Annual Report 2004

FOUNDATION OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE - MACEDONIA

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2004 Annual Report

FOUNDATION OPEN SOCIETY INSTITUTE - MACEDONIA

FOUNDATION
OPEN
SOCIETY
INSTITUTE
MACEDONIA
ФОНДАЦИЈА
ИНСТИТУТ
ОТВОРЕНО
ОПШТЕСТВО
МАКЕДОНИЈА

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Foreword

FOSIM in 2004: Moving Ahead to EU

Another transitional year, extremely dramatic for Macedonia: the tragic death of President Trajkovski, the presidential elections, and the preparation of the decentralization process marked 2004.

In response to the reality, FOSIM directed its efforts towards strengthening civil society organizations and public institutions. In cooperation with them, the Foundation worked on developing public policies that will bring the country closer to the European Union. Democratization and open society remained in the focus of FOSIM's activities.

In this perspective, FOSIM worked to accelerate the EU integration process. The Campaign *Europe – Now or Newer*, and the Round table *End of West Balkans and Chances of Republic of Macedonia for Admission in EU*, was part of these efforts. The roundtable, organized on November 3rd by the European Stability Initiative (ESI) and FOSIM, on which ESI Director, Gerald Knaus, had a speech, was fully broadcast by the National TV in prime-time.

FOSIM cooperated both with non-governmental and governmental organizations to create modern, European oriented national policies, providing not only technical assistance, but also its human capacities, knowledge and expertise. The National Education Development Program, the National Youth Strategy, the National Media Strategy and the National IT Development Strategy, the working version of the Law on Free Access to Public Information, and the program for its local-level implementation are just several examples of FOSIM's involvement in national policy-building. The Foundation also supported several anticorruption initiatives and organized the conference *Macedonia and Corruption – the Current Situation and Challenges*, on which the *Assessing the Record of Anti-Corruption Assistance in SEE*, prepared by OSI Foundations Network in the region, was presented.

In partnership with the European Agency for Reconstruction, 8 new NGO support centers were established in the underdeveloped areas of Macedonia. In addition to the existing 4 centers (funded by FOSIM and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), a

dense network has been established, supporting civil society integral development in all sectors. Local development was also addressed by a series of FOSIM projects, such as Living Heritage (promoting cultural resources for local development), Freedom of information on local level, and others.

FOSIM undertook a leading role in Roma integration in the country. The Roma Education Project and FOSIM's role as a coordinator of the donor community in Macedonia within a Roma Decade Process are the most important activities in this direction. The UN Millennium Development Goals project is another global initiative that engaged the Foundation in 2004. FOSIM participated in Millennium Development Goals task forces preparing reports on the implementation of the project in Macedonia.

Multiculturalism in Macedonia is another important issue that FOSIM addressed this year. The International Expert Forum *Multiculturalism in Macedonia – an Emerging Model*, held in November, attracted wide public interest in this topic.

Recognition of the constitutional name of the Republic of Macedonia has been a burning issue for most of its citizens. FOSIM initiated and co-organized the popular *Don't You FYROM Me* Campaign. *Good-Bye FYROM, Welcome Macedonia* was another event, organized to celebrate the U.S. decision to recognize the constitutional name of Macedonia, accompanied by a big party on the capital's main square in November 2004.

FOSIM ORGANIZATIONAL SETUP

Executive Board:

Emilija Simoska, *Chair*
Slobodanka Markovska
Nikola Gelevski
Saso Klekovski
Hasan Jasari
Gjorgi Ivanov *(until October 2004)*
Natalija Nikoloska *(until October 2004)*
Gordana Duvnjak *(from November 2004)*
Mabera Kamberi *(from December 2004)*

Management:

Vladimir Milcin, *Executive Director*
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Partners and Donors

National

- Agency for Youth and Sport of the Republic of Macedonia
- Association of Local Self-government Units – ZELS
- Association of Journalists of Macedonia
- Association of Judges of the Republic of Macedonia
- Assistance for Disabled and Poor People
- Association of Public Prosecutors of the Republic of Macedonia
- Broadcasting Council of Macedonia
- Bureau for Development of Education
- Civil Initiatives Center
- Center for Continuous Education of Judges
- Constitutional Court of the Republic of Macedonia
- Department for Development and Promotion of Education in Languages of Minorities, Ministry of Education and Science
- Dendo Vas
- Dobre dojde
- Drom
- Doverba
- ESE
- Economic Institute
- Euro Balkan Institute
- Step by Step Foundation for Educational Initiatives
- General Secretariat of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia
- HOPS
- Hospis Sue Rider
- Izvozna i kreditna Banka
- Izbor
- IT Commission, Government of the Republic of Macedonia
- Kham, Kumanovo
- Lancom Computers, Skopje
- Luludi, Skopje
- Macedonian Medical Association
- Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC), Skopje
- Macedonian Dentist Chamber
- Macedonian Interethnic Organization - MIA
- Medical Faculty, Skopje
- Mesecina, Gostivar
- Ministry of Culture
- Ministry of Education and Science
- Ministry of Economy
- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Labor and Social Policy
- Ministry of Local Self-Government
- Ministry of Transport and Communications
- NGO Network Remont
- OHO Association
- Police Academy
- Poraka
- Sector for European Integration, Government of the Republic of Macedonia
- Soncogledi
- Sonet, Internet Provider
- S&T Hermes Plus
- Transparency Macedonia
- University Ss. Cyril and Methodius
- Ultra computing
- Youth Educational Forum (YEF)

Partners and Donors

International

- Academic Training Association – ATA, USA
- Albert Schweitzer Institute, USA
- American Bar Association – Central European and Euro-Asian Legal Initiative - ABA CEELI, USA
- American-Austrian Foundation – AAF, Austria
- Arizona State University, Phoenix, USA
- Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Catholic Relief Services – CRS
- Center for Democracy and Reconciliation in South-East Europe, Thessalonica
- Central European University - Center for Political Studies, Budapest
- Charles Mott Foundation, USA
- Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)
- Delegation of the European Commission in the Republic of Macedonia
- Development Alternatives, Inc – DAI
- DFID, UK Embassy in the Republic of Macedonia
- DPK Consulting, USA
- Dutch Institute for Public Administration
- European Agency for Reconstruction – EAR
- Freedom of Information Advocacy Net
- French Cultural Center in the Republic of Macedonia
- Foundation for Partnership and Local Development - FPDL, Romania
- Human Rights and Governance Grants (HRGGP), Budapest
- Institut fur Europaische Politik, Berlin
- InWent, Germany
- IREX ProMedia, USA
- King Baudouin Foundation, Brussels
- Kingdom of Norway – CEB Trust Account
- Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative (LGI), Budapest
- Medienhilfe, Switzerland
- Norwegian People's Aid, Norway
- Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights - OSCE/ODIHR
- Open Society Justice Initiative
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe – OSCE
- OSI Network Media Program
- Pestalozzi Children's Village Foundation, Switzerland
- Press Now, Netherlands
- Public Policy and Management Center – Pittsburgh in Macedonia
- Royal Norwegian Embassy in the Republic of Macedonia
- SINTEF Technology and Society, Norway
- Swedish Embassy in the Republic of Macedonia
- Swedish Helsinki Committee
- Swedish International Development Agency – SIDA
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation – SDC
- United Nations Development Program - UNDP
- United States Agency for International Development – USAID
- US Embassy in the Republic of Macedonia
- US State Department
- Vera Institute of Justice, USA
- World Bank, USA
- World Health Organization – WHO

PROGRAMS

FOSIM programs are organized in four general program areas: Education; Systemic Reforms; Civil Society; and Culture & Communications. Within such a division, various programs and projects have been developed, as listed below in this Report.

Although FOSIM does not have a separate Roma Program, in all of these program areas there are developed projects addressing this target group, which is one of FOSIM priorities. To make FOSIM's Roma initiatives more visible, Roma projects in this Report are grouped under one title.

Roma (Inter-program Initiatives)

Roma Education Program

- **Donors:** USAID - Mission in Macedonia, FOSIM, OSCE, and the Pestalozzi Children's Foundation.
- **Partners:** Ministry of Education and Science, the Bureau for Development of Education, and the Department for Development and Promotion of Education in Languages of Minorities.
- **Aim:** to help Roma students remain in the school system and improve their school performance and attendance, through positive interventions at all levels of education.

The program is being structured in 4 components: pre-school, primary school, secondary school and university components. The program started in 2004 and will last until 2007.

• ***The Pre-school Component*** has been implemented by 5 Roma education centers located in Roma settlements and governed by non-governmental organizations[1]. 190 Roma children are taught the Macedonian language, on personal hygiene and on health care issues.

• ***The Primary School Component*** has been implemented by 5 Roma education centers and the Step by Step Foundation. The centers have provided after-school support; individual assistance and tutoring for approximately 700 Roma children, working on improvement of their knowledge of Macedonian language and mathematics. The children also attended creative workshops, drama & art clubs, debates, English language & computer courses, music and sport classes.

Parent's involvement has been one of the priorities, and thus meetings, consultations, home visits, workshops, debates and round tables were organized.

This component also included the development of organizational capacities with five primary schools[2] which drafted their school improvement plans. The individual skills of center educators and school teachers were strengthened through trainings in child-

1 *Dendo Vas* and *Soncogledi* in Skopje; *Drom* and *Kham* in Kumanovo, and *Aid for the Handicapped and Poor* in Prilep.

2 *Straso Pindzur* and *Braka Miladinovci* from Skopje, *Hristijan Todorovski - Karpos* and *11 Oktomvri* from Kumanovo, and *Dobre Jovanovski* from Prilep

centered methodologies, delivered by the Step by Step Foundation. In the second half of 2004, the Pestalozzi Children's Foundation joined the Program, supporting additional activities for children from 5th to 8th grade as the most vulnerable period for Roma primary school students to dropout. Additional support was also provided to centers to further involve secondary school students in their activities.

• ***The Secondary School Component*** targeted almost all first-year Roma students who enrolled secondary education in 2004/5 school year. 264 Roma students were awarded scholarship and school-based mentorship support. The scholarship secured family support and improved the educational inputs such as textbooks, supplementary learning materials, transportation, food, clothes, etc.
115 high school teachers were recruited to serve as mentors. The mentorship manual was developed and two mentorship trainings were delivered. Each student was provided with one extra hour after school mentorship assistance, every working day. Mentors supported the students in their subject studies, academic planning and active learning, with the purpose to improve the overall school performance of Roma students (their GPA, regular school attendance and involvement in after-school activities). The regional advisors of the Bureau for Development of Education and FOSIM monitored the work of the mentors and the student progress within the school year.

• ***The University Component*** is implemented by the FOSIM's operational program *Romaversitas*. The academic support programs of *Romaversitas* were expanded to best meet the needs of Roma university students. 64 students from all study years and universities were awarded scholarships and peer-mentoring support. 21 students were given the possibility to additionally attend English language and computer courses. *Romaversitas* provided a series of workshops and seminars on various topics for the students. A summer school for 20 Roma students was organized in July with the following courses: *Basic Communication Skills; Academic Writing; Gender and Religion; Democracy and Roma Decade 2005-2015*. A debate on *The First Night of Marriage as Tradition - Yes or No?* was organized by the students. *Romaversitas* piloted a small-scale student initiative project called *Roma University Students for their High-School Peers*, in order to encourage and help Roma high school graduates to easily pass the entrance exam and enroll state universities in Macedonia. A team of five *Romaversitas* students worked on the student newspaper *Roma Index* (three issues were published in 2004).

Roma Education Program (See Grant Lists in Annex 2)	**Total: US$ 584,399.06**

Roma Education, Other Projects

Roma Education Initiatives		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Association of Citizens Sumnal, Skopje	Roma Education Center	$9,693.72
Education Roma Center Idnina, Kumanovo	Education center for Roma children with mental disabilities	$29,681.00
		Total $39,341.72

Enabling Formal Education for Children from Klanica

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donor:** USAID
- **Implementing organizations:** FOSIM and NGO *Soncogledi*
- **Aim:** to promote education among Roma children and their families in the Roma settlement called *Klanica* in Skopje.

A community-based center was created where children attended daily classes taught by Macedonian and Roma teachers. Preschool children from 3 to 6 years of age learned the basics in Macedonian language and math, as well as communication, hygiene, art, and music. Catch-up classes for 7-14 year old children are organized in order to assist them in achieving better school results in Macedonian language, math, environment, and society. Tutoring was organized for children who attended regular school, but needed help in preparing their homework. The Center also organized parent workshops to introduce them to their children's activities and to raise awareness on the importance of education.
The project was completed in May 2004.

Education for Klanica Children	Total:$25,373.00

English Language for Roma

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donor:** OSI - New York
- **Aim:** to assist Roma high school & university students and young professionals (journalists, lawyers, activists, leaders, educators, scholars) to improve their English language skills, to

establish professional contacts and communication within the region and internationally, to participate in various training programs, obtain academic scholarships, and participate in other international events usually carried out in English language.

In 2004, the program included 28 Roma candidates in regular English language courses, out of which 14 candidates attended a TOEFL preparation course to apply for universities abroad. The program will be completed in June 2005.

English Language for Roma (See Grant List in Annex 2)	Total: $7,257.06

NGOs and Action Plans for the Roma Decade

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donor:** FOSIM
- **Aim:** to support initiatives of Roma NGOs addressing the four important issues within the 2005-2015 Decade of Roma Inclusion.

The Center for Roma Community *Drom* from Kumanovo organized a national conference on the topic of the 2005-2015 Roma Decade. On this conference, information about the Roma Decade was disseminated and draft Country Action Plans were presented. The NGO *Mir* was granted funds for procurement of food and hygienic items for victims of arson in the *Topaana* settlement in Skopje.

NGO and Action Plans for the Roma Decade		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Center for Roma Community Drom, Kumanovo	Organizing a national conference on the Roma Decade 2005-2015 - Ohrid, November 2004	$9,474.50
Humanitarian Organization Mir, Skopje	Procurement of food and hygienic items for victims of arson in Topaana	$1,238.09
Expenses:		$0.06
		Total $10,712.65

Roma Women Initiatives

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donor:** Network Women Program
- **Aim:** to empower young Roma women in Macedonia and ensure their active participation in the development of Roma women's movement on national as well as on regional level.

