

**News from the CIVICUS European Regional Office****CIVICUS in Europe Gathering in Zagreb (Croatia), 23 February, 2002**

CIVICUS in Europe will organise a one day seminar with international participation in Zagreb on 23 February (Saturday), 2002. Based on the highly successful discussions during the CIVICUS World Assembly in Vancouver last year, the agenda in Zagreb will feature Government/Civil Society relations and the Index Project.

The event will be used to highlight CIVICUS in South-Eastern Europe and we hope that it will result in increasing CIVICUS membership within the region.

The event will be open to both CIVICUS member organisations and other interested parties. For further information please contact the European Secretariat:

CIVICUS European Regional Office  
Address: 1016 Budapest, Dezso u. 3., Hungary  
Tel.: (36-1) 356-8440  
Fax: (36-1) 356-8499  
E-mail: [europa@civicus.org](mailto:europa@civicus.org)

**New CIVICUS in Europe Webpage**

Starting in early February CIVICUS in Europe will have its own place online at [www.civicus.org](http://www.civicus.org), just look for the *CIVICUS in Europe* link on the main page. We will be updating the website approximately ever two weeks with information and news from the European region. The EuroCIVICUS newsletter will also be available online, and we are working to create an archive of past issues.

If you have any news, events, or information you would like to share with the CIVICUS community in general and European civil society organisations specifically, please send it to Tomi Huszar at the regional office; e-mail: [europa@civicus.org](mailto:europa@civicus.org).

**CIVICUS European Regional Office hires new Programme Officer**

The European Regional office hired Tomi Huszar as its programme officer in January to take over from Julie Easy who was with us through part of 2001.

Tomi Huszar comes to us from the Center for Independent Journalism where he was an intern. Tomi recently graduated from the University of Toronto's Munk Centre for International Studies with a Masters in Russian and East European Studies.

We welcome Tomi aboard and wish him the best in his new job.

**News from Member Organisations****9th Annual Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life**

The Women's World Summit Foundation is welcoming nominations for the annual **Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life**. Awarded since 1994 by the Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) - an international NGO for the empowerment of women and children - the Prize (\$500 each) annually honours women and women's groups exhibiting exceptional creativity, courage and commitment in improving the quality of life in rural communities. The Prize aims to draw international attention to the laureates' contributions to sustainable development, household food security and peace, thus generating more recognition and support for their projects.

*continued on page 6*

**In This Issue:**

News from the CIVICUS European Regional Office  
News from Member Organisations  
Upcoming Member Events  
Member Profiles  
Mosaic

## The Educational Society for Malopolska - (MTO) Projects Receive Funding

The Educational Society for Malopolska is proud to announce that it have recently received a 40,000 EUR grant from Phare-Access for "Let's Do It Together", a new programme that will help Roma students in Poland.

"Let's Do It Together" will provide a way to integrate the Roma people in the southern part of Malopolska region into the local society and to improve their social and economic conditions over the long term. MTO, together with its partner, the Roma Association will create an environment in which young generations of Roma people will be encouraged to attend school and get education, which, in time, will enable them to obtain gainful employment and become productive citizens of the local community. The program will also help a group of Roma adults to obtain immediate employment in the education sector and improve the relations between Poles and Roma people in the community.

MTO believes that by making children happy and successful at school they can reach the children's families, change their mistrustful attitude towards education and enable some of them to get a decent job at school. The goal of the project is to create the profession of Roma assistant, a person who would be of help to the school principal, teachers, pupils and Roma parents as well as being a model of a decent, caring, hard working person. Such a position could go a long way to breaking the stereotypes and prejudices still in existence among their Polish neighbours.

Along with the "Let's Do It Together" Program, the Educational Society of Malopolska has received funding from the National Endowment for Democracy to continue the program called "Grassroots Democracy".

This project intends to create a network of newly established Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA) in all Balkan countries. The current phase will create 36 new, parent-teacher type, educational NGOs in small, provincial towns located in 9 Balkan regions (Albania and Kosovo, Bosnia and Montenegro, Bulgaria and Macedonia, Romania and Moldova, Serbia).

