debates and 50 round tables were held around the country for youth themselves, experts, local government officials and businesses to provide feedback and suggestions.

We are proud to have been part of this participatory process and we look forward to seeing the policy submitted and adopted in whole by parliament in the near future.

Furthermore, I think those of you involved in this process, the Agency for Youth and Sport and the Coalition SEGA, have set an example for other government agencies, ministries, local municipalities and NGOs to follow for developing inclusive policies that responds to real needs.

Completion of the national youth policy in Macedonia is an important step, but now the hard part starts – implementation. The same effort dedicated to developing the policy now needs to be applied to its implementation. We see two critical next steps

- 1) Need to develop mechanisms and protocols for how national government bodies, local municipalities and NGOs will work together to achieve the policy's goals, and
- 2) Proceed with developing local youth policies at the municipal level in correlation with the national policy. This year ISC's NGO partner, CCI Prilep, has developed a model for this process in Prilep.

I look forward to hearing from our colleagues in other countries to see what we can learn from their experience in policy implementation. One of the main objectives of this conference is for us to share and learn from our diverse experiences. We are delighted that you have come to Macedonia to discuss these issues.

I sincerely hope that by the end of the conference you are able to identify joint projects and find strength to continue your important work through the cooperation and wisdom of all present.



## USAID MACEDONIA

Statement from Dick Goldman for the  
Southeastern European Youth Policy Conference  
November 17, 2004  
Ohrid, Macedonia

Greetings from United States Agency for International Development.

I regret that I cannot be with you today. However, USAID recognizes the importance of youth and the huge challenges you are facing. Employment and education are two of the most important issues for every country represented here and they are probably near the top of the priority list for you. USAID has helped communities improve their schools and look for new economic opportunities in your countries.

Here in the Balkans, the challenges facing youth are complicated by the legacy of years of turmoil and inherited ethnic strife. You in this room claim the leadership of youth organizations and I salute you. This region needs youth leadership to build bridges across ethnic differences, to look for new solutions to the problems of education and employment, and to challenge your countries on a wide array of other topics such as the environment and the role of women.

You are 60 delegates from 10 countries, meeting to share experiences and help your nations craft a National Youth Policy. This is an important issue and it is one of the requirements of the European Union. Just getting together in this forum is an achievement. You will meet leaders from other countries with whom you can share experiences. You will make new friends and develop e-mail "pen-pals". Hopefully you will learn something new you can apply back home.

Youth brings creativity, adaptability and new ideas. Focus on your strengths as youth. You need education, but you may need to seek out new kinds of education. You need employment, but you may need to create the employment. You need a policy that helps heal the scars from the past, but you need to start the healing yourselves. Learn from each other and help draft a National Youth Policy here at this conference, but apply all the energy, innovation, and creativity you can assemble to your community. The future is depending on you.

With very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dick Goldman".

Dick Goldman  
Mission Director

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## **”Review of the Current Situation in the Youth Policy in SEE Region”**

Participants were divided in working groups to discuss the developments in the field of youth policy in the countries of the SEE region.

### **Working Groups Reports**

#### **Working Group 1: *Processes of Creation of Youth Policy***

This group had a task to determine the progress of creating youth policies in the SEE countries. The findings of the group indicate that the creation of youth policy is at different stage in each of the countries, as follows:

##### **Albania**

National Youth Strategy has been developed and the leading organization is the National Youth Council of Albania. Currently they are in the phase of lobbying for the national plan and the youth policy.

##### **Republic of Srpska**

Trough various activities they have prepared a national youth strategy. The next step is technical preparations for its adoption. Leading organization of the process is the National Youth Council of the Republic of Srpska.

##### **Serbia and Montenegro**

The process of creating the youth policy has started during 2003, but as a result of various political developments and instability in the country, it stopped.

##### **Province of Vojvodina**

The Youth Policy has been prepared and submitted to the Provincial Assembly for its adoption.

##### **Republic of Macedonia**

The National Youth Policy has been developed and submitted to the Parliament for its adoption.

##### **Croatia**

The National Youth Policy has been adopted.

### ***Findings***

The Working Group findings are as follows:

- ❑ Each country from the SEE region has started working on creation of National Youth Policy;
- ❑ The process of NPY development is at different stage in each country;
- ❑ The process of youth policy creation has been initiated primarily by Youth Councils, but also youth agencies, and secretariats for youth and sport; and
- ❑ Foreign donors provided significant support.

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## Conclusions

During the process of creation of the youth policy several activities have been used, such as: conferences, workshops, public hearings, forums, e-mail list, etc. Participants at these events included youth NGOs, representatives of governmental bodies responsible for youth, foreign donors and other parties interested in youth work and/or youth policy processes.

The action plans have almost the same priorities. They are as follows:

- ☐ Youth Education
- ☐ Youth Employment
- ☐ Youth Participation
- ☐ Mobility
- ☐ Sport and Leisure Time

A few different priorities/areas of work integrated into the youth policies include:

- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Youth Information
- ☐ Democracy and Human Rights
- ☐ Citizenship

A few examples of good practice have been pointed out, such as involvement of the youth branches of political parties in the lobbying for youth policy, and involvement of media in the activities.

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## **Working Group 2: Process of Implementation of Youth Policy**

The task of this Working Group was to determine the progress of implementation of the National Youth Policies in each of the countries represented at the Conference.

### **Romania**

The National Action Plan of Youth Policy was adopted 2 years ago, but the process of implementation is not working.

### **Albania**

The Youth Strategy was adopted a year and half ago. The Youth Action Plan is currently discussed.

### **Macedonia**

The Action Plan cannot be developed since the National Youth Policy has not been adopted yet.

### **Serbia and Montenegro**

Serbia started with creation of Youth Policy and Youth Action Plan 2 years ago, but the process has been stopped.

The Province of Vojvodina has been waiting for adoption of Youth Policy and Youth Action Plan for a year.

Montenegro has started the process of creating Youth Policy and Youth Action Plan.