Some of the activities were directed towards supporting the development of a sustainability strategy for the Young Roma Leaders - informal network of young Roma university students established in 2001 with the support of the FOSIM Women Program. The group is working on overcoming taboos and gender stereotypes within the Roma community (promoting sexual & reproductive rights and freedom of choice of young Roma women). A capacity building training in Strategic Planning, Organizational Management, Macedonian, and Global Women's Movement was organized. As a result, the 2005-2006 Strategic Plan containing priority directions, a plan of action (program portfolio) and a budget, were developed. The package will be submitted to other donors for fundraising and financial sustainability. The group will remain informal and use the facilities of *Akcija Zdruzhenska*[3] for implementing activities planned during the transitional period (first half of 2005). Two members of the group were supported to attend a Human Rights Workshop in Budapest, organized by the *Network Women Program (NWP)* in March 2004.
A project for expanding the *Virginity project* in five countries from SEE/CEE Region was developed and supported by the FOSIM's *East-East* Program and the Kvinna Till Kvina. A regional workshop for presenting the results of the project in Macedonia, Serbia and Hungary, and for drafting the methodology and a plan for its expansion took place in Skopje in June 2004.

Roma Women Initiatives		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Selvijan Rasidova, Stip	Roma Women Human Rights Workshop, Budapest, Hungary	$859.00
Enisa Eminovska, Skopje	Roma Women Human Rights Workshop, Budapest, Hungary	$940.06
Gjulten Dalipovska, Skopje	Costs for the activities of the informal group of Roma women leaders	$4,066.84
Expenses:		$399.10
		Total $6,265.00

3 A newly established NGO which will implement the spun-off FOSIM Women Program

Roma Media

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donors:** FOSIM and the Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, Sweden.
- **Aim:** to support the 4 existing private media in Roma language, owned and managed by Roma persons

The costs for production of current affairs and educational program in Roma language as well as the upgrading of studio equipment were covered by the project.

Roma Media Program (See Grant List in Annex 2)	Total: $99,106.71

Roma Women Enterprise Support

- **Implementing organizations:** FOSIM and Catholic Relief Services - *Horizonti* Microfinance
- **Donors:** FOSIM and the Council of Europe Development Bank - Norwegian Trust Account
- **Aim:** to improve the socio-economic status of Roma women by supporting their engagement in conducting business.

An amount of app. 200,000 US$ has been distributed through micro-loans to Roma women groups. To improve Roma women entrepreneurial skills, trainings have been provided in essentials of the Market Economy and on legal issues. Over 350 Roma women will benefit from the loans and 110 women have been trained. The project will last until 2005.

Roma Women Enterprise Support - Grants		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Catholic Relief Services CRS/ Macedonia, Skopje	Roma Entrepreneur Support	$193,360.03
Roma Women Enterprise Support-Network		
Expenses:		$24,319.99
Roma Women Enterprise Support-3rd Party		
Expenses:		$1,637.00
		Total: $219.317,02

Roma Health

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donors:** FOSIM and OSI – New York
- **Aim:** to improve and promote equal access to health protection for Roma people

FOSIM announced an open grant competition and selected three projects[4] aiming to educate Roma NGOs to perform monitoring and advocacy; estimate the conditions of Roma settlements from Prilep and Bitola in terms of health issues; and to run a public awareness campaign for improving access to health for Roma people.

Vulnerable Groups – Roma Aspect		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Association of Citizens ESE, Skopje	Health for All, Health for Roma 2	$27,041.61
Women and Youth Roma Organization Luludi, Skopje	Information and educational campaign for introducing Roma population with the needs and opportunities for exercising their right on health insurance	$27,353.47
Civic Initiative Center, Prilep	Improving Roma health	$20,589.88
Expenses:		$1,340.03
		Total $76,324.99

Roma Memorial University Scholarship Program	Total: $250.00

4 The Center for Civic Initiative, Prilep (the project Improving Roma Health); the Association for Emancipation, Solidarity, and Equality of Women, Skopje (the project Health for All, Health for Roma 2), the Women and Youth Roma Organization Luludi, Skopje (the project Information and Educational Campaign for Intoducing Roma Population with the Needs and Opportunities for Exercising their Right on Health Insurance).

Roma Cultural and Educational Center Darhija

The Roma Cultural and Educational Center *Darhija* developed a range of activities for affirmation of Roma language and culture such as language courses, concerts of children string orchestra, puppet theater workshops, and drama performances. The vocal group and theater group of *Darhija* achieved success with concerts and performances across the country. Two new issues of the magazine *Horizonti* were published addressing the issues of Roma language and culture in European and Macedonian contexts.

Roma Cultural and Educational Center Darhija		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Roma Cultural and Educational Center Darhija, Skopje	Institutional support to RKEC Darhija for the period July 1, 2004 – July 1, 2005	$14,493.58
Expenses:		-$16.89
		Total $14,476.69

Education Program Area

Higher Education

The overall goal of the Higher Education Program is to foster and accelerate the process of integrating Macedonian higher education into the European Higher Education Area

HE Policy Development

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donors:** FOSIM and Higher Education Support Program of OSI-Budapest
- **Partners**: Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Macedonia
- **Aim:** to assist the process of designing of the National Program for Development of Education (NPDE)

As envisaged with the *Protocol for Cooperation* signed with the Macedonian Government, FOSIM provided support to the National Expert Group (NEG) of the Ministry of Education and Science that focused on developing the higher education part from the NPDE. FOSIM tried to utilize the available resources in the country and also assisted the process by organizing Bologna workshops on the degree structure and HE management and governance. They were financially supported by the *Dutch Embassy*[1] *in the Republic of Macedonia*. The workshops were intended for ministry officials, management structures and for the teaching staff of all 4 universities in the country. Distinguished international and regional experts addressed the most current issues faced by Macedonian HE, presented European and regional experiences, and shed light on possible approaches for its more efficient implementation. The program will last until 2005.

HE Policy Development	Total: $146,744.26

Higher Education Support Program (HESP): Other Projects

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donors:** Higher Education Support Program of OSI – Budapest and the World Bank
- **Partners**: Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Macedonia
- **Aim:** to contribute to the development of the National Strategy for Higher Education

With the financial support of HESP, the National Expert Group (NEG) was given the opportunity to participate in the *Tertiary Education and Innovation System (TEIS)* regional project of the World Bank and benefit from the reform experiences of other participating

1 The workshops were organized by FOSIM as part of the International Winter University 2004 piloted by the Dutch NGO Academic Training Association (ATA).

countries. The NEG also participated in four workshops in Bratislava, Bucharest, and Riga with the purpose to finalize the WB - *TEIS* report on Macedonia. This report is being used for the development of the *National Strategy for HE* which, together with the *Action Plan* for its implementation, will be completed in October, 2005. The program will last until 2005.

HESP Other Projects	Total: $15,493.97

Anti-Corruption Initiatives in Higher Education

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donor:** FOSIM
- **Partners:** Universities and Student Organizations
- **Aim:** to encourage and support anticorruption initiatives in Macedonian higher education

Following the survey on corruption in higher education in the Republic of Macedonia[2] and having summarized the conclusions from the thematic session on corruption in Higher Education (HE)[3] *FOSIM* announced an open competition for anti-corruption initiatives in HE. The following three projects, carried out in the course of 2004, were supported:

Academic Code of Ethics - Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research
One introductory seminar and two focus groups with representatives of Macedonian University staff, students and University administration were organized by the Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research (ISPJR) from Skopje. A draft version of the Academic Code of Ethics was developed. A separate workshop was organized within the second phase of the project, finalizing the draft version of the Code and discussing the possible ways of its implementation[4].

Strategy on Prevention and Obstructions of Deviant Acts at the University St Kliment Ohridski (UKLO) in Bitola
A public debate with Deans, Vice Deans and representatives of student associations from all *UKLO* higher education institutions was organized to discuss the role of faculties and students in the efforts to prevent corruption. The transparency of the University and its accountability towards students and other stakeholders were further explored. Three additional workshops were organized in each of the university locations in Bitola, Prilep

2 Conducted by the Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research in May, 2003
3 Organized by FOSIM in December 2003 within the framework of the Student Forum Students for Themselves
4 The final version is completed and is now awaiting revision and adoption by the Inter-University Conference, planned for 2005.

and Ohrid where students discussed and proposed measures and possible means to overcome the problem of corruptive practices. A PREVENT web-forum of *UKLO* (www.prevent.edu.mk) was designed and presented to students. Based on student feedback, the already developed *Strategy on Prevention and Obstruction of Deviant Acts* at *UKLO* was upgraded and adopted by the University Rectorate.

Anticorruption campaign Students for Themselves - Youth Educational Forum (YEF)
In October 2004, *YEF* launched a campaign for anticorruption in higher education. A Student Fair was organized as well as the *Rezil* (Shame) campaign (by publishing flyers and posters, and billboards placed on key locations in Skopje). A hot-line was set up by *the Ministry of Education and Science* for students to report corruption cases. A documentary film addressing the problem of corruption in higher education is planned for 2005 – it will be distributed to national and local TV stations in Macedonia.

Corruption in HE		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
St. Kliment Ohridski University, Bitola, Bitola	Prevention of Deviant Behavior Strategy at the St. Kliment Ohridski University in Bitola	$5,755.37
Youth Educational Forum, Skopje	ANTIcorruption, Students for Themselves	$15,916.88
Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research, Skopje	Academic Code of Ethics in Higher Education	$9,660.00
Expenses:		$58.75
		Total $31,391.00

Alumni Address Book

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donor:** FOSIM
- **Partner:** Alumni of OSI Scholarship Programs
- **Aim:** to assist the alumni to find jobs appropriate to their qualifications and field of expertise on the one hand, and to support the Government and other institutions to recruit qualified individuals that will contribute to Macedonia's way to Europe, on the

other. On a long run, it is believed that this initiative will contribute towards capacity building of national institutions, decrease dependency from foreign expertise, and stop brain-drain processes of well-educated people from the country.

As a follow-on of the *Brain-Drain Data Base* project, FOSIM has set up to gather all available data of Macedonian citizens that have been awarded scholarships through FOSIM and the OSI Network Scholarship Programs and attended academic programs abroad. Information within wider and specific fields of expertise was also collected. The *Alumni Address Book* will be published in 2005 and distributed to all governmental and non-governmental institutions, agencies, and organizations country-wide.

ALUMNI ADDRESS BOOK	TOTAL: $6,195.01

The Other in Higher Education Curricula

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donor:** FOSIM
- **Partners:** Universities and University staff
- **Aim:** to provide possibilities for introducing new courses and enriching current university study programs with contents related to the *Other* and the *Otherness*. It is expected that newly-developed curricula will be incorporated and taught at participating higher education institutions starting from 2005/6 academic year.

The 8 cooperative research projects supported within the first phase of the project were completed[5]. *FOSIM* has provided further support to three of the research teams to renew the existing and/or develop new courses on the grounds of genuine research findings. The project will last until 2006.

THE OTHER IN HE CURRICULA		
RECIPIENT	PURPOSE	AWARD
INSTITUTE FOR SOCIOLOGICAL, POLITICAL AND JURIDICAL RESEARCH, SKOPJE	COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROJECT ***New Aspects In Determining Roma Confessional Matrix***	$10,000.00

5 The research reports will be published in a separate publication in 2005.

Faculty of Philosophy - Institute of Pedagogy, Skopje	Curricula development on the basis of implemented research	$3,801.05
Faculty of Philosophy, Skopje	Curricula development on the basis of implemented research	$3,801.05
Blaze Koneski Faculty of Philology, Skopje	Curriculum development on the basis of implemented research	$3,801.05
Expenses:		$11,025.86
		Total $32,429.01

Ohrid Summer University (OSU) 2004

- **Implementing organization:** Institute Euro-Balkan, Skopje
- **Donors:** FOSIM
- **Partners:** Universities and University staff from the SEE region
- **Aim:** to improve teaching and research skills of junior faculty from Macedonia and the region in the sphere of social sciences

Within the framework of the 2004 *Ohrid Summer University* Program, two summer schools were organized on June 13-25, 2004, hosting 50 participants from South-Eastern Europe (SEE). FOSIM supported the Summer School in Cultural Studies, entitled *Balkans` Cultural Heritage, Art and Vision: From Confluence to Coexistence*[6]. 21 participants from SEE discussed the issue of the general cultural concept of the Balkan region and aimed at developing new, interdisciplinary curricula for studying Balkan cultural heritage. By employing an interdisciplinary approach, the School included courses in disciplines of Classical Archaeology, Byzantine Art History, and Theory of Culture, presented by Ida Sinkevic and Nebojsa Vilic.

6 The Summer School in Political Studies, called Post-Conflict Management in Multicultural Societies, was supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

Ohrid Summer University		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Euro-Balkan Institute, Economic Policy Research Center, Skopje	Balkans' Cultural Heritage, Art and Vision: From Confluence to Coexistence, Cultural Studies, Summer School, 13-26 June, 2004	$9,674.62

Summer School of Architecture

Helping the Local Community: Rehabilitation of Production Facilities

- **Implementing organization:** Faculty of Architecture, Skopje
- **Donors:** FOSIM, Ministry of Education and Science, and Ministry of Local Self-Government
- **Partners:** Universities, University staff, and students from SEEU
- **Aim:** to advance the knowledge and skills of students and the university staff from faculties of architecture from the region on the use of production facilities existing in local communities

The 13th session of the *Summer School of Architecture* traditionally took place July 11-18, 2004, in the monastery St. Joachim Osogovski near Kriva Palanka[7]. The major topic was chosen with the aim to deal with one of the most severe problems of the local community – the use of existing production facilities, which had fallen into a state of total neglect due to the current economic situation in the town of Kriva Palanka. Through four workshops, four specific case studies were conducted, representing characteristic types of existing production facilities. The lecturers, coming from Italy, France, Japan, Switzerland, and Macedonia, communicated their experience in similar locally-oriented workshops and their knowledge of similar cases of rehabilitation with the attending of young faculty members/tutors and students from schools in Italy, Albania, Serbia, Montenegro, and Macedonia. The results of the *Summer School* session were presented in the local Cultural Center in Kriva Palanka.

7 Since 2003, the Summer School sessions have followed an innovated program; they now last each for only one week, which has imposed a more intensive course of work.

Summer School of Architecture		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Faculty of Architecture, Skopje	Summer School of Architecture Session 12: Supporting Local Community - Production Facility Rehabilitation, 11-18 July 2004, Kriva Palanka	$6,299.58
Expenses:		$0.42
		Total $6,300.00

International Summer School
Globalization with a Human Face

- **Implementing organization:** Institute of Economics, Skopje
- **Donors:** FOSIM and the University of Idaho, USA
- **Partners:** Universities and University staff from the Balkan countries
- **Aim:** to contribute to a better understanding of proposed subject areas (Global Economy-Towards Global Society, and Regional Integration as a Part of Globalization), thus ensuring that each region, country, institution and individual take a more relevant and equal part in the processes of transformation, integration and cooperation in the promotion of *Globalization with a Human Face*. The objective of the School was to improve participants' understanding of Economic Globalization processes that have thoroughly shaken the old order and influenced modern development trends.