For further information visit: [www.mto.org.pl](http://www.mto.org.pl)

## Upcoming Member Events

### What Price Independence? NCVO's Annual Conference

The annual conference of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, UK (NCVO) will examine what independence means to voluntary sector organisations - and look at the costs of achieving it. In doing so, it will address issues such as the role of the voluntary sector in delivering public services, sustainable funding and more.

The conference will feature keynote speeches from Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt MP, Secretary of State for Trade & Industry and Minister for Women and Tim Smit, Chief Executive of the groundbreaking Eden Project. Seminars will cover everything from boosting earned income to current developments in human rights.

Date: 6 February, 2002

Venue: The Brewery, Chiswell Street, London, UK

Organiser: NCVO, UK

Contact: Julia Childerhouse, NCVO

Tel.: (44-20) 752-02446

E-mail: [julia.childerhouse@ncvo-vol.org.uk](mailto:julia.childerhouse@ncvo-vol.org.uk)

### The European Foundation Centre will hold its 13th Annual General Assembly (AGA) and Conference entitled *Foundations for Europe: Science and the Citizen* in Brussels on 3-5 June, 2002.

The European Foundation Centre (EFC) promotes and underpins the work of foundations and corporate funders active in and with Europe. Established in 1989 by seven of Europe's leading foundations, the EFC today has a membership of over 160 independent funders and serves a further 7,000 organisations linked through networking centres in thirty-five countries across Europe.

The three core functions of the Centre are:

1. to represent the interests of member organisations at the level of third parties such as national governments and European Union institutions;
2. to convene and co-ordinate meetings and facilitate networking; and

*continued on page 3*

*continued from page 2*

3. to provide a relevant and current information base to reinforce member organisation programmes and initiatives.

### 2002 Conference Theme

During the last decade or so, traditional definitions of science have become blurred by the exponential growth of new technologies and the progressive dismantling of what were once perceived as insurmountable barriers to human knowledge.

There is now an essential need for debate on human genome research and its implications. In particular, we are faced with the tantalising prospect of an end to all human diseases set against the spectre of a world where genetic flaws are ruthlessly eradicated to ensure a eugenically-manipulated race of super-beings. From these two not acceptable to leave to scientists alone the decision on how knowledge of the human being should be used to shape our social future.

We must ask - who owns science - the scientists or the public at large? We must reach some consensus on how the benefits of the new developments can be spread as evenly as possible. A breakdown in communications between the scientific community, politicians, and the general public, must be resisted at every turn. The key question for foundations is surely: how can we broaden the scope of our expertise and involvement to play a full and responsible role in the discussion at this important intersection of science and social policy?

All this and more forms the background to discussions which will take place during the EFC's 13th AGA and Conference in Brussels.

### Contact and Registration

To register please go to the EFC website and download the registration form: [www.efc.be](http://www.efc.be).

### Contact EFC at:

Address: 51 rue de la Concorde, Brussels, Belgium  
Tel.: (32-2) 512-8938, Fax: (32-2) 512-3265  
E-mail: [efc@efc.be](mailto:efc@efc.be)

### Satellite event on CIVICUS at EFC AGA

Following last year's success there will be a CIVICUS satellite event where our European programmes will be presented. It takes place in Hotel Le Plaza on 4 June (Tuesday), 2002 between 7.45-8.45 am.

Details to follow in the next issues of EuroCIVICUS.

## Member Profiles

Center for  
Civic  
Initiative



Центар за  
граѓанска  
иницијатива

The Center for Civic Initiative (CCI) is a non-party nonprofit organisation established in the city of Prilep in the Republic of Macedonia. The primary goals of the CCI are to facilitate the development of democracy and civic society in Macedonia, and to involve citizens in education and action to promote positive changes in their community and country.

CCI will conduct varieties of activities and projects to achieve these goals, thereby increasing the participation of Macedonian citizens in the process of building a better and a more open democratic society. CCI's programme work will focus on the following:

- Non-party and non-formal education in pluralism and democracy for young people through organising seminars, summer schools, children and youth centres and other activities;
- Promotion of the human rights and democratic freedoms and prevention of their violation, through monitoring local and national elections, working on projects, holding meetings, seminars, etc;
- Improvement of inter-ethnic and international relations in Macedonia and between Macedonia and its neighbours through concrete projects;
- Developing co-operation between the local NGO sector and the Local Government through dialogue, round tables seminars and projects;
- Strengthening the local NGO sector through training, seminars, technical assistance, lobbying and projects.

