

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

2013

OF THE

ASSOCIATION FOR CIVIL ACTIVISM FORUM 16 – BITOLA

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- **Vision, mission and strategic objectives**

Association for Civil Activism FORUM 16 is non-governmental, non-partisan, non-religious and non-profit association established in September 2013. The association is a forum for open dialogues focusing on issues of common interest to the members of the Association as well as issues of interest to other citizens. Its vision is to help citizens of Macedonia to develop better lives through new initiatives that promote active citizenship, opportunity and engagement in civil society.

The mission is to help citizens of Macedonia in the realization of their own ideas in the fields of culture, art, economy, education and social responsibility, and to motivate citizen involvement in ongoing programs, projects and actions.

The objectives of the association are:

1. To encourage and support youth activism in the field of culture, economic development, local affairs, sports and education.
2. To promote and support civic initiatives which encourage social progress, European values and international cooperation.
3. To encourage and support entrepreneurial spirit and strengthening of the ecosystem in Macedonia for formation of businesses, civil society organizations and social enterprises.
4. To encourage and support volunteerism and non-formal education.

- **Implemented activities**

In the period from September 2013 to December 2013, most activities were aimed at promoting the Association and networking with other associations in the local community and the country.

In October 2013, a representative from FORUM 16 was part of training of trainers organized by CID - Center for Intercultural Dialogue from Kumanovo to combat hate speech on the internet. This was part of the National Campaign Against Hate Speech on the Internet. The Campaign was a part of the Youth Against Hate Speech on the Internet project that lasted between 2012 and 2014, initiated by the Council of Europe. The project sought to promote equality, dignity, human rights and diversity, and to combat hate speech, racism and discrimination in all their forms of expression on the internet.

In October planning began for a series of local workshops by FORUM 16 entitled: "From Youth to Youth with Love". In these workshops, approximately 60 young students (elementary school, high school and university students) from the municipality of Bitola had an opportunity to learn more about human rights and to enhance awareness of human rights on the internet, to gain knowledge about hate speech and to strengthen awareness for prevention of hate speech on the internet, to get to know the national and the global campaign against hate speech. The workshops lasted one day and were divided into two parts. During the first part, the youth discussed human rights and the fight against hate speech, and in the second part of the workshop, the youth expressed their views through drawing, photography, literary works and through debate. During November and December 2013, there were four workshops in the following places:

- Elementary school "St. Kliment Ohridski" - Bitola
- Gymnasium "Josip Broz Tito" - Bitola
- Faculty of law - Bitola
- High school "Taki Daskalo" – Bitola

On October 31, 2013, the short documentary film "My Life – A Rainbow", created by FORUM16 President Natasha Chavdarovska, was awarded the prize for best reportage at the 21st International Festival of amateur (nonprofessional) documentary film "Camera 300". The film was first screened on November 1, 2013, in the small hall of the Cultural Centre in Bitola at the opening ceremony of the festival and the awards. The script, directing and editing were by Natasha Chavdarovska. In charge of the camera was Vangel Ivanov. The roles were interpreted by Ana Zhezhovska, Biljana T. Dimko and Xristijan Adziovski.

On November 6th and 7th, a representative of FORUM 16 was part of a workshop sponsored by American Corner Bitola together with the U.S. Embassy in Macedonia. This two day workshop for local NGO's and youth leaders on Social Enterprise featured Cosmo Fujiyama, philanthropist and co-founded of Students Helping Honduras Organization. She is currently a GovLab Fellow at the GovLab at NYU. Prior to the GovLab, Ms. Fujiyama worked at Ashoka.

On November 10, FORUM 16 organized the event "Day to Draw a Line, Day to Wipe Out Hate" on the occasion of the European campaign on November 9, International Day Against Fascism and Anti-Semitism. Every year on this day UNITED for Intercultural Action coordinates activities organized at European level. During the 2013 event, FORUM 16 was on the European list of activities from the UNITED network along with the activities of more than 45 European countries. Activities included distributing UNITED material in the city centre before the start of the music and video show at the Cafe "Kamarite". Videos were shown about the lives of Jews from Bitola that during the World War II were deported to Treblinka. Other videos about promotion of human rights and prevention of hate speech were also shown.

November 25th, is the International Day Against Violence Against Women. On this day in 2013, began 16 days of activism against gender violence organized by Zonta Club Skopje and MADI - Macedonian Association Movement and Integration. The aim of this campaign was

to indicate the need for continued action in the fight against violence against women. FORUM 16 sent a photo to MADI to support this campaign.

On November 28, FORUM 16 organized the event "Young Authors Recommend - Watch a Movie" at Cafe Kamarite. The initiative for an event of this kind came from a few young filmmakers from Bitola. They showed three short films:

"Life is Art" - authors Krenar Drala and Ana Zhezhovski

"My life - A Rainbow" - author FORUM 16 President Natasha Chavdarovska

"Return" - author Naim Alili, co-author Tomislav Naumovski

On December 5, AIESEC Prilep, NGO SFERA - Bitola and FORUM 16 celebrated International Volunteer Day. The theme for the day was: YOUNG.GLOBAL.ACTIVE, celebrating and recognized volunteerism in all its aspects, but special attention was paid to the contribution of young volunteers to global peace and sustainable human development. FORUM 16 volunteer Biljana T. Dimko discussed Volunteering on 90.8 FM UKLO Bitola radio show "Explore and Learn".

At NGO SFERA took place three major events:

-Free first aid training

- Lecture on youth unemployment and the opportunities offered by the European Union program "Erasmus Plus" to reduce this unemployment

- Screening of documentary films that promote volunteerism.

On December 26, FORUM 16 organized promotion of the first street magazine in Macedonia "Face to Face". Local promoters of the 8th edition of the magazine were actress Maja Andonovska and director Sofija Ristevska.

On December 29 at Magnolia Square, was held a children's theatre play "Quarrel Between Two Trees." This performance is part of the New Year's children's program of Bitola. "Quarrel Between Two Trees" was a presentation of the amateur theater group supported by the Association for Civil Activism FORUM 16 - Bitola.

- **Financial report (attached)**