The *Summer School* took place in Ohrid, in the period of August 23 – September 3, 2004. Professor Johansen Harley Ervin from the University of Idaho, USA, as well as two national professors from the Faculty of Economic and the Institute of Economics delivered interactive lectures. Fourteen young university staff and postgraduates from the Balkan countries (primarily in the field of economics) participated in the School.

Summer School in Globalization Budapest	**$16,000.00**

Mary Chonkoff Fellowship

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donors:** FOSIM and the Mary Chonkoff Fund through Arizona State University Russian and East European Studies Consortium
- **Partners:** Macedonian Universities and the Arizona State University (ASU)
- **Aim:** to support academic and research exchange between Macedonian universities and ASU

FOSIM continued its traditional partnership with the Arizona State University (ASU) in 2004. One junior professor was selected through an open competition, and given support for a research study stay at ASU. The project will last till the end of 2005

Mary Chonkoff Fund		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Gordan Kajaldjiev, Skopje	Two-week research stay at the Arizona State University, USA	$1,700.00
Expenses:		$206.00
		Total $1,906.00

HESP Student Mobility

One talented student has been awarded partial scholarship to begin B.A. studies in languages in Greece.

HESP Student Mobility		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Kiril Angelov, Veles	Scholarship for the American College of Anatolia, Thessalonica, Greece	$3,679.23
Expenses:		-$8.80
		Total $3,670.43

Education Resource Centers

At the end of 2004, the Youth Educational Forum[8], through the American Education Center, took over the administration of all Network Scholarship Programs.

Education Resource Centers	Total: $2,516.55
CEU Summer School Expenses:	$202.00
Oxford Hospitality Scheme Expenses:	$1,059.00
HESP Regional Schemes Expenses:	$4,946.35

Youth Educational Forum

Recipient	Purpose	Award
Youth Educational Forum, Skopje	Public Presentation of Candidates for Rector Position at the St. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje	$608.60

Spun-off Organization

Research Center for Gender Studies (RCGS)

The activities of the Research Center in Gender Studies (RCGS) in 2004 focused on three main areas: education, publication, and combating human trafficking. RCGS concentrated on two levels of education: support and development of curricula in the area of gender/women's studies, and university faculty capacity building in the area of curriculum development. The national-level initiative was articulated in the Center for Support and Development of Curricula in the area of gender/women's studies, a common body of RCGS and the University in Skopje. The accomplished working groups conducted a survey and delivered recommendations for integration of the gender perspective in the

8 As envisaged with the FOSIM Strategy, 2004 was the last year of financial support provided to Education Resource Centers.

curricula within the disciplinary areas of humanities and social sciences, and developed policy recommendations for the integration of gender studies and gender equality with the University. The Regional Network for Gender/Women's Studies in SEE, supported by the Network Women's Program of OSI-New York, on one hand, and the Regional Seminar in Gender/Women's Studies and European Studies (supported by the OSI-HESP) on the other, articulated curriculum development and capacity building activities on the regional level. The Regional Network established *Strategies for* Gender/Women's Studies in SEE on a Regional Conference that took place on 5th-8th February, 2004 in Ohrid, and was initiated by the RCGS in partnership with the Women's Studies Center from Belgrade. Two working meetings in Belgrade followed the Ohrid Conference, and a wrap-up meeting for the first phase of the activities of the Network took place in April 2004 in Skopje. A regional seminar in Gender/Women's Studies and European Studies 2004-2006, entitled *Gender and Women's Studies for South-eastern Europe: Rethinking Ideologies and Strategies of their European Integration* was organized as part of the Regional Seminars for Excellence in Teaching of the Higher Education Support Program of OSI-Budapest, hosting 27 young academics from SEE, all involved in teaching and research in the field of gender/women's studies. The purpose of the seminar was to introduce the most influential and provocative contemporary concepts of European model-culture and (institutionalized) education - and in particular, gender/women's studies with an interdisciplinary overlapping with European studies - in order to initiate creative critique inclusive of the legitimacy of the SEE specific standpoint. The seminar consisted of two types of activities: summer and winter sessions, and Internet sessions, including discussion board and reading materials, offered at the seminar website[9]. The 2004 summer session offered short courses that included lectures, seminars and roundtables prepared and delivered by Rosi Braidotti, Svetlana Slapshak, Gabrielle Griffin, Gilles Grelet, Ugo Vlaisavljevic, Dasa Duhacek, Miglena Nikolchina, and Ray Brassier. In order to bridge the gap between the academic research and activism, *RCGS* continued the *School for Gender and Politics* supported by the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, offering alternative education to more than 55 students.

The main focus of the publication program of RCGS is *Identities: Journal for Politics, Gender, and Culture*[10], supported by the *Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation*. Another thematic preoccupation has been *Oral history*[11].

Activities to combat human trafficking were conducted by the newly-established *Center of RCGS*, in cooperation with the *National Commission for Combating Human Trafficking and Illegal Migration*. The first phase of the long-term project aiming at preparation of the National Strategy was supported by the *Kvinna till Kvinna*.

9 See www.gendersee.org.mk

10 The Journal is published semiannually and bilingually (visit www.identities.org.mk). Identities is member of CEEOL (www.ceeol.com).

11 The last oral history activity was the research-project Women's Perspective on the 2001 Macedonian Crisis, collecting Macedonian and Albanian women's stories, in order to make visible the "small" history of the armed conflict in 2001. The research will be followed by a three-lingual publication (in Macedonian, Albanian, and English).

Network Women's Program
Research Center for Gender Studies

Recipient	Purpose	Award
Center for Gender Studies, Euro-Balkan, Skopje	Institutional support to the Gender Study Research Center for 2004	$23,672.00
Expenses:		$0.01
Center for Gender Studies, Euro-Balkan, Skopje	Printing of a publication on Strategies on Gender/ Women Studies in SEE	$1,549.32
Expenses:		$4,068.68
		Total: $29,210.01

Education Program Area

Childhood and Secondary Education Programs

Childhood and Seconday Education Program is aimed at supporting activities promoting equal access to high-quality education for all students, with special emphasis on improving the education of Roma students in the Republic of Macedonia; activities promoting knowledge and skills necessary for the development of an open and democratic society; activities promoting better management and increased transparency in education, and activities focused on developing and designing documents pertaining to the development of education in Macedonia.

Education Policy

- **Implementing organization:** Ministry of Education and Science
- **Donor:** FOSIM
- **Aim:** to initiate and support the process of development and adoption of the National Program for Development of Education, and action plans for implementation.

In 2004, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, the Ministry of Education and Science, and FOSIM signed the Protocol for Cooperation, according to which the three parties were to cooperate on expert, consultative and financial levels in order to develop a National Program for Development of Education in Macedonia. The Ministry of Education and Science assigned a 14-member Expert Team to draft the National Program. The Ministry and FOSIM established a Support Unit, in order to facilitate and coordinate the activities. By the end of June 2004, the Draft version of the National Program for Development of Education was developed and was subject to a public debate for a 4-month period. The Draft version was presented at 47 public events in 12 towns in Macedonia to various groups and stakeholders in the field of education. By the end of 2004, members of the Expert Team considered all relevant comments and suggestions and integrated them within the final version of the National Program[1]. The program will last until 2005.

Educational Policy Development	Total: $129,649.99

Creative Teaching and Learning Project

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donors:** USAID and FOSIM
- **Partners:** Step by Step Foundation and Youth Educational Forum

1 In 2005, Action Plans for implementation will be developed, and these documents are to be be adopted by the Parliament.

- **Aim:** the main goal of the project is to develop models for a whole-school reform, to actively involve students in curricular and extra-curricular activities, and to promote development of creative and critical thinkers in 18 high schools and 45 elementary schools in the Republic of Macedonia.

In 2004, a total of 440 teachers from eight second-generation high schools and 80 teachers from 15 second-generation primary schools[2] participated in the *Reading and Writing to Critical Thinking (RWCT)* methodology training. A new training cycle for teachers from third-generation high schools began in August 2004, and is planned to end by June 2005.
The *Formative Evaluation Report* was done in the first week of October, 2004[3]. A *School Improvement* training was delivered for the 5–7 member-teams from each school, comprised of the principal, the pedagogue, or/and the psychologist and teachers. This type of training and practical implementation with topics covering educational management, team work, effective schools, data collection, and development planning was implemented for the first time in Macedonia. All 12 high schools and 30 primary schools that completed the three-phase training developed and drafted their *School Improvement Plans* for a 5-year period.
Support for the establishing of *Media Labs* in eight general high schools and 15 primary schools was also provided. They were each equipped with computers, printer, scanner, photocopy machine, TV and video, and received books, CDs and Internet connectivity. Basic IT training for all school staff was provided. Basic training and materials required to introduce after-school activities (*Student Democracy Clubs*) were delivered to eight high schools in cooperation with the Youth Educational Forum and its programs *Debate* and *Street Law*. The program will last until 2005.

Creative Teaching and Learning (See the List of project schools in the second year in Annex 2)	$552,147.00

2 See the list of project schools in the second year in Annex 2
3 On the question whether teachers know and understand RWCT strategies well enough, the highest percentage of answers (53,77%) was that teachers know and understand the techniques to a certain extent, followed by 44,34% of teachers saying that they feel familiar with these techniques to a great extent.

Child/Girl-Friendly Schools

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donors:** UNICEF and FOSIM
- **Aim:** to ensure higher achievement and academic success, enhance the health and well-being of children, encourage school enrolment and completion, raise teacher morale and motivation, guarantee safe and protective spaces for children, mobilize community support for education, and encourage child participation in school - and in society.

In the course of 2004, a definition of a Child/Girl-friendly School, that promotes Education for All according to the situation, needs and national priorities of the Macedonian Education system, was developed. Self-evaluation tools for schools and a set of responses aimed at supporting capacity-building for principals, pedagogues and physiologists, teachers, school boards and parent councils were also developed.

Child/Girl Friendly Schools Expenses:	$5,236.01

Social Inclusion of Children and Youth from Economically Underdeveloped Regions

- **Implementing organization:** Step by Step Foundation
- **Donors:** King Baudouin Foundation and FOSIM
- **Partners:** the segment of improving social protection of children and youth is implemented in collaboration with institutions tasked with the provision of social services.
- **Aim:** to contribute to the implementation of the *Poverty Reduction Strategy* and to improve social and cognitive skills of children and youth from underdeveloped regions, through their involvement in formal and non-formal educational activities.

The *Social Inclusion of Children and Youth from Economically Underdeveloped Regions* is a continuation of the activities and achievements of the *Street Children/Children on the Street* Project. The Action Plan for 2004 was reviewed and several modifications were

made to the original plan. A small *HIV/AIDS Prevention Project* was implemented: four seminars and ten site visits to NGOs responsible for implementing project activities took place in the period April-May 2004. Trainings for Capacity Improving for successful program implementation and activities for organizational capacity development continued in 2004. Trainings were organized according to the needs of NGOs, on the following topics: Working with Parents; Creating Sustainability Plans for NGOs; How to Adjust Workshops According to Target Groups; Introduction of Children Rights to Children; and Forum Theatre. During the visit by a KBF consultant in April 2004, a one-day seminar took place and strategies for project's sustainability were discussed. Meetings among all 10 NGOs from the program for sharing information about project implementation were organized. The methods and approaches for working with children were systematized in a manual[4] - *Let's Open the Circle*. The program will be completed in May 2005.

Social Inclusion of Children and Youth Expenses:	$77,000.00

Spun-off Organization

Step by Step Foundation

In 2004, the Standards for the Implementation of the Step by Step Program[5] were introduced, and a possibility for certification of teachers and kindergartens implementing the *Step by Step Program* was offered. The main aim of this initiative was improvement of the quality of program implementation, and the establishment of a system for on-the-job professional development.

The *Step by Step* program supported permanent professional development of all relevant subjects that participate in the program or support its implementation: kindergarten teachers, primary school teachers, principals and the staff in kindergartens and primary schools that are part of the program sample. After the seminar *Cooperation with Parents 0-3* in Sarajevo, 2004, the *Step by Step* team organized trainings for teams from kindergartens

4 The Manual was prepared by Marija Raleva M.D. and Meri Boskovska M.D., children psychiatrists.

5 The basic principles of pre-school and primary school programs were introduced in line with the following standards: Individualization; Stimulative Learning Environment; Family Participation; Thematic Teaching; Integrated Learning; Team Work; Active Participation of Children in the Learning Process, and On-going Assesment.

on the same topic, as well as training concerning certain problems relevant for this age as ongoing professional and program development.
Reading and Writing to Critical Thinking seminars were organized within the project *Creative Teaching and Learning*, in partnership between *FOSIM* and the *Step by Step Foundation*. The project aimed at enriching the teaching process with new techniques that will develop critical thinking with children of any age, within subjects taught at school.

Step by Step	**Total $139,621.06**

Education Program Area

Youth Program

The goal of the Youth Program is to increase active participation of youth in all spheres of social and political life regarding issues that directly or indirectly affected young people.

SEEYLI Program (Debate Non Match)

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donors:** US State Department and OSI – New York
- **Aim:** Students from SEE countries were selected to participate in an intense four-week program in the United States. The project gives students an opportunity to explore American politics and culture; to meet and interact with students from other Southeast European countries as well as from the United States; to engage in structured social situations; to visit major political and cultural institutions in the Washington area; and to participate in several small intensive projects, each focusing on advocacy, negotiation, investigation, and leadership skills in various social contexts, such as courts, the Congress, drug policy, and minority rights.

14 teenagers (age 15–17) and four adults participated in the *SEEYLI Program* in July 2004. Upon return in August 2004, they prepared small projects presenting their knowledge and skills acquired through participation in the U.S. program with their peers. In November 2004, a new open competition was announced in daily newspapers so that a new group of teenagers and adults could be selected for participation in this program in July 2005.

DEBATE NON-MATCH	TOTAL: $18,501.85

Youth centers
Citizen's guide to the courts

- **Implementing organization:** Youth Educational Forum
- **Donors:** Delegation of the European Commission in the Republic of Macedonia, FOSIM, and the Swedish Helsinki Committee for Human Rights
- **Aim:** to increase knowledge and awareness of young people in Macedonia, from the age range 14-27 about their rights before the courts, and to promote and elaborate the modifications to the court procedures.

The project will be implemented in 2005. It will provide information to young people regarding specific rights stemming from court procedures.