### ***Findings:***

- ☐ Youth Strategy without Action Plan (including budget) is not enough to secure implementation
- ☐ The structures responsible for implementation should be independent (not political) composed of experts
- ☐ Resources for implementation of National Youth Policy should be provided for all phases
- ☐ Appropriate legislation should be adopted to support the process of implementation

### ***Conclusions:***

- ☐ Allocation of funds should be based on the regional needs of the counties
- ☐ Local Action Plan development is crucial for implementation of National Youth Policy since the needs are more specific at local level
- ☐ Mechanisms for revision for process of National Youth Policy implementation should be envisioned
- ☐ It is important to create monitoring/evaluation system for each implementation phase with appropriate structures (teams)
- ☐ If the period from the adoption to the implementation of the National Youth Policy is too long, it may affect the needs of youth (change in time)



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### **Working Group 3: Partnerships among Governmental Institutions, Civil Society Organizations and Other Stakeholders**

The Working Group 3 had to discuss the types of partnerships among various civil society organizations, governmental institutions and other interested parties, established to develop and implement national youth policies.

#### **Serbia**

National Youth Council was established in Serbia but it did not function. Therefore, a network of six national NGOs has been established. The network is called “Youth Coalition Serbia”. They are trying to find the best model of cooperation between NGOs and governmental institutions.

#### **Republic of Srpska**

The Youth Council of R. Srpska is a national association consisted of youth NGOs, scout organizations, Red Cross, etc. The government is represented by a consultant. They created a Youth Council and started advocating for Law on Youth Organizations two years ago. Steering committee was formed, composed of: representatives from the Ministry and Youth Council. Every 5 years, the Youth Council, Agency for Youth and Sport and Ministry develop a document which is submitted to the government. The Youth Council from R. Srpska is allocated funds from the state budget as provided by law. Also they succeeded to allow representatives from Youth Council to be present at parliament sessions with previously determined agenda. Prior to this, all funds went to sport. At the end of this year, they expect to have the document for advocacy action for youth ready. As for the partnerships with governmental organizations, it was clarified that a Secretariat of Youth and Sport was established. The main problem in the communication with the institutions is that the politicians are not putting the youth “on the agenda”. During the long process of initiating cooperation with the government, youth NGOs had to train the Secretary of Youth and Sports. Even though they have succeeded in making government officials to work with the Youth Council, government officials still lack knowledge about youth issues and policy. However, it was stressed that in spite of the differences between youth NGOs and governmental policies, they must cooperate with each other. Therefore, the NGOs have to have a capacity to lobby and negotiate.

This year the Youth Council of R. Srpska is asking the government for a separate budget item for youth and sports, as well as establishment of a commission responsible for allocation of funds at local level.

#### **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

BiH does not have Youth Council. The communication with the government institutions is weak. There is also a need of forming a Youth Council which would be joined to the Youth Council of R. Srpska, and thus establish a Youth Council at national level.

#### **Macedonia**

There is a Youth Council which exists formally, but it is not functional. The coalition SEGA was established to reunite the youth NGOs. The coalition is led by the Youth Council-Prilep.

#### **Bulgaria**

There is a partnership between the youth NGOs at local level, but nothing at national level. That is why nothing is functioning; because there are conflicts of interest. The only national organizations are Scout organizations and Red Cross, but they have problems as well. The Agency of Youth and Sport in Bulgaria is under political influence and there is no National Strategy for Youth. The Agency makes



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documents (strategy), but there is nobody to work with (there are no strong organizations at national level). An informal working group was formed consisting of partisan youth organizations and NGOs but the cooperation with them is very difficult.

### **Serbia**

There is a Youth Council of Serbia but it is not functional. In 2000, the Ministry of Youth and Sport ceased to exist. Now they have a Secretariat of Youth. Nothing is happening at local level. The Youth Council must be reconstructed in order to start functioning. In the meantime, a new informal network was created – “Coalition of the Youth Organizations – Serbia”.

### **Province of Vojvodina**

There is a Secretariat of Youth and Sport, using separate budget. Youth Council of Vojvodina is in contact with this institution. The National Plan for youth will be feasible and easy to implement. There were several round tables organized in order to present the National Youth Policy. All this was in cooperation with the media and several campaigns were made. At the end, it would be submitted to the Government of Vojvodina.

### **Croatia**

In 2000 the National Youth Council was formed and in 2001 the initiative for National Strategy for youth development, started. The National Youth Council initiated forming of “joint team” (government and NGO representatives) to work together, but the Youth Council was not satisfied with the results. Anyway, the strategy was given to the government. In Croatia the sector for youth is situated within the Ministry of Family, Defenders and Intergeneration Solidarity.

The representative from Croatia stressed that the Youth NGOs or Councils should be more concentrated at local level and there should be a National Council which will function more like a liaison among all these Youth NGOs. The function of the National Youth Council is to get all important information in one place and not to implement, but to protect the rights of the young people.

### ***Findings***

- ☐ There is not enough cooperation between the NGOs, but there are initiatives for creating functional youth bodies/councils
- ☐ There are no National Youth Councils in R. Macedonia, BiH, Bulgaria
- ☐ The partnership between the youth NGOs and governmental institutions is poor

### ***Conclusions***

- ☐ Strengthening the partnership between the NGOs and Government.
- ☐ Familiarizing politicians with youth issues
- ☐ Implementing youth activities

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## **Working Group 4: Financial Support for the Implementation of Youth Policy**

### **Croatia**

Croatia is in the process of creation of independent institution (Agency), which would be in charge of raising funds. This Agency would be consisted of representatives of the government and NGOs. Training should be provided to local youth councils to be able to use funds for implementation. The representative from Croatia also recognized the problem of infrastructure – institutions dealing with implementation of youth policy are working slowly and are not efficient enough.

### **Romania**

Romania has a national authority of youth in charge of implementation of youth policy. The participant from Romania recognized the problem of centralization of this authority (local institutions are not sufficiently involved in the implementation). The second problem present in Romania is the influence by political (state) structures, which slow down the functioning of the national authority of youth.

Although this authority is financed by the Government, it is not efficient in raising enough funds for the implementation of the projects.