Co-operation with similar NGOs in Macedonia and abroad will be sought to help achieve these goals.

The Center for Civic Initiative (CCI) is currently involved in a number of interesting and worthwhile activities and projects. The organisation has been involved in both local and international activities.

### Some of the projects undertaken by CCI:

- Election monitoring and education,
- Delivery of educational services to 20,000 refugees in Macedonia,
- Education for children on children's rights,
- Acting as a regional office for human rights,
- Projects intended to breakdown prejudices, and to improve inter-ethnic relations,
- Strengthening the roles and abilities of NGOs in Macedonia and in the Balkan region as a whole.

For more information about the Center for Civic Initiative and its programmes, please visit their website at [www.cgimk.org.mk](http://www.cgimk.org.mk); or contact them directly at (389) 482-5125 or by e-mail at [ccimk@mt.net.mk](mailto:ccimk@mt.net.mk).



### Transparency International (TI)– the global coalition against corruption

TI is an international not-for-profit, non-governmental organisation devoted to curbing corruption worldwide. Since its foundation in 1993, TI has earned widespread recognition for its achievement in placing the fight against corruption on the global agenda. Internationally, the TI movement's main aim is to infuse transparency and accountability into the global value system as generally recognised public norms.

The International Secretariat works with the private sector and with international organisations, such as the OECD, to strengthen the policy and legal framework for international business. While the International Secretariat leads the organisation's international agenda, more than 80 national chapters spearhead TI's grassroots involvement within their respective countries.

The TI national chapters are present on every continent and are in all stages of development. Most of them focus on strengthening the "national integrity system" of their countries. The "national integrity system", a term coined by TI, refers to a holistic approach to transparency and accountability that

embraces a range of institutions, laws and policies in order to prevent or control corruption. These instruments and institutions include democratic legislatures, independent judicial systems, government watchdog agencies, the media and civil society.

Recently TI Serbia and the European Movement in Serbia published a National Integrity System Survey based on this methodology, which examines which measures of fighting corruption have been implemented. Other examples of anti-corruption activities in Central and Eastern Europe include the monitoring by TI-Bulgaria of the public auction of the second GSM mobile phone license, which was considered to have been the most transparent public bidding process in South-Eastern Europe and an initiative launched in November 2000 by TI Poland called Manus Puris (clean hands) intended to promote "clean" business practices. A company that displays the Manus Puris logo is indicating that it has made a commitment not to tolerate bribery.



For more on TI, please visit [www.transparency.org](http://www.transparency.org)



A complete list of TI chapters and their contact details is available at: [www.transparency.org/organisation/chapters/](http://www.transparency.org/organisation/chapters/)

## Mosaic

### Plans in Bulgaria

The Bulgarian Taxpayers' Association (BTA) is seeking sponsors to support a 3-day weekend session. The session will be held sometime between April and June of 2002. The event would be attended by the editors of major Bulgarian media and CIVICUS in Europe in order to promote CIVICUS ideas and philosophy among the Bulgarian society.

Interested parties should contact Dr. Radko Khandjiev at (359-2) 746-013 or his e-mail at: [khanradko@abv.bg](mailto:khanradko@abv.bg).

### Request from the European Office

As many of you will know, we have been working on a project entitled: *Developing Effective Government and Civil Society Relations*. This project aims to capture the key processes and issues around the various methods of engagement between government and NGOs. The purpose is to facilitate exchange of experience and learning among key stakeholders in this process.

Systems of engagement vary from country to country. In some they have been formalised with the usage of Compacts or memoranda of co-operation. In others, civic forums have been created to engage civil society organisations with government at a national, regional and local level. A variety of countries have expressed interest in beginning a study of how these arrangements have come about. Once completed the project expects to use the collected information in various ways:

- An international mapping exercise to capture comparative information on the development Compact type agreements;
- International collaboration to adapt and refine the framework;
- In-country case studies;
- Organisation of events to liaise directly with partners;
- Comparative analysis, a resource manual, a website and web-base resources, and an internet based network of interested parties.

As part of this process, over the last year we have collected information on central units/offices of governments responsible for, or dealing with, NGOs. We are now asking all of you to send us any information you may have in this respect in your own (European) countries. We will be issuing an updated list by the end of February. If you have any information please forward it to the CIVICUS European Regional Office by 18 February so that we can expand this list.