Youth Centers		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Youth Educational Forum	Citizens' Court Guide	$16,614.24
Expenses:		$4,253.77
		Total $20,868.01

SEE Youth Initiative Fund: Training for Trainers for Management of Youth NGOs

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donor:** FOSIM
- **Aim:** to increase the management capacity in youth NGOs, and to develop human resources for further improvement of management capacity of youth NGOs.

A selected core group of 16 youth managers/activists was trained in: Training Concepts and Skills; Training Values and Ethics; Presentation Skills; Consultation Skills; Experiential Learning; Intercultural Learning; Learning for Growth and Change, etc.. They had two training cycles with practical implementation of acquired knowledge and skills, under the mentorship of experienced trainers from other FOSIM programs, as well as from trainers from the Macedonian Center for International Cooperation (MCIC) and the Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC).
The second group of youth activists in NGOs as well as coordinators from the NGO Support Centers from 8 towns in Macedonia was trained in: Basics of Organizational Management; Management for Not-for-Profits; Organizational Strengthening and Development; Youth Organizations; Program/Operations Management; Project Management; Financial Management; Human Resource Management – Management of Volunteers; Learning Organizations; Change Management, etc[1]..

1 See Grant list in Annex 2.

South East Europe Youth Initiative Fund 2000 (See the Grant List in Annex 2)	Total: $23,335.54

Youth Policy

- **Implementing organization:** Agency of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Macedonia
- **Donor:** FOSIM
- **Aim:** To initiate and support the process of development and adoption of the National Strategy for Youth in Macedonia

In 2003, FOSIM, the Agency of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Macedonia, as well as other donors: the Institute for Sustainable Communities, UNICEF, the Balkan Children and Youth Foundation, the European Agency for Reconstruction, etc. and youth NGOs initiated the development of a National Youth Policy for Macedonia. In 2004, three Youth Forums were organized with representatives from almost 80 NGOs in order to determine the goals and activities that were incorporated in the National Youth Strategy. FOSIM provided technical assistance to the Agency of Youth and Sport, responsible for facilitating the process of developing the National Strategy for Youth together with youth NGOs and various ministries. The last Forum was organized in Skopje in October 2004. The Document with the National Youth Strategy was adopted. It will enter the procedure of official adoption by the Parliament in 2005.

Youth Policy	Total: $29,999.99

SEE Community Centers Project

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donor/s:** FOSIM and the Charles Mott Foundation
- **Partners:** local government, schools, institutions, and experts.
- **Aim:** to work with young people focusing on appropriate development and education of youth in various fields.

FOSIM established youth centers, i.e. Open Schools in four municipalities in Macedonia[2]. All centers initiated activities for access to information, training, and education. That gave young people practical knowledge and skills to contribute to their individual development, and thus to the development of their municipalities in general. These activities were

2 Krusevo, Rostuse, Zletovo, and Strumica.

implemented through workshops on foreign languages, computer literacy, democracy, debate, ecology, ethnology, drama, fashion design, creative workshops, etc.. The centers operate in cooperation with local NGOs. The financial support of FOSIM for 2004 covered their administrative expenses that served as a basis for fund-raising.

SEE Community Education - 3rd Expenses:	$24,393.03

SEE Community Education

Recipient	Purpose	Award
ABC Center for Internet services, foreign languages, IT, sport, and culture - Strumica, Strumica	Administrative costs for the Strumica Community Center	$9,727.41
Youth Environmental Centre Rekanski Biser, Rostuse	Administrative costs for the Rostuse Community Center	$5,238.27
Citizen Association Perspektiva, Zletovo	Administrative support for the youth center Open School - Zletovo	$5,290.72
Center for Human Relations, Krusevo	Administrative support for the youth center Open School - Krusevo	$5,362.36
Expenses:		$10,650.23
		$36,268.99
		Total $20,868.01

Other Projects:

In 2004, FOSIM co-financed projects with other donors and agencies where there were shared interests and objectives, implemented by local institutions and NGOs:

***Youth Policy in SEE* Conference,** implemented by the Youth Council, Prilep, co-financed by the Institute for Sustainable Communities.

International Youth Conference *European Values in the Countries in SEE*, implemented by the Youth Council – Krusevo, co-financed by the Agency of Youth and Sport, Sector for

European integration at the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, and the British Council.

Dialogue with the Youth, implemented by the Youth Council, Prilep, co financed by the Agency for Youth and Sport.

Real School Company, implemented by DSHTU Marija Kiri Sklodovska, Skopje co-financed by USAID.

SEE Youth Policy Conference		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Youth Council, Prilep	Youth Policy in Southeast Europe Conference	$4,048.41
Expenses:		-$14.76
		Total $4,033.65

Youth Conference European Values in SEE Countries		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Youth Council, Krusevo	International Youth Conference European values in the countries of Southeast Europe	$7,846.59

Dialogue with the Youth		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Youth Council, Prilep	Dialogue with the youth	$4,557.38
Expenses:		$68.63
		Total $4,626.01

Real School Company		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
DSHTU Marija Kiri Sklodovska, Skopje	Real School Company	$2,425.61
Expenses:		$0.39
		Total $2,426.00
		Total: $18,958.8

Youth Educational Forum

In 2004, the Youth Educational Forum (YEF) from Skopje implemented two programs: *Debate* and *Street Law*. Regular trainings on weekly basis were delivered in the eight YEF Centers and in several additional clubs included in the project.

The *Debate* program organized Debate Tournaments, Public Debates, international events, and cooperation. The Debate Tournaments took place on local, regional, national and international level: *Macedonia Open* (March 2004 in Ohrid, with more than 50 participants from South-Eastern Europe); official tournament for the World Debate Championship that took place in Estonia in 2004, in order to select the Macedonian representatives for the *Annual IDEA Youth Forum*[3]; *Regional Debate Tournaments* in Skopje, Veles and Prilep, aiming to raise the quality of YEF debaters (this project was officially launched with the *New Year's Debate Tournament* in December 2004). YEF used its Debate methodology and concept to organize 10 public debates on several occasions for different purposes and for the needs of its projects, mainly implemented in high schools and universities. Moreover, in partnership with other NGOs in Macedonia, YEF introduced this program in the following public events: Spring Day in Europe, E-I Forum, Local Government in Veles, Student's Fair, etc..

In order to strengthen YEF's international cooperation and increase its experience, YEF's representatives took part in the *IDEA* Conference and in the General Assembly in Istanbul, where advanced Debate training of trainers took place. Debaters participated in *the Croatian Debate Summer Camp* and the *University Debate Academy* in Slovenia.

Street Law activities focused on these five areas: visits of public institutions and experts, trainings, simulations, the Street Law Quiz, and the Street Law-Clinic.

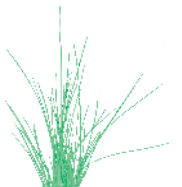
YEF's members visited the Ombudsman, the Parliament, the Ministry of Interior, and many lawyer offices. Within the *Street Law Clinic* project, simulations of the law-making process, registration of enterprise, criminal and civil procedures were organized with senior law students from the Faculty of Law in Skopje. YEF organized trainings and workshops on *Human Trafficking* and *Minority Rights*, where participants were high school professors and students, who also competed on legal and entertainment issues as the main segment of the *Street Law Quiz*.

In order to practically experience the legal and institutional functioning of the European Court of Human Rights, the European Union and civil and criminal courts, simulations were organized on many occasions, backed up with the activity *Freedonia*.

3 The Macedonian team came fifth on the World Tournament.

Debate National Program

Recipient	Purpose	Award
Youth Educational Forum, Skopje	Youth Educational Forum 2004/05 operational program	$19,313.04
Youth Educational Forum, Skopje	Participation in the Debate Summer Camp	$1,830.00
		Total $21,143.04



Systemic Reforms Program Area

Economic Reform Program

The Economic Reform Program aims at improving the business environment, and assisting the Government in improving its policy in this field, mostly for the purpose of encouraging private initiatives and entrepreneurship. The program focuses on young people and aims at developing their entrepreneurial skills. Start-up businesses for young entrepreneurs and credit lines under favorable conditions are also part of this program.

Economic Forum

- **Implementing organizationS:** FOSIM and the Center for Economic Analysis (CEA)
- **Donor:** FOSIM
- **Partners:** Center for Economic Analysis, Skopje
- **Aim:** to animate public participation (representatives from central and local governments, NGOs, and the academic community) to discuss policy-making and implementation-related issues in the area of fiscal decentralization.

In 2004, in cooperation with the Center for Economic Analysis (CEA) in Skopje, FOSIM started the preparations for organizing two forums targeting fiscal decentralization issues. The first forum on *Fiscal Capacity Measurement of Local Self-Government Units in Macedonia* will be organized in February, 2005 with foreign expert participation. The second forum on *Improvement of the Budgeting Process* will be organized in October, 2005. These forums are envisaged as an opportunity for lobbying and for initiating dialogue, as well as for offering various solutions and alternatives for economic development in the Republic of Macedonia. The project will be completed in 2005.

Economic Forum	Total: $24,704.52

Macedonian Transition Inventory

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donor:** FOSIM
- **Aim:** to publish the third edition of the publication titled *Macedonia after the Framework Agreement*.

In 2004, the selection of authors was made upon an open public competition. Interested candidates – experts, young researchers, experienced practitioners, journalists, academicians, etc. were invited to each write an eight-page long text expressing their views and positions when an-

swering one of the following questions: Is Macedonia building a multicultural society; Is Macedonia performing effective decentralization; Is greater local democracy practiced in Macedonia; Has Macedonia become more efficient in handling corruption and organized crime; Is Macedonia a safe place to live in; Is Macedonia making the right steps towards the European Union. The publication will be published in the second half of 2005.

Inventory: Macedonia 1999-2002 Expenses:	$202.00
Inventory of Macedonia Transition Expenses:	$538.00
	Total: $740,00

Economic Policy Development

- **Implementing organizationS:** Euro Balkan Institute and Center for Economic Policy and Research, Skopje
- **Donor:** FOSIM
- **Aim:** to improve the business environment in Macedonia by creating better business information channels

The Economic Policy Research Center within the Euro-Balkan Institute was supported to prepare, publish, and distribute six editions of the *Monthly Business Environment Monitoring in Macedonia*. These publications provide an overview of the current trends in the economic policy in Macedonia through monitoring new policy designs, legislation adoption and enforcement, as well as opinions and views of businessmen.

Economic Policy Development		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Euro-Balkan Institute, Economic Policy Research Center, Skopje	Improving the business environment in Macedonia by creating better business information channels	$4,973.96
Faculty of Economy, University Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Skopje	Scientific debate Macedonia within Globalization	$326.72
Expenses:		$0.32
		Total $4,033.65

Loan Programs

- **Implementing organization:** IK Banka
- **Donors:** FOSIM and Soros Economic Development Fund - New York
- **Partners:** IK Banka, Center for Banking and Finance - Skopje
- **Aim:** to support the development of agriculture and small & medium-sized enterprises in the Republic of Macedonia.

FOSIM credit lines can be used through the *IK Banka* (*Export and Credit Bank)* from Skopje. The Agriculture Credit Line was established in 1988, and the Working Capital Credit Line started in 2002. A new credit line for start-up businesses was prepared to be implemented in 2005. The program will last until 2008.

Agriculture Development Credit Line

The credit line established by an agreement between IK Banka and the Soros Economic Development Fund - New York provides loans for a segment of borrowers that often have difficulties in securing loans for their businesses. The loan fund is app. 1,000,000 US$, interest rate 8%, 1,5% one-time administrative fee, up to 36 months for repayment. There has been special interest for micro loans to the amount of 625 to 3750 US$, which are much quicker to process and require softer collateral.

Working Capital Loans

FOSIM secured app. 360,000 US$ for working capital for loans to small businesses (up to 20 employees or 100 in labor-intensive businesses) to address frequent liquidity problems that businesses might have. Individual loans up to 18,000 US$, one-year repayment period, up to six-month grace period, 12% interest rate, and 1,5% one-time administrative fee. Businesses must be registered and working successfully for no less than six months before applying for a loan.

Technical Assistance for Loan Programs

FOSIM provided assistance to implementing partners for loan projects - IK Banka - for the preparation of a new specific product for *Startup Business Loans* as an extended module for the *Self Employment in Own Business* project, and for servicing the improved *Agriculture Loan* and *Working Capital Loan* products.

Technical Assistance for Loan Programs	Total: $10,000.00

Self Employment in Own Business - Credit Line for Start-ups

As a follow-up of the project *Self Employment in Own Business* (training implemented by the NGO *Economic Education for Young Managers* and financed by the *European Agency*

for Reconstruction), *FOSIM* has assigned funds to provide loans and coaching within the next three years for trainees who have successfully developed a feasible business plan which is to be additionally approved by the bank for financing.

Self-Employment in Own Business		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Association of Citizens Economic Education for Young Managers, Skopje	Self-employment in own business	$6,055.50
Expenses:		$55,000.00
		Total $61,055.50

Entrepreneurship Development Programs

Postgraduate Entrepreneurship Studies

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donors:** FOSIM
- **Partners:** Faculty of Economy at the University in Osijek, Croatia
- **Aim:** to acquire international expertise and to apply such expertise in Macedonia through exposing students to contemporary entrepreneurship studies conducted by an international faculty team.

The program provided scholarships for 9 postgraduates for studies in the area of entrepreneurship at the Faculty of Economy, University of Osijek, Croatia. Two groups of students have enrolled. The first group of six students will complete their studies in 2005, and the second group of three students will complete the studies in 2006.

Postgraduate Entrepreneur Studies Osijek (See Grant List in Annex 2)	**Total: $47,967.00**

Youth Entrepreneurial Service

- **Implementing organizations:** SINTEF (Norwegian Development Agency), and FOSIM.
- **Donor:** Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and FOSIM
- **Partner:** SINTEF
- **Aim:** to foster entrepreneurial activity in the country among educated young people

In the course of 2004, a survey phase of the project, financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was implemented to precisely define the project context and facilitate coordination with other stakeholders involved. The survey also strongly confirmed the insufficiency of entrepreneurial support in all segments provided by the project.
The project has three major components: *Entrepreneurial Training*, a *Business Cup* and a *Business Incubator*, thus providing support along all phases of development and implementation of successful business ideas for fast-growing businesses. Although project components logically follow each other, participation will be open in a way that there will be no participation conditions for potential entrepreneurs – participation in one component shall not be a condition for entering the next one. The Project will last until 2008.