Thirdly, local municipalities do not have youth issues as a top priority in their strategies and programs.

Fourthly, youth NGOs do not coordinate their activities in accordance with the national strategy and funds are dispersed.

### **Serbia**

Youth policy does not exist. There is not a relevant governmental structure dealing with youth. Exception is the Province of Vojvodina.

### **Macedonia**

The policy has been created and is in the process of adoption. However, there is no financial plan.

### ***Conclusions***

- ☐ There is no general functioning model on securing funds for youth policy implementation in the region
- ☐ Governments and politicians are ignorant of youth strategy issues which makes implementation and financial support more difficult
- ☐ Foreign donors are possibility for funding
- ☐ There is no strategy for sustainability

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## **Panel Discussion - Youth Policy and EU Integrations**

### **Guest speakers:**

**Ms. Elizabeta Buova** - representative from the Department of EU Integrations of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia

**Mr. Emil Kirijas** – Consultant on Youth, Council of Europe

The guest speakers raised the following issues:

Ms. Elizabeta Buova pointed out that Macedonia has designed two documents at national level to address youth issues such as: health, social, young entrepreneurs, SMEs. One of these documents is the national strategy for EU integration.

On the other hand, a second committee within the Stabilization and Association Agreement was established and it will be focused on human resources, information technology etc – domains that will include youth issues and will address them in the measures that will be designed.

The following week Macedonia will formally start to run 5 programs (Erasmus, Socrates, the Youth Program...) all of them intended to engage the young people from Macedonia. All these activities address youth issues in Macedonia.

Mr. Emil Kirijas explained that the European Youth Forum meeting had no SEE representatives, but the work plan that was designed during the meeting did not neglect the SEE youth.

Processes at EU level that refer to youth/youth policy include:

1. The Youth Director from the Council of Europe that deals with Youth Policy is focused on youth training, capacity building – developed in programs at national and regional level with the support of European Youth Foundation.
2. Co-management in the Council of Europe (e.g. Slovenia, Czech Republic, Lithuania) – government and civil society (youth movement contributions), so the youth expresses its opinion, ideas, the youth decides and thus is much more motivated within the process.
3. White Paper on Youth (2000-2002) – similar process with the one going on in Macedonia in the last year and a half: a consultation with all actors in the youth sector and the result is a youth policy for the next 10 years. Unfortunately, Macedonia did not participate in the drafting process of the White Paper on Youth because it was not able to organize a representative body/group at national level – this reveals the current issue: organizations did not synergize regarding the National Youth Policy.
4. The Youth Program – 600 million euros budget. Macedonia will start running the program on January 1, 2005.
5. Joint initiative by the Heads of States and Prime Ministers of France, Spain, Sweden, Germany that demanded to the EU President's Office the involvement of youth in the Lisbon decisions' implementation.

### ***Conclusions***

The means, mechanisms, instruments, will, support, empowerment are there, young people, Youth NGOs, have to find the capacity and will to use them!!!

The example from the countries in Central Europe show that the young people had change in perspective – young leaders emerged with a different mindset, able to lead their countries to create a European identity, citizenship. This change is needed in the SEE region also!!!

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## Question and Answer Session:

**Question 1:** What conditions a state should accomplish in order to join the Youth Program?

**Answer:** All SEE countries are welcomed, they have to sign a protocol.

There is a classification of countries; 3<sup>rd</sup> countries have to run projects with program countries in order to be eligible for the youth program funds.

**Question 2:** Does the National Agency run Youth Program?

**Answer:** The Youth Program is run by National Agencies of Youth Program – non-governmental ones – coordinated by Brussels and the European Commission (for more complex, multinational projects).

**Question 3:** Was the draft of the National Youth Policy of Macedonia considered in the national strategy for EU integration?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question 4:** Are the governmental institutions aware of the National Youth Policy? Are they ready to develop inner mechanisms, policies to implement the National Youth Policy?

**Answer:** No idea, the budget is ready anyway. Luckily, there is this national strategy for EU integration.

### Other comments/remarks/recommendations:

- ☐ Differences between Central Europe and SEE region in terms of youth sector: in SEE region there is a "fight" among Youth NGOs and also they are afraid of cooperation with political youth organizations, but if they would work together they would see that the gains are bigger than what you lose.
- ☐ Lobby towards the government as a united youth sector!!!
- ☐ Coaching, mentoring system is needed and recommended between national youth councils in EU member states and SEE countries or among SEE countries.
- ☐ Develop specific programs for SEE region/national current situation, do not copy-paste!!!
- ☐ Young people are not informed about EU structures, programs, youth policies.
- ☐ Youth NGOs fight for their needs not the real needs of the young people they represent.
- ☐ Baltic countries best practice; they educated their youth in EU spirit, involved them in decision making process.
- ☐ Youth NGOs run from corrupt institutions (AfYS in Macedonia, ANSIT in Romania) but in stead they should be more aggressive in their fight with corrupt and non-transparent structures because these structures take advantage of this passivity and do not do their job.
- ☐ Government can not be excluded from the implementation of Youth Policy, lobby them, do your homework as youth representatives, come with solutions, suggestions and models.
- ☐ Government + civil society should pressure the business sector to get involved in solving of youth issues.

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## **”Obstacles, Opportunities, Best Practices and Implementation of Youth Policy”**

Following the Panel Discussion the participants were divided in four working groups to discuss obstacles, opportunities and the best practices of youth policy implementation.