Lets try to get every country represented!

### New Publications

**“How to Produce Inspiring Annual Reports: A Guide for Voluntary, Arts and Campaigning Organisations.”**

*By Ken Burnett and Karin Weatherup*

*Published in association with Burnett Associates*

This practical guide, in full colour throughout, is for people who want to produce readable, informative and inspirational publications and electronic communications for their organisation. The emphasis is as much on why annual reports are produced in a particular way as on how to do it.

Because there's little point talking if nobody's listening, as much weight is given to what readers are prepared to read as to what organisations wish to say. It offers annual report readers' comments, explains how to avoid common mistakes and presents simple straightforward ways of producing accessible and compelling communications.

It will help you:

- use your annual report to gain credibility,
- attract support and raise money;
- get the response that you want from the full range of potential readers;
- learn from best practice and avoid common pitfalls;
- see your annual report as part of an overall publications strategy;
- make the most of your in-house resources and outside suppliers;
- comply with the legal requirements of the SORP.”

270x210mm, 96 pages, 1st edition, 2001  
ISBN 1 900360 65 9

To order "How to Produce Inspiring Annual Reports", please contact:

Directory of Social Change, Publications Department  
Address: 24 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2DP, UK  
E-mail: [info@dsc.org.uk](mailto:info@dsc.org.uk)  
Internet: [www.dsc.org.uk](http://www.dsc.org.uk)

---

---

**The Citizens' Assembly publishes, and requests your support for the Declaration: "Europe is Our Future"**

On 13-15 December, 2001 a hugely successful Citizens' Assembly was organised in Brussels as a parallel event of the EU Laeken Summit. It attracted over 600 NGO delegates from all over Europe to talk about the future of Europe.

The Citizens' Assembly brought together social, environmental, developmental, human rights, cultural and federalist civil society organisations to discuss with politicians, trade unionists and other actors the future of Europe in a peaceful, collaborative environment. The Assembly demonstrated that peaceful dialogue is the way forward, and strongly emphasised the importance of including civil society in the construction of a new European Union.

The alliance of NGOs involved in organising the Assembly pressed strongly for the involvement of civil society in the work of the Convention on the Future of Europe, which was officially established by the Laeken Summit. This work, which began before the Assembly itself, was instrumental in ensuring a political commitment to creating a Forum for civil society to engage regularly with the Convention. The Laeken Declaration, published officially on 15 December (and which was available instantly to delegates from internet stations on the Futurum stand in the Expo in Brussels) reflected much of this work and has ensured a strong role for civil society in this process.

For further information on the Citizens' Assembly please visit the website: [www.socialplatform.org](http://www.socialplatform.org).

*EuroCIVICUS* is a monthly publication of the CIVICUS European Regional Office

If you have any comments or proposals regarding the new layout and content of this issue, or would like to contribute to the February 2002 *EuroCIVICUS* newsletter, please send it by 22 February, 2002 to Miklós Barabás or Tomi Huszar at:

CIVICUS European Regional Office  
1016 Budapest, Dezso u. 3., Hungary  
Tel.: (36-1) 356-8440  
Fax: (36-1) 356-8499  
E-mail: [europe@civicus.org](mailto:europe@civicus.org)  
Internet: [www.civicus.org](http://www.civicus.org)

CIVICUS in Europe would like to thank the :

Hungarian Government  
National Council for Voluntary Organisations, UK,  
Croatian Government,  
Levi Strauss Europe,  
Charities Aid Foundation, UK,  
Carpathian Foundation,  
Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations, UK  
for their generous support towards activities.

*continued from page 1*

While rural women are vital in providing examples of sound practice in rural communities, there is to date no real form of acknowledgement for what they can offer on their own initiative in terms of solutions to end poverty. By highlighting creative development models, innovations and experiences that enhance the quality of life in rural areas, WWSF hopes to participate in addressing the eradication of extreme poverty and help arrest the drift to urban areas.

Nominations will be accepted until 1 March, 2002 and the awards will be presented on World Rural Women's Day on 15 October, 2002. For further information regarding the nomination process, eligibility and criteria, please go to the WWFS' website at: [www.women.ch](http://www.women.ch).