Youth Entrepreneurship Support	Total: $143,160.56

Spun-off Organization

Economic Education for Youth

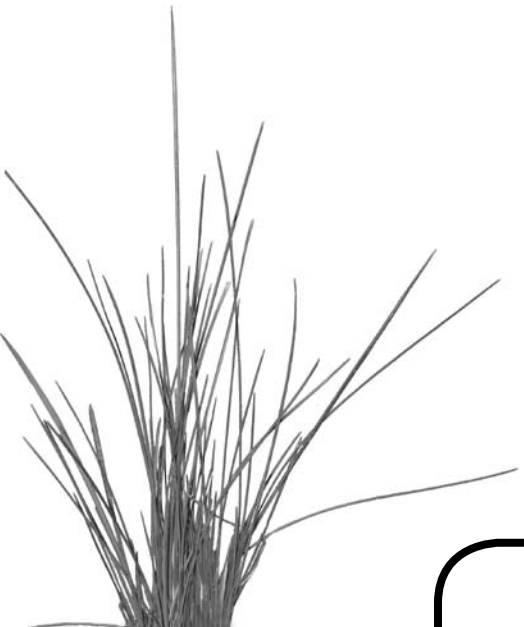
- **Implementing organization:** Economic Education for Youth
- **Donor:** FOSIM
- **Partner:** Ministry of Education
- **Aim:** the Program addresses longer-term benefits of youth being exposed to the ideas of entrepreneurship and the rules of market economy

The funds provided basic institutional support for the *Economic Education for Youth* spin-off which conducted the following activities: training of 269 teachers in elementary schools, classes for 8400 students on different modules of the *Junior Achievement* program - 40 schools throughout Macedonia, training of 10 trainer volunteers for the secondary education program, and classes for 300 students in different towns.

Economics Education for Youth		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Junior Achievement, Skopje	Institutional support	$9,726.77
Expenses:		$297.23
		Total $10,024.00

Systemic Reforms Program Area

Public Administration Program



The Public Administration Reform Program is focused on the strengthening of public administration capacities on local and central level. The program supports activities to secure coordinated, efficient, and transparent process of policy making, decision making, and rendering services to citizens as basic preconditions for the country's successful integration to the EU. Through this Program, FOSIM provides institutional support, research, seminars, training, and debates on public policies.

Freedom of Information

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donors:** FOSIM, Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative (LGI), Budapest, and Human Rights and Governance Grants (HRGGP), Budapest
- **Partners:** Association of the Local Self-Government Units and the Ministry of Justice
- **Aim:** to develop model legislation for freedom of information on local level

FOSIM, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, supported the process of development and adoption of the Freedom of Information Law (FOI) through providing comments on the draft law by *Article 19* and the Open Society Justice Initiative; and by participation in several roundtables. In order to ensure that FOI legislation on local level is consistent, FOSIM initiated the creation of a draft-model legislation for FOI on local level that was approved by the legislative committee of the Association of Local Self-Government Units. Furthermore, a campaign was designed to press the municipalities to adopt model legislation at local level. Additionally, FOSIM carried out several preparatory activities for civic education. In order to monitor effectively the implementation of the FOI law on local level, basic research was conducted to track local NGOs working in the fields of FOI or transparency/accountability of local authorities. The project will be completed in 2006.

Freedom of Information	Total: $65,250.00

How to Apply and Manage EU Funds

- **Implementing organization:** Macedonian Center for European Training, Skopje
- **Donor:** FOSIM
- **Partners:** General Secretariat of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, and the Sector for European Integration.
- **Aim:** to provide training and develop training curriculum on the application procedures and principles of the Twinning and TAIEX programs that the EU made available for the Republic of Macedonia, after the Thessalonica EU Summit in 2003.

The first phase of the program provided training of trainers on Twinning and TAIEX programs, delivered by Slovenian experts, in order to up-grade the capacities, training skills and knowledge of the EU trainer pool from the Macedonian Center for European Training (MCET). In the second phase of the project MCET-trainers train civil servants working in the sectors/units of the public administration on how to prepare Twinning project fiches. The project will be completed in 2005.

How to Apply and Manage EU Funds	Total: $35,000.00

MCET Up-grade (Previous PA Training on EU)

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donors:** FOSIM and INWENT, Köln
- **Partners:** Institute for European Politics, Berlin, and INWENT
- **Aim:** to further strengthen MCET trainers' pool capacities

Within the framework of extended cooperation with the Institute for European Politics from Berlin and INWENT from Köln, Germany, FOSIM continued to support further up-grades of MCET-trainer capacities. Four upgrading workshops for the MCET trainer pool were organized on the following topics: Twinning Program as an EU Financial Instrument (June 2004); Social and Employment Policy in the EU (July, 2004); The Role of the Committee of Regions (October 2004); and Cross-Border Cooperation Programs as Instruments and Mechanisms for EU Funding (December 2004).

Public Administration Training for EU	Total: $34,996.00

Policy-oriented Researchers

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donor:** FOSIM
- **Partner:** European Stability Initiative (ESI), Istanbul
- **Aim:** to build local capacities for policy-oriented research in Macedonia

Following a public call for young researchers, ESI conducted initial training for selected candidates in May, 2004. Afterwards, two groups were established that institutionalized themselves i.e., Center for Research and Policy-Making (CRPM), and Europa Initiative (EI). In the course of 2004, mentorship training was provided by ESI on policy-oriented research, and financial support was provided by FOSIM. In October 2004, FOSIM granted CRPM for

the project *Local Economic Dynamics - Case Studies: Stip and Gostivar*, covering the fees for four researchers during the project period. They started with field research and analysis of the present economic situation, identifying the crucial components of local economies in Stip and Gostivar, and collecting all accessible data in this field, analyzing at the same time the legal framework regulating the economic policy of the country. The aim of this project is to identify the development potentials of the two towns (Stip and Gostivar), and to provide a set of specific economic development policy recommendations. In December 2004, a grant was awarded to *Europa Initiative* to financially support the research on Pestani and Ohrid, aiming to provide a socio-economic analysis of the municipality. Research activities started in 2004 and will continue in 2005. In cooperation with the organization *Europa Initiative* from Skopje, $7,421.19 was committed for a socio-economic analysis of Pestani.

Policy-Oriented Researchers		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Center for Research and Policy Making, Skopje	Local Economic Timetable, Stip and Gostivar	$11,787.55

Civil Servant Handbook Update

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donors:** FOSIM, European Agency for Reconstruction and Ministry of Education of the Republic of Macedonia
- **Partners:** Civil Servant Agency, Ministry of Education of the Republic of Macedonia
- **Aim:** to update the current *Civil Servant Handbook* (originally developed and published in 2001), in order to incorporate new legislative changes regulating the public administration and the local government, stemming from the implementation of the Framework Agreement and subsequent constitutional amendments.

FOSIM financially supported the updating of the Handbook and the printing costs for 3000 copies in Macedonian and 2000 copies in Albanian. The translation of the Handbook's updated version from Macedonian into Albanian was financed by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Macedonia.
The Handbook's updated version, in Macedonian and Albanian, was used as part of the educational material for specialized training courses for new 600 civil servants that will be trained within the European Agency for Reconstruction's project *Equitable Representation of Non-Majority Communities in the Public Administration of the Republic of Macedonia*.

Civil Servant Handbook Update	Total: $19,827.99

Development of Local Training Capacities (Train the Trainer LG)

- **Implementing organizations:** FOSIM and the Foundation *Partners for Local Development* (FPLD), Bucharest, Romania (conducted the training of trainers)
- **Donors:** FOSIM, LGI, and OSCE mission in Skopje
- **Partner:** Civil Servants Agency of the Republic of Macedonia
- **Aim:** to create local trainer capacities in Macedonia that will further on provide training on local government issues within municipalities and local communities.

Activities: In the course of 2004, four modules of the Training of Trainers (TOT) Program were delivered. 42 handbooks were translated from English into Macedonian and were used during the TOT trainings[1]: There were regular briefings, individual and joint meetings with the participants of the TOT Program about program development and their involvement, especially looking at the prospects for future activities in delivering trainings. Other activities included regular meetings with other stakeholders: the Civil Service Agency and OSCE mission in Skopje (co-financing agencies) and the Civil Servant Agency. The consultation process for project development at various stages incorporates feedback and suggestions given by the organization that delivered the training - FPLD. The project will be completed in 2006.

Local Training Capacities	Total $64,131.01

Training for Local Government Officials

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donors:** FOSIM and LGI
- **Partner:** Civil Servant Agency of the Republic of Macedonia.
- **Aim:** to acquaint local government officials with the system of civil service as envisaged by the Law on Civil Servants[2].

One-day training programs were designed on issues such as: The Rights and Duties of Civil Servants, The System of Recruitment and Selection, Promotion, Performance Assessment, Salary System, and Ethics in Civil Service. In 2004, 10 one-day trainings were organized for around 30 participants each, coming from almost every municipality in the country.

1 Elected Leadership (13 books); Building Bridges Vol. I (2 books); Building Bridges Vol. II (2 books), and Local Government Management (6 books).

2 The Law on Local Self-Government adopted in January 2002 gave local administration employees an opportunity to gain the status of civil servants under the Law on Civil Servants.

Training of Local Government Officials	Total: $20,000.00

Strengthening Central Level Policy-making and Implementation Process

- **Implementing organizations:** FOSIM, and the General Secretariat of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia
- **Donor:** FOSIM
- **Partners:** General Secretariat of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Transport and Communication, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Dutch Institute for Public Administration (ROI) – provided training and consulting services
- **Aim:** to strengthen the capacities of state administration civil servants for effective, transparent, and coordinated public policy making and implementation processes.

A 3-day general training in Public Policy-making Cycle was organized. This included theoretical and practical aspects of policy making, within the framework of the Macedonian legislation. The General Secretariat facilitated the process of identifying three clients where the project was to be implemented - the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, and the Ministry of Transport and Communications. After these trainings, the project continued in defining real, "live" policy issues with the General Secretary and the State Secretaries from ministries involved, with the task to produce policy papers as recommendations for solutions in the selected areas. The areas identified for project intervention are: Ministry of Justice – Policy/Law on Juvenile Justice; Ministry of Labor and Social Policy - Policy on Active Employment Measures, and Ministry of Transport and Communication – Housing Policy. Also, the project will produce recommendations for organizational, normative, and other adjustments for improving the process of public policy creation and implementation. The project will be completed in 2005.

Strengthening of Central-Level Policy	Total: $120,000.02

Student Exchange EU-Republic of Macedonia

- **Implementing organization:** AIESEC, Skopje
- **Donor:** FOSIM
- **Partner**s: Sector for European Integration in the Government, City of Skopje

- **Aim:** to enable exchange of experience with EU Member-States, to build the capacities of students, and to enable practical implementation of the Copenhagen criteria.

AIESEC Local Committee in Skopje was awarded a grant for the project *Student Exchange EU-Republic of Macedonia*, covering fees for 3-month interim practices of 10 students, honoraria, and administrative costs of the organizational committee, as well as the materials for one two-day workshop and two conferences. The project supported 10 foreign students' interim practices in Macedonian government institutions; and a conference aimed at transferring knowledge and exchanging experience between students on EU-related topics.

PA-EU/Republic of Macedonia Student Exchange		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
AIESEC, Skopje	EU-Republic of Macedonia student exchange	$4,531.61
Expenses:		-$73.67
		Total $4,457.94

Roundtable on Decentralization

- **Implementing organization:** Civic Initiative Center, Prilep
- **Donor**: FOSIM
- **Aim:** to raise the awareness of Macedonian citizens on the new competences of local authorities stemming from the decentralization legislation; as well as to build the capacities of local administration regarding newly-transferred competencies.

In November 2004, FOSIM issued a grant to the Civic Initiative Center for the project "*Decentralization - Condition for Faster Local Development*". The grant covered the administrative costs, consultant costs, monitor costs, and fees, the costs for conferences and seminars, as well as for promotion materials and a media campaign. The project will be completed in 2005.

Roundtables on Decentralization		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Civic Initiative Center, Prilep	Decentralization - condition for faster development of the municipality	$17,067.92
Expenses:		$0.47
		Total $17,068.39

Model Macedonian Municipality

- **Implementing organizations:** FOSIM and UNDP
- **Donors:** FOSIM and UNDP
- **Partners:** Association of Local Self Government Units, Ministry of Local Self Government
- **Aim:** to strengthen local governance in Macedonia through a combination of local capacity building initiatives. The ultimate goal of the project is to contribute to the development of stronger and more efficient local authorities through improvement of local governments' performance, organizational and functional capacities.

A model for municipal organization and management was developed and applied in 6 pilot municipalities. The capacities of the local authorities were strengthened, and citizen participation in local development activities was enhanced. In April 2004, deliverables were submitted by consultants regarding the Assessment of municipal institutional infrastructure. Workshops were organized in 6 pilot municipalities[3] on the new competencies of local self-government units. Over 50 participants from each municipality attended the workshops including mayors, municipal council members, municipal administration staff, heads of municipal departments, as well as representatives of public enterprises, NGOs, and the media. In May[4], a study visit was organized to the Republic of Slovenia. This delegation included the mayors of the six pilot-municipalities, representatives of the Ministry of Local Self-Government and the Association of Local Self-government Units (ZELS). In June, a delegation comprised of mayors, municipal employees, and a representative of the Association of Local Self-Government Units of the Republic of Macedonia visited the E-Governance Academy in Tallinn, Estonia and attended a 5-day training course on ICT policy, covering: Formation of an ICT Policy; ICT Management in Theory and Practice; Development of Information Society: Local Government Perspective; The Role of ICT in the Public Sector and Main ICT Development Projects in the Public Sector; Electronic Document Management in Estonia; E-service technologies, and other related topics. Training modules were defined and adopted by the Trilateral Committee[5].

3 Gevgelija, Kriva Palanka, Stip, Resen, Kicevo, and Veles

4 In accordance with the Program Objectives of the Work Plan, regarding the exchange of experience in the area of organization and management of local self-government with countries having local self-government systems most relevant to the Macedonian one

5 Training on Cross Border Cooperation Training; Training on Management in Communal Public Enterprises – financial and organizational strengthening (ToT); Training on Geographic Information

Moreover, activities were initiated related to the setting up of a training support unit in the Municipality of Bitola in cooperation with the Civil Servant Agency. Activities related to the drafting of Plans for Introducing E-governance at local level were initiated in 2004. The Terms of Reference was drafted, and a public announcement was published in daily newspapers. The selection phase was also completed in 2004. The project will be completed in 2005.