### **Working Groups Reports**

#### **Working Group 1: Processes of Creation of Youth Policy**

##### **Obstacles**

- ☐ Too much time passed while starting the process
- ☐ Weak cooperation with the media
- ☐ Passive political system
- ☐ Problem with the funds
- ☐ Politicians were not informed /aware
- ☐ Delays due to political interests /conflicts
- ☐ Insufficient involvement of “ordinary” young people
- ☐ Lack of continuity when participating at the forums
- ☐ Exclusion of young people from rural areas and minorities

##### **Best practices**

- ☐ Good cooperation with the government
- ☐ Participation by all relevant stakeholders
- ☐ Support by international organizations
- ☐ International experience used
- ☐ Good networking among NGOs
- ☐ Research as basis of the process
- ☐ Action plan prepared
- ☐ Priorities well-defined
- ☐ Public round tables
- ☐ Division of young people according to age (9 -15 years vs. 30 years)

##### **Mechanisms of implementation**

- ☐ Existence of umbrella organization or coalition
- ☐ Establishment of multi sector commission for implementation (to advocate, lobby, fundraise)
- ☐ Involvement of media
- ☐ Creation of action plans at local level
- ☐ Government to support the umbrella organization (coalition to run the process)
- ☐ Regular evaluation of the process /achievements
- ☐ Each organization to include activities from the Youth Policy in their program
- ☐ Each Ministry to create program for implementation of Youth Policy
- ☐ Use international experience in implementation of National Youth Policy
- ☐ Work in coordination with international organizations, but follow the action plan and the needs

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## **Lessons learned**

- ☐ Documents /researches should be used in the process
- ☐ The process should go faster
- ☐ Mechanisms for including "ordinary" young people, minorities and people from rural areas should be developed
- ☐ Enough funds should be provide before the beginning of the process
- ☐ Greater involvement of media
- ☐ Create coordination mechanisms among the ministries
- ☐ Involvement of the universities

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## Working Group 2: Process of implementation of Youth Policy

### Obstacles

- ☐ Unstable political situation (elections, change of government, political instability)
- ☐ Lack of financial support
- ☐ Low rate of participation in NGO structure
- ☐ Lack of monitoring of the activities (received grants) of NGOs (practices in Macedonia and Serbia are examples). The NGO's are not efficiently monitored in the implementation of the funded projects. Therefore some funds are not used properly.
- ☐ NGOs have feeling that they are not owners of the National Youth Policy
- ☐ Low level of participation in all the fields (economical, social, political)

### Opportunities<sup>1</sup>

#### *Youth NGOs*

- ☐ Visibility and recognition by governmental and business sector and public in general
- ☐ Offer a framework
- ☐ Sustainable actions
- ☐ Partnership with other stakeholders, especially with business sector
- ☐ System of monitoring of all process related to Youth Policy (implementation, distribution of recourses and funds)
- ☐ Efficient management of the recourses designed for youth field

#### *Structures Implementing Youth Policy*

- ☐ Election campaigns – good chance for politicians to win extra points with youth voters
- ☐ Co-funding
- ☐ Better knowledge about needs of youth
- ☐ Support from the youth NGOs
- ☐ Discussion among partners in the field of youth NGOs

#### *Youth*

- ☐ Future leaders – great youth potential
- ☐ Benefits of the services provided by NGOs
- ☐ Access to all kind of society and NGO programs (education, mobility, information, etc)

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<sup>1</sup> This group was subdivided based on the role played in Youth Policy.

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## Recommendations

### *Structures Implementing Youth Policy*

- ☐ NGOs participation in the decision making process (implementation, monitoring and evaluation)
- ☐ Say "NO" to politicization
- ☐ Involvement of experts
- ☐ Stability in the implementation teams
- ☐ Dissemination of information and transparency
- ☐ Decentralization
- ☐ Permanent monitoring and evaluation of Youth Policy
- ☐ Distribution of funds according to the specific needs of the regions

### *Youth NGOs*

- ☐ More active role in the process of implementation of Youth Policy
- ☐ Better communication with other stakeholders
- ☐ Involvement of experts in their work
- ☐ Acting in coalitions
- ☐ Better contact with target groups
- ☐ Better cooperation and communication among youth NGOs
- ☐ Long term strategy



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### **Working Group 3: Partnerships between Governmental Institutions, Civil Society Organizations and Other Stakeholders**

#### **Obstacles**

- ☐ Politicization of NGOs
- ☐ Lack of appropriate legislation
- ☐ National youth policies “suffer” because of other political issues
- ☐ Corruption

#### **Recommendations**

- ☐ Formal inclusion of youth NGOs in the process of drafting legislation
- ☐ Local youth NGOs should join themselves in coalition acting at national level

#### **Conclusions**

- ☐ Continuation in experience exchange between the NGOs from deferent countries, considering implementation of the Strategies and solving problems that occur
- ☐ Improving the cooperation between deferent Ministries and strengthening the Inter-sartorial cooperation
- ☐ The young people should be always in the agenda of the governments

### **Working Group 4: Financial Support for Implementation of Youth Policy**

#### **Obstacles**

- ☐ Government and politicians are ignorant of Youth Policy
- ☐ Business sector is not involved
- ☐ Lack of cooperation or coordination among NGOs
- ☐ Lack of NGO networks
- ☐ Lack of capacity of the national bodies (agencies) for youth
- ☐ Tight state budgets and bad economical situation
- ☐ Slow process of distribution of funds by internal donors
- ☐ Lack of shared responsibility for Youth Policy implementation at local level (local governments)
- ☐ The initiators of Youth Policy do not think in advance about the implementation
- ☐ Lack of legal regulations in some of the countries
- ☐ Lack of transparency in the tendering process-corruption

#### **Opportunities**

- ☐ Foreign donors are still present in the region
- ☐ EU Integration processes
- ☐ Regional cooperation and joint projects
- ☐ Learning from the experience of the other SEE countries
- ☐ Use the expertise from the countries
- ☐ Share experience and expertise from our countries
- ☐ Use of existing laws (on transparency, participation in decision making process)

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## Recommendations

- Establish body for coordination of funds with representation on all actors (government, NGOs, internal agencies)
- Balance and diversity of sources of funding (governmental, foreign, business)
- The same body should coordinate the implementation
- Developing strict procedures for transparency
- Provide training and build capacity of institutions and NGOs on how to apply for foreign funds
- Changes in the fiscal legislation for NGO funding to increase the funds allocated to NGOs
- Decentralization of implementation and transfer of some funding at local level
- NGOs should advocate for incorporating programs from the National Youth Strategy in the budget of various Ministries. While advocating they should develop and propose concrete solutions and mechanisms
- While developing programs or projects NGOs should refer to national strategy, their priorities and to coordinate with other NGOs in their field of work
- Maintain relations with experts
- Maintain relations with donors
- Improve the financial management of the funds
- Develop strategies for financial sustainability of NGOs (various sources of funding, membership fees, self – financing activities, etc)
- The countries that do not have policy adopted– they should think and establish mechanisms for implementation and funding during the planning process
- Use support of the neighbouring countries – ask your governments to put pressure and support their neighbouring governments
- Apply to their regional funds
- Joint efforts in policy creation: government, CSOs, international government organizations
- There must be a "beaver" of responsibility- and it should be a governmental body There should be a "college", a forum at which all actors should be able to influence the "Agenda"
- Strategies should be followed by action /operational plans
- Action Plans should be dynamic in order to avoid ambitions and unrealistic plans, the best solution is to pace the activities
- Funding: a combination of budget funds from the government (after all, Y P is a governmental policy, IGO funds and private sector funds)
- Synergy and complementarities of the efforts of all involved in the policy creation, funding and implementation
- Keep the process transparent
- Use the energy for advocating and lobbying
- Use EU, EU funds, EU experience and EU knowledge

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## Panel Discussion: Presentation of the Working Groups Conclusions

After the presentation made by the Working Group 1, the following question was raised: is the implementation process considered in the planning process of the National Youth Policy?

The representative from the Province of Vojvodina explained that they developed a four-year plan as well as campaigns. The representative from the Republic of Srpska was of the opinion that a strong youth sector should push the Government for the implementation. The representatives from Croatia suggested that pushing the government was not a good method. The government can not implement youth policy, the youth sector should create new mechanisms, new models and advocate them. The representative from Serbia and Montenegro pointed out that the national strategy stood as a working plan for groups involved in the creation, a working plan considered by all actors.

A conclusion was made that as far as the current situation in the SEE region was concerned, the National Youth Policies were just written papers that could not be implemented.

As a result of the Working Group 2 presentation, the following conclusions were made:

### Points related to youth:

- ☐ There is a need for a better organized youth sector to push the government
- ☐ Only financially independent youth sector can become an equal partner for discussion
- ☐ Youth policy creation and implementation is a long and hard process so we should build capacity and share information
- ☐ Youth non-governmental organizations are different from youth civil organizations – roles should be clarified and maybe, if needed, partnerships can be built.

### Points related to Government:

- ☐ Youth is not a hot issue for the authorities
- ☐ Lack of knowledge about youth policies, youth problems
- ☐ Lack of understanding for the issues stressed by youth
- ☐ Lack of communication with youth NGOs

The presentation of the Working Group 4 resulted in the conclusion that the financial support for the implementation of the youth policy in the Province of Vojvodina has been secured. They have a financial plan and a budget. Part of the needed money is covered by the province's government which was included in their budget for all the phases of the implementation process and for the expert teams.

The panel moderator gave the following remarks:

### The current situation in the SEE region:

- ☐ There are a lot of similarities in the SEE countries
- ☐ There are problems in the implementation process
- ☐ There is a lack of efficient mechanisms of implementation
- ☐ There is a lack of cooperation, coordination, and transparency

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**Final discussion:**

**Question 1:** What is the situation at local level regarding coalitions, local youth councils, and financial support?

The representative from Macedonia explained that the Institute for Sustainable (ISC) Communities supported creation of local youth action plans, which can become a model. ISC thinks that solving youth problems at the local level is a key issue. And also the experience from the local communities was used in the work for the national action plans that were at the same time a starting point for the local action plans again.

**Question 2:** What mechanisms of implementation are designed?

The representative from the Province of Vojvodina explained that in their case three expert teams (multi-sectors) were established to cover more locations. They were responsible for monitoring, evaluation and control of the implementation process and the distribution of funds.

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## APPENDIX I

### Declaration for Youth Policy cooperation in SEE region

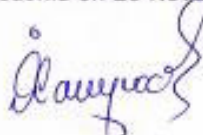
#### **Declaration for Youth Policy cooperation in SEE region**

***Based on international experiences of situations of youth in SEE region and developing Youth Policies, and according with new challenges in youth fields, representatives from Government institutions and non-governmental organizations, met in Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia, from 17 to 20 November 2004, for the "SEE Youth Policy Conference" and made the following declaration:***

- 1.** Establish and reinforce national and regional partnership forums including meaningful participation of young people in civil society, to design, review, monitor and report progress in the implementation of Youth Policies;
- 2.** Support stronger regional cooperation and networking among young people and civil society organizations in SEE region, and call upon the Joint European Youth Programme on Youth policy in partnership with the European Union, existing civil society networks and other regional partner institutions to assist, facilitate and coordinate such collaboration;
- 3.** Encourage and facilitate strong leadership by civil society and governments in our countries in contributing to the achievement of the goals and targets of the National youth policies, European Union White paper on Youth Policy and EU Youth Programme.
- 4.** Active involving of young people and in civil society and government institutions, in the development and implementation of national youth policies, strategies, actions and financing plans, including through participation in national and regional partnership activities;
- 5.** Ensure effective coordination between donors, multilateral organizations, civil society and Governments in the effective delivery of assistance to the countries most in need of support in the implementation of their national strategies, based on ongoing processes on simplification and harmonization particularly the EU guiding indicators;
- 6.** Work with leaders from the private sector in youth field through employee non-discrimination policies, and support services for youth, and through engagement with policy makers on the local, national and regional levels;
- 7.** Establish sustainable partnerships with the media, recognising the critical role that it plays in influencing attitudes and in providing related information;
- 8.** Promote the active involvement of the institutions of the European Union, and other relevant institutions and organizations such as the Council of Europe, and partnership with UN and EU through its co-sponsoring agencies and its Secretariat, in our common effort to strengthen coordination and cooperation;
- 9.** We commit ourselves to closely involve all our capacities for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the actions outlined in this Declaration, to establish adequate forums, activities and mechanisms including the involvement of civil society and young people at regional level every year.
- 10.** We commit our selves to inform and open possibilities for all interested parties to prepare an action plan in regard to this declaration which will be adopted at the next session of this permanent SEE Youth policy Conference.