Model Macedonian Municipality	Total: $100,000.01

Spun-off Organization

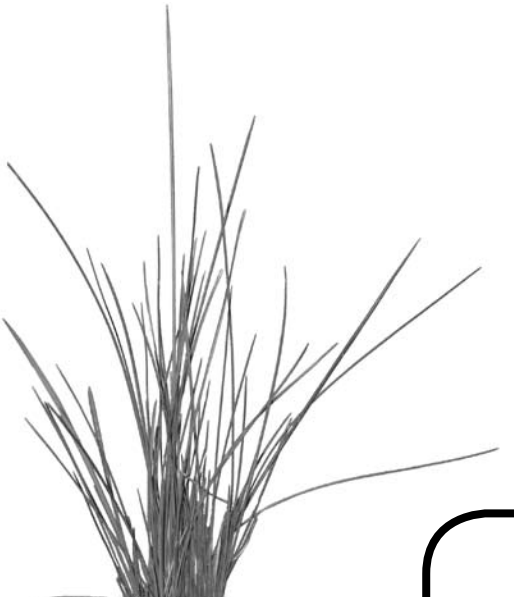
Macedonian Center for European Training

In 2004, FOSIM awarded a grant to the Macedonian Center for European Training (MCET) for implementation of program activities mainly focusing on training, lobbying, and advocacy on EU issues for civil servants, NGOs and media representatives, as well as for institutional support for core funding. In the course of 2004, MCET delivered 19 workshops, seminars, lectures, and panel discussions for various target groups (civil servants, judges and public prosecutors, NGOs, junior political party members, young leaders, post-graduate students, entrepreneurs). Approximately 850 people were trained.

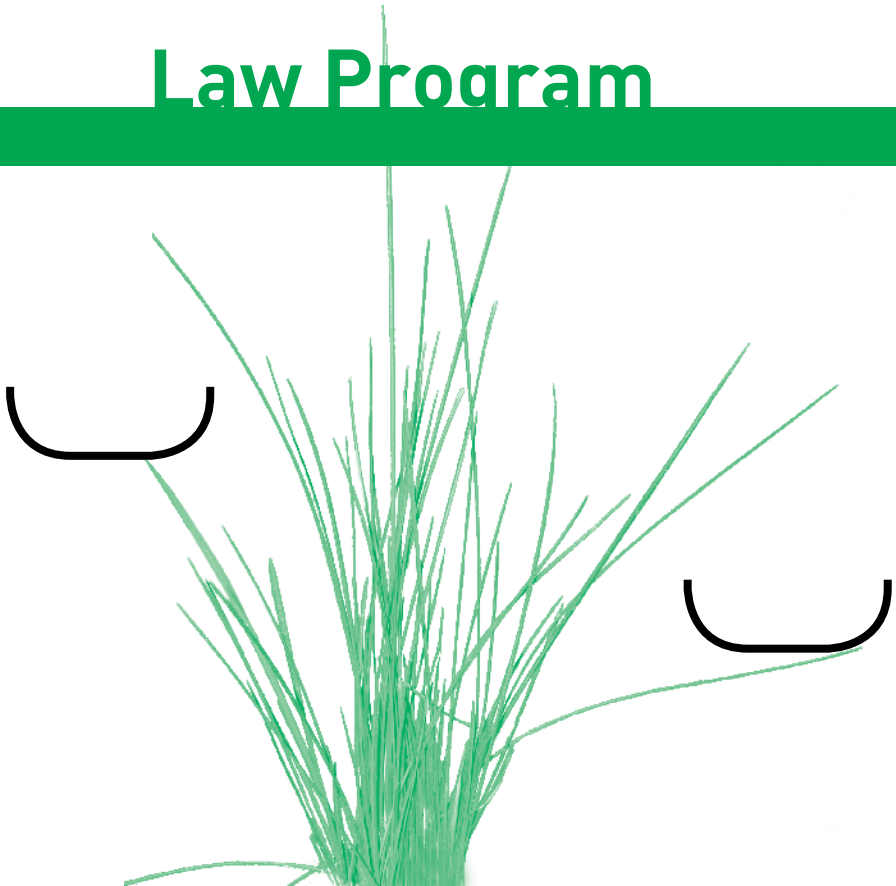
Purpose: Training public administration, civil society, and media in EU-related issues

Macedonian Center For European Training		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Macedonian Center for European Training-MCET, Skopje	Training public administration, civil society, and media in EU-related issues	$31,626.57

Systems (ToT); Basic training on Local Self-Government Management; Training on Public Procurement and Anti-Corruption Rules; Training on Strategic and Urban Planning in the Decentralization Process (ToT); Basic training on Local Self-Government – Normative Framework; Local E-governance training (ToT).



Law Program



The aim of the Law Program is to encourage the legal system reform and to enable the rule of law in the Republic of Macedonia. The main priorities of the Law Program in 2004 are: to encourage the fight against corruption and political voluntarism; to support the reforms of the national judicial system; to promote the freedom of information and transparency; to improve legislation in line with EU integration while diversifying participation in the decision-making and legislation process; and to support independent NGO monitoring. The program is implemented by FOSIM in cooperation with the Open Society Justice Initiative.

Assistance to the Ministry of Justice

- **Implementing organization:** Ministry of Justice
- **Donors:** FOSIM and the Ministry of Justice of Bavaria
- **Partners:** Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia, and the Public Prosecution of the Republic of Macedonia
- **Aim:** to gather practical knowledge and experiences regarding the organization and financing of the judiciary and public prosecution in Bavaria

The project supported a study visit to Bavaria of five representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the Public Prosecution, and the Appellate Court, to deal with the issue of reorganization of the judicial system, as well as with the organization and financing of the judiciary and the public prosecution.

Assistance to the Ministry of Justice		
Recipient	Purpose	Award
Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Macedonia	Study visit to judiciary institutions in Bavaria by judges, public prosecutors, and civil servants	$2,096.67
Expenses:		$3.13
		Total $2,099.80

Legislation Approximation

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donor:** FOSIM
- **Partners:** Ministry of Justice, Sector for European Integration and the General Secretariat of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia
- **Aim:** to support the process of legislation approximation in line with relevant EU standards

Within this program FOSIM signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Government's General Secretariat to support the process of drafting legislation, particularly in the areas of anti-corruption, organized crime, and legal aid. Additionally, FOSIM provided a grant to the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Macedonia, Skopje, towards *supporting the process of development of the Strategy on the Reform of the Judiciary, the Public Prosecution, the Penitentiary Institution System, the Public Attorney, the Bar, and the Notary, and the Approximation with Relevant EU Standards*. The project supported the translation of the draft *Strategy* into English, and securing comments from international organizations and foreign governments that were incorporated in the final version of the *Strategy*. The project will be completed in 2006.

Legislation Approximation		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Macedonia, Skopje	Strategy on the reform of the judiciary, public prosecution, penitentiary institution system, public attorney, Bar, and notary	$1,661.77
Expenses:		$18,338.22
		Total $19,999.99

Law Enforcement Strategies and Policies

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donor:** FOSIM, and OSI Human Rights and Governance Grants Program
- **Partners:** Macedonian Judges Association, Macedonian Public Prosecutors Association, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, and the Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia

- **Aim:** Drafting of a strategy and implementation plans for coordinative action of major law enforcement institutions (the police, the public prosecution, and the judiciary) in the fight against organized crime

A call for proposals from relevant institutions, think-tanks, and NGOs, towards the development and implementation of research projects was announced. Only one project was awarded to a team composed of practitioners and theoreticians with relevant experience. The research focused on practical cooperation among law enforcement institutions and will serve as a basis for development of an organized crime coordinative policy. Additionally, FOSIM supported the project on developing curricula and conducting trainings for police officers selected and deployed to the Organized Crime Department within the Ministry of Internal Affairs. FOSI Media Program supported the production of a documentary movie to capture the opinions of citizens about organized crime in Macedonia. The project will last until December 2006.

Law Enforcement Strategies & Policies	Total: $38,848.00

Judiciary Reform

- **Implementing organizations:** Coalition *All for Fair Trials*, Skopje and Association for Civic Tolerance and Coope*ration*, Prilep
- **Donors:** FOSIM, SIDA, and OSCE
- **Partners:** Ministry of Justice and the Supreme Court of the Republic of Macedonia
- **Aim:** to enhance the professionalism of judicial personnel, to improve the implementation of fair trial standards, and to strengthen judiciary independence through alternative methods.

FOSIM funded two projects designed to assist the judiciary reform which had already acquired partial funding. The Coalition *All for Fair Trails* from Skopje organized monitoring of the implementation of fair trail standards. 643 criminal and 720 civil cases were monitored at 1010 and 907 hearings, respectively. As a result, a final report with conclusions and suggestions was drafted, published, and disseminated through nine workshops. Additionally, a grant was given to the *Association for Civic Tolerance and Cooperation* from Prilep to conduct an analysis of the opinions of judges from basic courts as well as legal professionals on the draft version of the *Strategy for Judiciary Reform*. The project was titled *Indecent Proposal to the Judiciary: A Contribution to the Discussion Process on the Reform of the Judiciary* and, within the project, three expert workshops were organized to debate the results of the research as well as to discuss the Strategy in its drafting process.

Judiciary Reform		
Recipient	Purpose	Award
Coalition All for Fair Trials, Skopje	Monitoring the implementation of fair trial international standards carried out nationwide, and assessment of the situation in the judiciary	$36,353.00
Association for Civic Tolerance and Cooperation of the Municipality of Prilep	Indecent Proposal to the Judiciary Project	$15,144.99
Expenses:		$4,411.68
		Total $55,909.67

Legal Clinics

- **Implementing organization:** Center for Clinical Legal Education[1], Youth Educational Forum
- **Donor:** FOSIM
- **Ai**m: to support the clinical legal education at the Law Faculty *Iustinianus Primus*, Skopje

Through this sub-program an institutional grant was awarded to the Center for Clinical Legal Education. Since 2004 was the fifth and last year of support, the Center worked on its sustainability strategy. The Center curriculum is incorporated in the new program of the Law Faculty and it will continue to work under its support. As previously, civil and criminal law clinics were organized during the school year. In addition, FOSIM supported the Youth Educational Forum in establishing a new clinical program at the Law Faculty – the *Street Law* clinic. Within this project, a new clinical class and a manual were developed. A total of 73 students participated in the legal clinics in 2004/2005. The project will last until October, 2005.

1 Since its establishment in 1999, the Center for Clinical Legal Education has become a highly successful clinical program and a model for the region. More than 80 civil cases were carried out, and legal aid was provided to more than 40 female prisoners. Until now, the Center for Legal Clinical Education has supported several students' trainings in giving free legal aid. The students took part in legal document analysis, drafting court files, and continued cooperation with several NGO's.

Legal Clinics		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Faculty of Law Iustinianus Primus, Skopje	Center for Legal Clinical Education	$9,752.74
Youth Educational Forum, Skopje	Street Law - Legal Clinic	$5,291.16
Expenses:		$0.09
		Total $15,043.99

Anti-Corruption Initiatives

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donor:** FOSIM
- **Aim:** to support anti-corruption initiatives

In 2004, FOSIM organized and funded the second conference *Macedonia and Corruption – Context and Challenges,* aiming to assess what had changed in the area of anti-corruption fight since the first conference organized in 2002. Representatives of the State Anti-Corruption Commission, the Directorate for Money Laundering Prevention, the Government, and relevant NGOs were debating the situation in the field of corruption, the new anti-corruption legislation, and experiences of newly-established anti-corruption institutions. As a result of the conference, a booklet including on the conclusions (in Macedonian, Albanian, and English) was published and disseminated.

Furthermore, in cooperation with IOM, FOSIM produced (1) a guide through anti-corruption laws; (2) a leaflet on administrative obligations

and principles in fighting corruption; and (3) an anti-corruption brochure for public administration employees. Additionally, FOSIM, in cooperation with the *Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equity of Women in Macedonia*, implemented a project aimed at producing materials which outline services provided to the citizens by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy. As a result six thematic brochures were developed and will be published. Faced with the findings of the survey on corruption in higher education, FOSIM decided to establish a small fund for anti-corruption initiatives in higher education in 2004.

Anti-Corruption Initiatives		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Civil Information Center SPEKTAR, Stip	Knowledge or Corruption?	$9,462.87
Expenses:		$46,828.15
		Total $56,291.02

Citizen Platform for Peace and Stability

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donors:** FOSIM and the British Government's Department for International Development
- **Partners:** NGO Support Centers
- **Aim:** To press political figures to focus their attention on citizens' opinions and priorities regarding peace and stability.

As a continuation of the project and as a response to the presidential elections, the project included an "online questionnaire" gathering citizens' opinions about their expectations from the newly-elected President of the Republic. Additionally, questionnaires were distributed in several towns in Macedonia through the NGO Support Centers. The analysis was made by the Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research, and a statistical analysis was done by *Brima Galup*. The results from the survey were published on several web sites.

Citizen Platform for Peace	Total: $210.98

Articles on Security

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donor:** FOSIM
- **Aim:** to promote the book *Current Perspectives on Macedonia: Struggle for Peace, Democracy and Security*[2] to the wider public

A publication titled *Current Perspectives on Macedonia: Struggle for Peace, Democracy and Security* was published in Macedonian and Albanian. The publication represents a series of analyses on the political and security situation in Macedonia pertaining to the 2001 crisis. In order to promote the book, FOSIM organized a conference called *Post-Ohrid Macedonia: Facing the Challenges or another Virtual Reality* on which 35 participants debated on peace, democracy and security issues. The project was completed in February, 2004.

Articles on Security	Total: $1,510.01

Freedom of Information

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donors:** FOSIM and OSI Human Rights and Governance Grants Program
- **Partners:** Association of Local Self-Government Units and the Ministry of Justice
- **Aim:** to develop model legislation on freedom of information on local level

FOSIM, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice, supported the process of drafting and adoption of the Freedom of Information Law (FOI). Comments of the draft law were provided by *Article 19* and the Open Society Justice Initiative. FOSIM contracted a national expert group to develop some model legislation on FOI on local level. In order to secure the adoption of such legislation, FOSIM held several meetings with the head and the secretariat of the Association of Local Self-Government Units, as well as with individual local officials. In concurrence, trainings on FOI for municipal officials and citizens were conducted. Through three regional trainings, covering 58 different municipalities, 62 municipal officials as well as 41 representatives of CSOs were trained. Additionally, FOSIM carried out an advocacy campaign. Support from majority of newly-appointed local officials, mayors, and councils was declared, and already two municipalities (Aerodrom and Cair) implemented the FOI legislation in their Statutes. The project will last until May 2006.