Declaration for Youth Policy Cooperation in South East European Region is adopted on the First session of "SEE Youth Policy Conference" held in Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia on 20 November 2004.

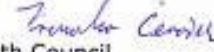



Co-Chairman  
Hristijan Jankuloski  
Youth Council – Prilep, R.Macedonia  
Vice President




Chairman  
Zoran Ilieski  
Youth Council – Prilep, R.Macedonia  
President

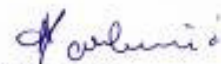
Confirmations:  
Jelena Savanovic   
Youth Council of Republic of Srpska

Krunoslav Cernosek   
Croatian National Youth Council

Jasmina Mudric   
Youth Council of Vojvodina, Serbia and Montenegro

Viorel Proteasa  
Timis County Youth Foundation, Romania

Denis Basic   
Student Union of University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Hercegovina

Aleksandar Gavrilovic   
Youth House, Serbia and Montenegro

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## **APPENDIX II**

### **Conference Evaluation**

Participants filled in individual evaluation questionnaires in order to provide feedback about the quality of the topics and discussions raised at the Conference. The results are as follows:

Participants were asked to estimate the quality of the conference as "very good", "satisfactory" and "poor". 98% of the participants answered with "very good".

Largest number of the participants said that the Conference contributed to increasing of their understanding of the processes of effective development, adoption and implementation of the youth policies in the SEE region.

The participants were highly satisfied regarding the new partnerships, which were established during the Conference.

The preference between working in small groups or in panels was balanced among the participants. Those participants who were in favour of more lectures and background information were just as many as those who opted for workshops and small group work. In conclusion, the participants were satisfied by the good balance of the programme throughout the conference.

The Working Groups helped the participants to exchange experience, discussing best practices, and sharing information on the difficulties that they have faced in the process of development of youth policies.

The Panel Discussions were useful because of the information provided by the facilitators, the possibility for group discussions, and determining joint conclusions and next steps.

The entire logistics of the Conference was estimated as "very good".

Here are some of the answers to the questions in the questionnaire

#### **1."What was missing?"**

- ☐ NGO fair – a session to present each organization in a more detailed manner (projects, future plans)
- ☐ Internet
- ☐ Experts in creation and implementation of National Youth Policy – the ones who were involved
- ☐ More participants from international organizations and governmental representatives for determining the future visibility of the whole process
- ☐ Participation from the governmental institutions from the SEE region
- ☐ Good food for vegetarians
- ☐ It might be useful to invite also few relevant participants from the EU region to learn about their experience and best practices because it is obvious that there are no best practices in implementation from this region

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## 2. "What topics do you consider to be interesting for future events related to Youth Policy?"

- ☐ More concrete activities such as: trainings on: coordinating coalition network building, advocacy, lobby, and public relations
- ☐ Partnership, media promotion, research on the needs of young people, including more young people in realization of Youth Policy
- ☐ Development of action plans for realization of national policy at local levels.
- ☐ Youth participation and sustainability of the process
- ☐ Financial support for implementation of Youth Strategy/Policy
- ☐ Reaching young people not involved in NGOs (those 97%), and how to reach and effectively use the EU Youth Programs and regional projects
- ☐ Mechanisms for implementation of Youth Policy as well as involvement of governments in this process
- ☐ Youth cooperation in the region
- ☐ Further development and advocating techniques to promote solving youth problems

### **Other personal remarks**

- ☐ I had nice time. And I am glad I took part in this conference. I have learned a lot of things that I will soon use in practise. Let's stay friends
- ☐ Consulting with Youth on Youth policy: Ensuring that mechanisms/ structures for youth participations, Youth influence on the Youth Policy Development is as broad as possible
- ☐ Make this event regular, every year. Start fundraising for it from the beginning of the year to be able to start inviting relevant people in time



### APPENDIX III

#### Conference Program

<i>hour</i>	<i>I Day 17.11 2004 ( Wednesday)</i>
18.30-20:00	<b>Opening of Conference</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Addressing by the Project Coordinator <i>Mr. Zoran Ilieski</i>.</li> <li>- Addressing by the Deputy Director on Agency for Youth and Sport Mr. <i>Petar Siljanovski</i></li> <li>- Addressing by the representative from Department for EU Integrations of Government of R.M. <i>Ms. Elizabeta Buova</i>.</li> <li>- Addressing by the Country Director of ISC <i>Mss. Stephanie Rust</i></li> <li>- Introduction of Youth Council – Prilep</li> <li>- Review of the agenda</li> </ul>
20:30	Dinner
<i>hour</i>	<i>II Day 18.11.2004 (Thursdays)</i>
10:00-11:45	Review of the current situation in the Youth Policy in SEE Region (work in small groups) <sup>2</sup>
11:45-12:15	Coffee break
12:15-14:00	Presentation of conclusions from the working groups (panel discussions)
14:00	Lunch break
16:30-18:00	Youth policy and EU integrations (panel discussions)
20:00-21:15	Dinner
21:30	Socializing event
<i>hour</i>	<i>III Day 19.11.2004 (Friday)</i>
10:00-11:45	Obstacles, opportunities, best practices and implementation of Youth Policy (work in small groups)
11:45-12:15	Coffee break
12:15-13:15	Presentation of conclusions from the working groups (panel discussions)
13:15-14:00	Discussion for Declaration for Youth Policy cooperation in SEE Region (panel discussions)
14:00-15:00	Lunch break
15:00	<b>Sight seeing:</b> Samuel Fortress, Antic theatre, Church St. Kliment Ohridski (Plaosnik), Church St. Jovan Kaneo, Church St. Sofia
20:00	Dinner
<i>hour</i>	<i>IV Day 20.11.2004 (Saturday)</i>
10:00-11:45	Youth mobility in SEE Region (Panel discussion)

<sup>2</sup> First Group-Processes of Creation of Youth Policy; Second Group-Process of Implementation of Youth Policy; Third Group-Partnerships between Governmental Institutions, Civil Society Organizations and Other Stakeholders; Fourth Group- Financial Support for the Implementation of Youth Policies

11:45-12:15	Coffee break
12:15-12:30	Adoption of Declaration for Youth Policy cooperation in SEE Region
12:45-13:00	Closing
13:00	Lunch break
14:00	Departure

**Workshop Program "Regional Youth Policy Campaign"<sup>3</sup>**

17:00-18:15	Brainstorming/ possible topics, overall aim for regional campaign
18:15-18:45	Coffee break
18:45-20:00	Specific aims, target group, expected results, duration of campaign
20:00	Dinner
<i>hour</i>	<i>V Day 21.11.2004 (Sunday)</i>
9:30-10:45	Activities for campaign and time frame
10:45-11:15	Coffee break
11:15-12:45	Budget and responsibilities of partners
13:00	Lunch break
16:00-17:30	Monitoring and evaluation of campaign/ Logical framework
17:30-18:00	Coffee break
18:00-19:00	Review of proposed campaign
20:00	Dinner
<i>hour</i>	<i>VI Day 22.11.2004 (Monday)</i>
07:00-09:00	Breakfast
09:00	Departure

<sup>3</sup> Only conference partners has participated on this workshops

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## **APPENDIX IV**

### **Information for Conference partners**

#### **Youth Council – Prilep**

##### **Background:**

Youth Council-Prilep is youth NGO that was established in June 1999. The main motive for its founding was to create conditions for common actions of young individuals and associations in order to identify and fulfil the youngster's needs.

##### **Mission Statement:**

Youth Council - Prilep is Civil Society Organization that work on youth inclusion in democratic processes and implementation of youth policy through advocacy, lobbying and non formal education in Republic of Macedonia.

##### **Programs:**

- ❖ Youth Program;
- ❖ Educational Program;
- ❖ Civil Society Program;
- ❖ Health Promotion Program;
- ❖ Environmental Protection Program;
- ❖ Research Program;
- ❖ International Collaboration Program.

##### **Contact:**

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Kire Risteski 11a  
7500 Prilep, Macedonia  
Tel: +389 48 421 070, +389 48 437 928  
Fax: +390 48 421 070  
e-mail: [youthcouncil@mt.net.mk](mailto:youthcouncil@mt.net.mk)  
Web: <http://youthcouncilprilep.netfirms.com>

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## **Center for Institutional Development (CID)**

### **Background:**

The Center for Institutional Development (CID) is a local organization established by the staff of the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC), the implementer of Democracy Network (DemNet) Program for USAID. The idea of establishing of a locally registered organization is to continue providing services and influence to the civil society in Macedonia beyond DemNet.

ISC opened an office in the Republic of Macedonia (ISC MK) in 1995. Since then it has been implementing the DemNet Program, with financial support from the US Agency for International Development (USAID). To date, four phases of DemNet have been initiated resulting with distribution of over 2,5 million US dollars through more than 350 projects to Macedonian CSOs in various programme areas.

### **Mission Statement:**

The Center for Institutional Development (CID) aims at development of civil society and local communities for achieving tangible social changes.

We strive to achieve the aims through public participation, advocacy, strengthening the capacities, promotion of the role and encouraging cooperation among Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and other stakeholders, and promoting community development initiatives.

### **Programs:**

- Civil society development
- Community Development
- Conflict resolution
- Gender issues
- Issues of marginalized groups (Roma, HIV /AIDS etc.)
- Youth issues

### **Contact:**

Center for Institutional Development  
Dime Anicin #9  
1000 Skopje, Macedonia  
Tel: +389 2 3114 855  
Fax: +390 2 3214 132  
e-mail: [cid@isc.org.mk](mailto:cid@isc.org.mk)

## **Timis County Youth Foundation**

### **Mission Statement:**

Educating youngsters for the sustainable development of the society

### **Contact:**

Timis County Youth Foundation  
Youth House, ARIES STR 19,  
300579, Timisoara, Timis, Romania  
Tel: +40-256-491170; 491560  
Fax: +40-256-491170; 491560  
e-mail: [office@youthcenter.ro](mailto:office@youthcenter.ro)  
Web: [www.youthcenter.ro](http://www.youthcenter.ro)

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## **Croatian National Youth Council (CNYC)**

### **Background:**

Croatian National Youth Council (CNYC) as a civil society organization in the Republic of Croatia was established in 2000 to serve as channel of communication between decision makers and youth, so to be common generation platform of youth interconnected by Information Society Technologies.

### **Mission Statement:**

CNYC mission is to contribute to the creation of the environment in which all young people will have opportunity to acquire the ability to cope and the ability to become the architects of their own development as individuals.

### **Goals:**

CNYC organization goals are oriented on implementation of European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Municipal and Regional Life and build up democratic social infrastructure of children, youth and young adults by establishing E-Local Youth Councils network.

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## **Youth House**

### **Background:**

NGO Youth House is an organization established by the group of youth activists who have significant experience in work with youth, especially in South Serbia. Following the needs of the youth and their possibilities to act in community, Youth House defines its main aims as increasing the visibility of youth and their promotion in society through various activities exclusively led by young people for the young. The main organizational course is to promote human dignity, universality of human ideas and democracy without prejudices and stereotypes regardless of sex, race, religion or any other kind of discrimination and division among people. Youth House is unique by its organizational and program structure because the main aim is to include as much as possible young people in the structure of the organization and creation of its activities. All programs are created considering the needs and possibilities of the youth and they are also led by youth that is one of the advantages of the organization.

### **Mission Statement:**

Our mission is to empower young people to develop their knowledge, skills and capabilities and to involve them in the development of society as active citizens, according to principles of human rights and democracy.