Freedom of Information	Total: $44,456.99

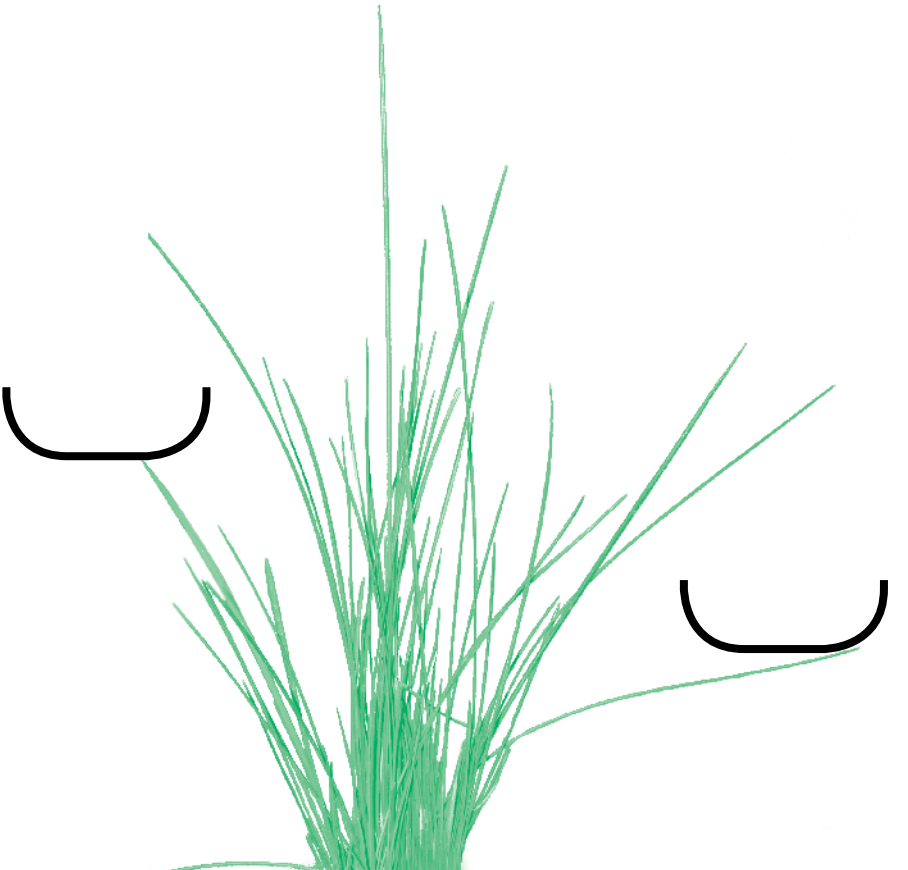
2 by Mrs. Biljana Vankovska, professor at the Faculty of Philosophy, Institute for Peace and Security Studies

Transparency of Ministries

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donor**: FOSIM
- Partners: Ministry of Justice and Foundation *Metamorphosis*, Skopje
- **Aim:** to improve the transparency and accountability in the work of the Ministry of Justice

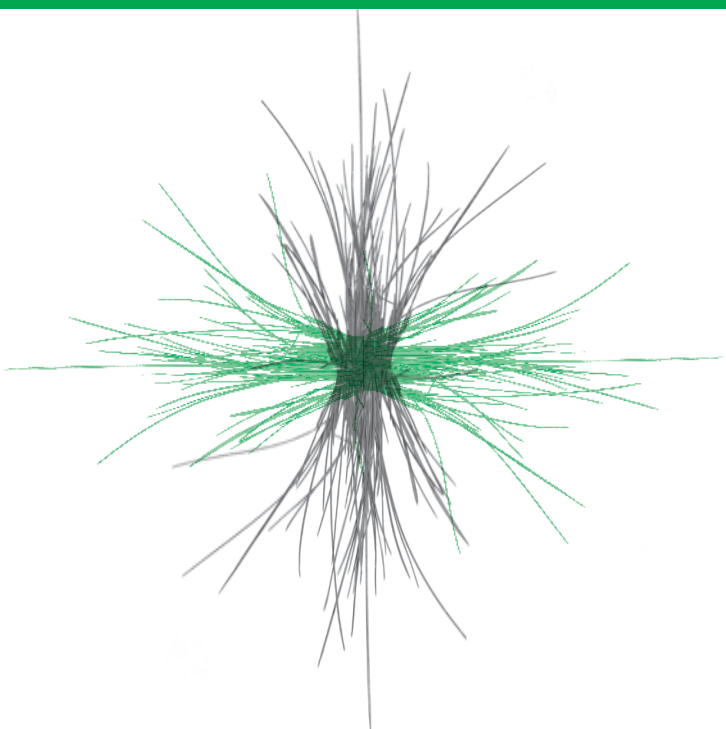
Within this sub-program, the development of a web site for the Ministry was supported. FOSIM organized three public debates on the *Strategy for Judiciary Reform*, and one on alternative sanctions, in order to secure public participation in these processes. Furthermore, FOSIM will support the transparent process of constitutional amendments in 2005, through supporting public debates and citizens' educational activities. The project will be completed in 2005.

TRANSPARENCY OF MINISTRIES	TOTAL: $25,000.00



Systemic Reforms Program Area

Public Health



In 2004, FOSIM continued with public health issues in close collaboration with OSI-NY Public Health Program, the Ministry of Health, and the Medical Faculty, with an overall goal to promote high-quality life for all citizens in the country. The main priorities of *FOSIM's* Public Health Program in the year 2004 were: Pre-evaluation of the School of Public Health; Capacity Building of Public Health Professionals; Inclusion of vulnerable groups in the society (drug-users, disabled, Roma); Patients' rights, and Palliative Care.

Network Programs
Mental Health Initiative

- **Implementing organization:** *Poraka*, Skopje
- **Donor:** Network Public Health Program
- **Aim:** to promote human rights, inclusion and active participation in the society of people with mental disabilities.

In the course of 2004, the Program continued to support the National Center for helping persons with mental handicaps – *Poraka* from Skopje. The network of community-based alternative services[1] (Day Centers and small group homes for independent living) as a support to the families with intellectually-disabled members implemented various activities: family support in the prevention of institutionalization; training of users of Day Centers for independent living and of volunteers who work in Day Centers; education of parents in order to prevent the institutionalization of their children with intellectual disability; and lobbying the Government and local authorities in order for them to accept services for persons with intellectual disability as part of common activities in municipalities.

Mental Health & Disabilities		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
State Center for Mentally Disabled Persons Poraka, Skopje	National Campaign: Supporting the Employment of People with Intellectual Disabilities in the Republic of Macedonia	$6,499.99

1 Established by Poraka in 2001

Recipient	Purpose	Award
State Center for Mentally Disabled Persons Poraka, Skopje	Continuation of the project on establishing day care centers for people with intellectual disability and their families, and providing continuity and sustainability of already established day care centers	$28,161.12
Expenses:		$3,153.90
		Total $37,815.01

Salzburg Seminars

- **Implementing organization:** Medical Faculty, Skopje
- **Donors**: Network Public Health Program
- **Aim:** to improve the quality of health care by updating medical and public health knowledge and experience of physicians, and by incorporating these physicians into a professional network which will foster their growth as teachers and leaders

In 2004, a group of 6 participants from Macedonia[2], selected by the Expert Committee in Salzburg, attended the seminars in the following specialties: Public Health Education; Pediatric Gastroenterology; Neurosurgery; Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN); Cardiology and Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT).

Salzburg Seminars		
Recipient	Purpose	Award
Medical Faculty, Skopje	Medical seminars - Salzburg	$8,790.01

2 See the list of participants in Annex 2.

OSI Seminar Series

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donor:** OSI – New York
- **Aim:** to debate and exchange ideas, approaches, and strategies related to public health and policy issues

OSI Seminar program is an operative program which organized several seminars on different public health topics in the region in 2004. On 11-13 March, 2004, a regional seminar on Cervical Cancer, organized by OSI Seminars program took place in Durres, Albania. From Macedonia, two public health experts (Biljana Ancevska and Liljana Ristevska) attended the seminar. On 22-24 April, 2004, a regional seminar on *Effective Advocacy for Public Health* took place in Bled, Slovenia. The following participants from Macedonia attended the seminar: Vesna Velic-Stefanovska, Dragan Gjorgjev, and Fimka Tozija, Public Health experts from the School of Public Health Skopje.

PH Seminar Series Operating	Total: $4,045.01

International Harm Reduction Development Program (IHRDP)

- **Implementing organizations:** *Doverba* and *HOPS*, Skopje
- **Donors**: FOSIM and OSI – New York
- **Partners:** Global Fund
- **Aim:** to reduce the impact of health and social harms related to illegal drug use by preventing the spread of HIV infection among drug-users in Macedonia

Since the beginning of 2005, the Ministry of Health, in cooperation with local community stakeholders, has been implementing the Project on the decentralization of services for prevention and treatment of drug use, focused on the provision of methadone-substitution therapy for drug users.[3] This is the result of long-term advocacy and lobbying on the part of various entities in the country, supported by the WHO, the Global Fund, and FOSIM. The main goal is such centers to be set up in as many urban areas as possible, promoting low threshold programs based on harm reduction philosophy and policy with pragmatic, human, effective, accessible, and cost-effective approaches.

3 So far , two new Centres have been established in the country; it is planned that more of them will be set up by the end of the year.

IHRD-Grants (matching)		
Recipient	Purpose	Award
Association Doverba, Skopje	Support for, and strengthening of, harm reduction programs in the Republic of Macedonia	$48,207.64
HOPS – Options for Healthy Life, Skopje	Advocating activities towards harm reduction	$17,412.21
Expenses:		$4,891.17
		Total $70,511.02

Workforce Development

- **Implementing organization:** School of Public Health, Skopje
- **Donor:** Network Public Health Program
- **Partner:** Medical Faculty, Skopje
- **Aim:** to strengthen or establish sustainable graduate-level public health degree programs.

The program focused on the development, networking and certification of schools, courses and programs of public health. In 2004, SPH started with the process of pre-evaluation of the School for Public Health (SPH), Skopje, with supervisors form SPH, Jerusalem. As part of the Medical Faculty, the School for Public Health and FOSIM supported 2 researches on topics *Behavioral research on the use of helmets and Initiation of the program on food fortification in the Republic of Macedonia,* implemented by Dr. Dance Gudeva-Nikovska and Dr. Aleksandar Arnikov, Master of Public Health (MPH). The project will last until 2006.

Workforce Development PH School		
Recipient	Purpose	Award
Medical Faculty, Skopje	Establishing Public health post-graduate studies at the Medical Faculty, Skopje	$62,935.95
Medical Faculty, Skopje	Behavioral research on the use of helmets	$5,431.50

Medical Faculty, Skopje	Initiation of the program on food fortification in the Republic of Macedonia	$5,431.50
Expenses:		$10,608.04
		Total $84,406.99

Patients' Rights

- **Implementing organization:** Macedonian Interethnic Association (MIA), Skopje
- **Donor:** Network Public Health Program
- **Aim:** to improve patients' rights in Republic of Macedonia in accordance with relevant EU standards, to be made available for all patients in Macedonia

In 2004, with the network of the Public Health Program, FOSIM continued to support the project on patients' rights. The project *For patient's rights in Macedonia* implemented by the *MIA* NGO included the first survey on outpatients. The development of information and education materials – for a national campaign for raising awareness of the general public as well as of vulnerable groups about their patients' rights was done. In addition, a report was drafted reviewing Macedonian patient right legislation, and analyzing public opinion, identifying the gaps and the response needed. The project will last until 2006.

New Public Health Initiatives		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
MIA – Macedonian Inter-Ethnic Association, Skopje	On the rights of patients in the Republic of Macedonia	$62,935.95 $41,112.82
Expenses:		$3,283.17
		Total $44,395.99

Palliative Care

- **Implementing organization:** Hospice Sue Ryder Care, Skopje.
- **Donor:** Network Public Health Program
- **Aim:** to raise the overall quality of life for people with life-limited diseases (AIDS, malignant diseases) and their families by supporting the development of palliative care activities through mutual collaboration between the government and the NGO sector.

Within the Network Public Health Program, FOSIM initiated the project for palliative care addressing terminally ill persons and developing the curriculum for home care visits for 36 patients. The necessary mobile medical equipment and a vehicle for the implementation of project activities were purchased, and two professional palliative care teams were established. Related to educational activities, two one-day training workshops titled *Palliative Care – Main Facts* were organized for the medical staff from the Sue Ryder Hospice Skopje and the Sue Ryder Hospice Bitola, with a total number of 65 participants.

Palliative Care		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Hospice Sue Ryder Care, Skopje	Palliative care in home conditions	$25,802.06
Hospice Sue Ryder Care, Skopje	Palliative care in home conditions 2	$12,127.28
Expenses:		-$0.34
		Total $37,929.00

Women's Health

- **Implementing organizatio**n: Clinic for Gynecology, Skopje
- **Donor:** Network Public Health Program
- **Aim:** to provide training and institutionalization for Manual Vacuum Aspiration Abortion

This subprogram has been implemented in cooperation with the Clinic for Obstetrics & Gynecology. The program focused on spreading the Manual Vacuum Aspiration Method throughout Macedonia as a safe abortion method with different training modules. The project will last until 2005.

Women's Health		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Public Clinical Center, Skopje	Regional training on manual aspiration	$10,862.95
Expenses:		$717.90
		Total $11,580.85

Spun-off Organization

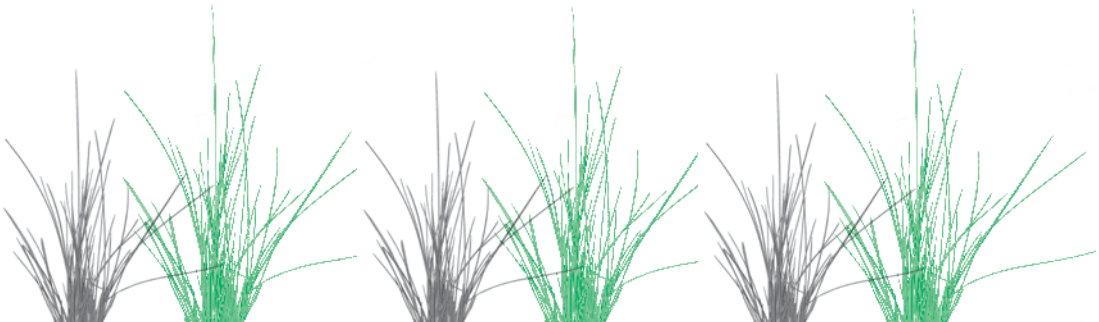
Health Options Project Skopje (HOPS)

In the course of 2004, *HOPS* implemented its usual activities in the field of Harm Reduction (needle exchange, basic medical treatment and counseling, social services with counseling, education on HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted Infections (STIs), education on safe injecting, and developing outreach activities). Moreover, the emphasis was put on policy making for including Harm Reduction programs in the National Strategy for HIV/AIDS and in the application for Global Fund. *HOPS* successfully managed to include Harm Reduction programs as one of the priorities. The framework of the Strategy is directed to opening seven new Harm Reduction programs in which *HOPS* will have a leading role providing education, workshops, etc..
Also, by applying to the Global Fund, *HOPS* succeeded to secure 50% of the budget related to Harm Reduction programs, the total amount being 4,3 million $. The proposal includes the opening of 2 other programs on needle exchange and basic medical and social services, and the developing of outreach activities in the territory of Skopje.