### **Objectives:**

- ☐ promotion of the quality of life of young people through educational activities which further their social and cultural development
- ☐ promotion of understanding and tolerance between young people from different countries and cultures
- ☐ promotion of European integration and education for democratic citizenship
- ☐ promotion of European programs for youth

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- ❑ development and improvement of cooperation between similar organizations from the country and abroad
  - ❑ increasing youth mobility and cooperation on national and European level
  - ❑ direct and indirect support for young people in their active participation in different spheres of society
  - ❑ improvement of social, economic, cultural and political conditions that determine development of young people
  - ❑ promotion of young people, development of their potentials and creativity
  - ❑ raising the ecological awareness and preservation of health environment

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**Youth Council Of Vojvodina**

**Background:**

Youth Council of Vojvodina is a non-governmental, apolitical, umbrella organization consists of 7 organizations working on provincial level, with over 15.000 members. Member organizations cover, with their activities of non-formal education, almost all program areas important for the development of young people in Vojvodina. Through their activities young people are given the opportunity to fulfil their interests in the areas of non-formal education, music, science, technique, life in nature or they can travel round the country and abroad with special reduced fares. Young people also have a chance to develop their inner potentials and to obtain skills, attitudes and knowledge for their future life.

**Mission Statement:**

Advocacy and lobbying interests of youth in Vojvodina on provincial and regional level and developing youth policy based on youth needs through law procedures and through involving of youth in all social processes with following principles of tolerance, democratic values, plurisam, transparency and independency.

**Objectives:**

- ❑ Working on enlargement of number of direct activists and working on better communication and information flow between member organizations and activists
- ❑ Capacity building of member organization
- ❑ Raising public awareness and youth about youth issues and importance of youth organizations
- ❑ Networking of youth organizations in Vojvodina and building strong coalition for realisation Youth Policy in Vojvodina
- ❑ Building instruments for financial independence and sustainability
- ❑ Founding a strong and defined logistical unit in YCV structure
- ❑ Developing dialogue platform for organizations from Vojvodina with European and regional organizations
- ❑ Founding educational training centre for youth and independent youth media centre
- ❑ Founding Fund for Youth Development and foundation for helping Youth non-governmental sector and initiatives in Vojvodina

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## APPENDIX V

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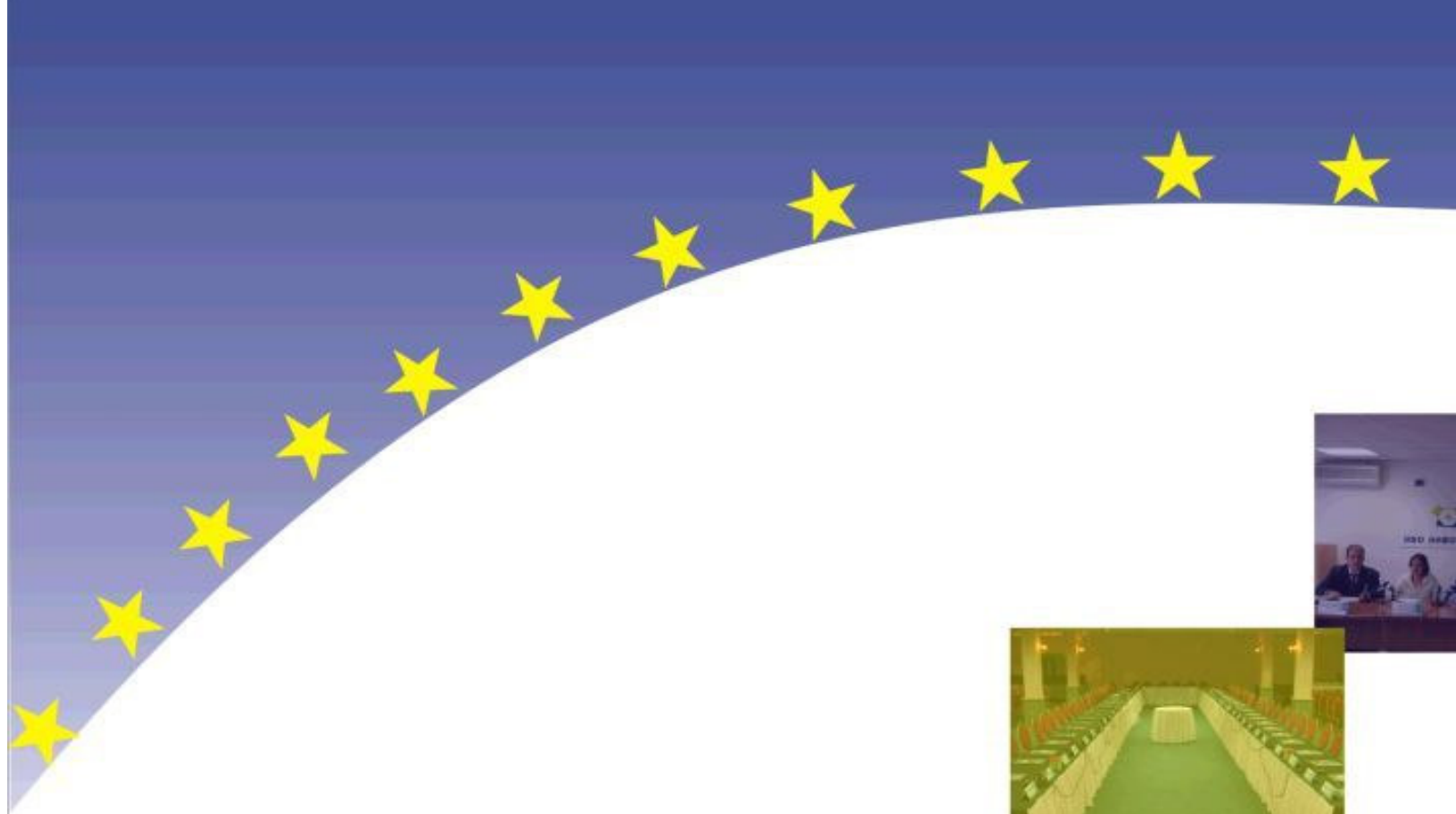
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Фондација за меѓународно соработување



Фондација за меѓународно соработување  
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