Harm Reduction HOPS		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Health Options Project Skopje (HOPS)	Harm Reduction	$14,999.00

Civil Society Program Area

Civil Society Program



The goal of the Civil Society Program is to promote and support the development of open society and civic values and principles by supporting non-governmental organizations and citizen's initiatives.

Improving Interethnic Relations in Macedonia

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donors:** FOSIM, King Baudouin Foundation, and Charles Stuart Mott Foundation
- **Aim:** to build better interethnic relations through promotion of democratic values, and to initiate cooperation among various ethnic communities and NGOs representing their interests and institutions.

In the course of 2004, the program focused on developing effective dialogue among members of different ethnic communities living in Macedonia. The main emphasis was put on the problems and needs of different communities.
The activities included encouraging, initiating and developing initiatives in communities, promoting cooperation between the population and the NGOs. This program includes support for local initiative development; assigning grants for NGO's and informal groups, capacity building through training. The project will last until March, 2005.

Improving Interethnic Relations - Grants (See Grant List in Annex 2)	**Total: $69,584.00**

Improving Interethnic Relations	**Total: $128,530.44**

Minority Rights in Practice

- **Implementing organization:** NGO *Common Values*, Skopje
- **Donors:** FOSIM, King Baudouin Foundation, and Charles Stuart Mott Foundation
- **Aim:** to initiate and to support civic dialogue towards equal participation of ethnic communities in sustainable local and national development

In 2004, within the program on *Improving Interethnic Relations in Macedonia*, a research on the ethnic rights of communities living in Macedonia was conducted. According to data obtained in this research, a new regional initiative was created called *Minority Rights in Practice* (MRP), which will be implemented by the newly-established NGO *Common Values*, as a spin-off of FOSIM. The aim of this program is to support citizen dialogue on equal participation of ethnic communities in sustainable development on local and national levels. The project will last until February, 2007.

Minority Civil Dialogue in SEE	Total: $633.99

Inter-Ethnic & Intra-Ethnic Dialogue

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donors:** FOSIM
- **Partner:** Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research, Skopje
- **Aim:** to analyze the public opinion on inter-ethnic and intra-ethnic dialogue in the country.

FOSIM supported a public opinion survey on inter-ethnic and intra-ethnic dialogue in Macedonia, performed in cooperation with the Institute for Sociological, Political and Juridical Research in Skopje. The survey explored citizens' perceptions of their own state referring to the political and security environment in which they live as well as the problems they face.

Inter-ethnic and Intra-ethnic Dialogue	Total: $10,811.06

Support of Institutional Development of Macedonian NGOs: NGO Support Centers in Prilep, Veles, Stip, and Kicevo

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donors:** Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and FOSIM
- **Aim:** to strengthen the role of Macedonian NGO sector beyond capital, by supporting selected NGOs' service delivery, and establishing and maintaining good working relationships with other NGOs, with local authorities, the media, and with the private sector.

The NGO Support Centers[1] (NGOSCs) in Veles, Prilep, Stip, and Kicevo continued to support NGOs in these local communities and to strengthen their capacities for cooperation with other NGOs, local governments, the private sector, and the media. The NGOSCs provided technical assistance to NGOs (premises, equipment, facilities, and libraries). Within this project, MaNGO On–line - Macedonian NGOs on the Internet (www.mango.org.mk) continued to be active.

1 Information on the activities of NGO Support Centers can be found on www.ngocenters.org.mk.

During 2004, through a sub-project called *Institutional Development of Roma NGOs*, the drafting of Country Action Plans in the areas of employment and housing within the Roma Inclusion Decade 2005-2015 was supported. The NGO Support Centers organized training for Roma NGOs on the following topics: Communication Skills, Public Relations, Strategic Planning, Writing Project Proposals, and Administrative Work of NGOs.

NGO Institutional Development EXT	Total: $493.48

Support of NGO Initiatives for Local Community Development through NGO Support Centers in Prilep, Veles, Stip and Kicevo

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donors:** SDC and FOSIM
- **Aim:** to strengthen the role of NGOs as an active factor in the development of local communities.

The Project represents the second phase of a three-year project called *Support of the Institutional Development of Macedonian NGOs* which set up NGO Support Centers in Prilep, Veles, Stip, and Kicevo. The NGOSCs supported the development of partnerships among NGOs, and between NGOs and local authorities, the media, and the private sector, as well as NGO involvement in public policy making. Beside technical assistance, training, counseling and consultations, support of NGO initiatives, as well as small grants, NGOSCs also organized workshops, roundtables, debates, press conferences, presentations, and forums. Three forums were organized in 2004: *Decentralization – Precondition for Municipality by Our Own, Satisfied Citizens – Our Goal* (in Veles), *Possibilities for NGO Contribution to Economic Development of Communities* (a joint activity of NGOSCs in Prilep, Stip, and Kicevo) and *Forum for Representatives of Coordinative Bodies of Citizen Action – Show Resistance – Say NO,* (a joint activity of four NGOSCs). In July 2004, the NGOSCs announced a Call for proposals to support projects of coalitions and NGO networks from these four towns designed to solve the priority problems and needs of local communities. There were a total of 68 projects received, 27 of which supported (10 in Prilep, 7 in Veles, 4 in Stip, and 6 in Kicevo). The project will last until December, 2005.

Local Community Development – Grants (See Grant List in Annex 2)	Total: 68,711.78
Centers for Community Development	Total $ 349,288.78

Support of Civil Society – Strengthening NGOs: NGO Support Centers in Socially and Economically Deprived Areas in Macedonia

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donors:** European Agency for Reconstruction and FOSIM
- **Aim:** to strengthen the role of NGOs in civil society, and civil society as a whole – by supporting NGOs to deliver better services and increase their capacities to cooperate with other NGOs, as well as with local authorities, the business sector, and across ethnic lines.

In 2004, eight new NGO Support Centers[2] were open in the period of March- May 2004. The NGO Support Centers continued to provide different types of support to local NGOs, including provision of infrastructure: meeting space, communication and training equipment, computers, printers and copiers, Library, Information and Funding possibilities. The second major activity was the Capacity Building Program, through which various training and capacity building projects were organized. In addition the NGO Support Centers encouraged and initiated activities of joint interest of local NGOs through local and regional meetings, round tables, press conferences, workshops, seminars, exchange of information and experiences, building coalitions, developing joint project proposals and actions, visits to other centers and NGOs from the regions. The project will last until 2006.

New NGO Support Centers	Total: $719,795

Internet for NGOs

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donor:** FOSIM
- **Ai**m: to provide access to information required to link Macedonian NGOs with international organizations and donors.

FOSIM, through NGO Support Centers, launched a Call for Proposals for one-year access to the Internet for 34 NGOs. Grants were awarded to a number of organizations with their own offices and necessary equipment.

2 In December 2004, a web site of the NGO Support Centers was designed: www.nvocentri.org.mk

Internet for NGOs (See Grant List in Annex 2)	Total: $7,426.00

Civic Action

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donor:** FOSIM
- **Aim:** In order to encourage citizen participation in policy making and to stimulate non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to become active participants in Civil Society, FOSIM organized a set of activities.

Within this sub-program, FOSIM initiated lobbying and advocacy initiatives, bearing in mind the need to encourage citizen participation in policy making, and stimulate NGOs to become active participants in civil society.

During the drafting of the Law on Territorial Organization of the Republic of Macedonia, FOSIM supported a public debate between representatives of Macedonian NGOs and the President of the Republic of Macedonia, Branko Crvenkovski, organized by the Civic Platform of Macedonia. The topic was the Law on Territorial Organization of the Republic of Macedonia.

In November 2004, FOSIM initiated a campaign *Europe – Now or Never*, aiming to encourage ideas, considerations and activities for the purpose of developing Macedonia in the European perspective. The campaign called for a high-quality decentralization process in the Republic of Macedonia, as an important milestone towards future membership in the European Union.

FOSIM, together with the European Stability Initiative, organized a roundtable on *End of the Western Balkans, and Chances of the Republic of Macedonia for Admission to the EU.*

In November 2004, FOSIM announced a call for proposal for Civic Actions for NGOs (located in regions covered by the 12 NGO Support Centers) for activities that promote the Implementation of democratic processes in the Republic of Macedonia (decentralization, local elections, etc.); Promotion of democratic practices (accountability, transparency, code of conduct, civil participation in policy making, good governance of all subjects in the civil society); Anticorruption on local level (monitoring of local public funds in certain areas as social care, environment protection, etc.); and Peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Civic Action	Total: $ 80,761.90

Civic Platform of Macedonia

- **Implementing organization:** Network of Macedonian NGOs[3]
- **Partner:** Network of Macedonian NGOs
- **Aim:** the Civic Platform is an open place for contemplation, democratic discussion, formulation of proposals, free exchange of experience, and building mutual links for effective action by civic organizations committed to develop civil society in Macedonia.

Throughout this operational program, FOSIM participated in the development of a network called *Civic Platform of Macedonia*. The network was initiated in 2003, and its constitutional meeting was held on March 16, 2004. In the course of 2004, working groups within the Civic Platform of Macedonia were established, and a draft-action plan was prepared. The CPM published the annual audit reports of its NGO members, and a joint statement to support the decentralization process in Macedonia.

Macedonian Citizen Platform	Total: $7,566.00

NGO Fair – Civil Society Forum in Macedonia

- **Implementing organization:** MCIC
- **Donors:** SDC, Christian Aid, Danish Church Aid, Government of the Republic of Macedonia, FOSIM, Center for Institutional Development (CID)
- **Partners:** FOSIM, MCIC and CID
- **Aim:** to contribute to the strengthening of institutional capacity and development of nongovernmental organizations in Macedonia, promote NGO work in front of the general public, improve access to information, communication and coordination among NGO's; and promote regional exchange and cooperation.

In December 2004, the 4th *NGO Fair – Civil Society Forum in Macedonia* - with the main theme "*European Integration of Macedonia"* was organized. FOSIM supported the interpretation during forum events and participation of NGOs outside the capital by financing and organizing their members' accommodation in Skopje. NGO Support Centers, *ECMI* - Gostivar, and the Center for Roma Community *Drom* - Kumanovo organized transportation for all interested citizens, organizations, and other institutions.

NGO Fair	Total: $24,699.00

3 FOSIM, Macedonian Center for International Cooperation, Center for International Development, Association for Democratic Initiative in Gostivar, Center for Civic Initiative in Prilep, Children Embassy Megjasi, Union of Women Organizations of Macedonia, Polio Plus, Forum, Ecological Movement of Macedonia, Roma NGO Daja.

Citizens for Fair and Democratic Elections

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Partner:** Euro Balkan Institute
- **Aim:** to motivate citizens to express their will and recommendations on further democratic development of Macedonia.

Throughout this operational and grant-giving sub-program, FOSIM granted financial support to the Euro-Balkan Institute for a project called *Intellectuals for the Development of the Republic of Macedonia*. The Institute organized roundtables with Macedonian and Albanian intellectuals seeking common solutions and recommendations on actual issues for further development of Macedonia.
During the second round of Macedonian presidential elections in April 2004, FOSIM, in cooperation with the NGO Infocenter and NGO Support Centers, undertook activities to motivate citizens to express their will and contribute to the future of Macedonia accepting civil responsibility for the democratic outcome of the elections. The Campaign of the NGO Info Center promoted citizens' rights and obligations to vote for the President of the State, under the motto *Vote, Even for Yourself!*.

Citizen for Fair and Democratic Election		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Euro-Balkan International Center for European Culture, Skopje	Intellectuals for the Development of the Republic of Macedonia (second addition to grant number 4399)	$3,974.90
Expenses:		$12,780.19
		Total $16,755.09

Government Office for NGOs

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Partner:** General Secretariat of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia
- **Aim:** to strengthen the capacity of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia for cooperation with the NGO sector.

FOSIM signed an Agreement of Cooperation with the General Secretariat of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia for a project related to the development of a strategy for cooperation between the NGO-sector and the Government of the Republic of Macedonia.

In December 2004, FOSIM and the General Secretariat announced an Open Competition for employing one person as a coordinator of the project within the Government Unit for cooperation with NGOs within the General Secretariat.

Government Office for NGOs	Total: $10,000.00

Monitoring Local Authorities

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donor:** FOSIM
- **Partner:** NGO *MAK Sonce*, Struga
- **Aim:** to educate and inform citizens about the decentralization process

FOSIM issued a grant to the NGO *MAK Sonce*, Struga, for the project *Let's build Struga together – affirmation, training, and monitoring of the implementation of the Law on Decentralization*, aiming to bring the decentralization process closer to the citizens of Struga, educating them about the importance of the decentralization process and their role in this process, and preparing them for the new competencies of local authorities. The project continues in 2005.

Monitoring Local Authorities		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Association of Citizens for Promotion, Human Values and Youth Integration MAK-SONCE, Struga	Let's build Struga together - affirmation, training, and monitoring of the implementation of the Law on Decentralization	$8,871.94
Expenses:		$0.00
		Total $8,871.94

School for Democracy

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donors:** British Embassy in Macedonia (DFID) and FOSIM.
- **Aim:** to educate Macedonian citizens on the basic concepts of democracy, and to initiate large, massive, and active civic participation in democratic processes.

In 2004, four democracy workshops took place with students from the *SEE University* in Tetovo and *Ss. Cyril and Methodius University* in Skopje; a survey was undertaken to summarize the results of the whole project and assess the needs for further development of similar projects in society. FOSIM supported the Institute for Democracy, Solidarity and Civil Society to perform a public survey. The main goal was to explore the knowledge of the rural population concerning democracy and EU issues.

School for Democracy	Total: $ 24,427.46

Civic Reconciliation

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donors:** FOSIM
- **Partners:** Youth Information Center, Tetovo
- **Aim:** to encourage and enable dialogue between NGOs, intellectuals, the media, government institutions, religious confessions, towards their active involvement in the processes of trust-building among ethnic communities; and to encourage their work towards peace-building, dialogue, and constructive conflict resolution.

FOSIM awarded a grant to the Youth Information Center in Tetovo, for implementing the project *Do it for you – What after the action of voluntary giving over the weapon?* The project is a continuation of NGO activities that started in 2003, regarding Governmental action towards general disarmament.

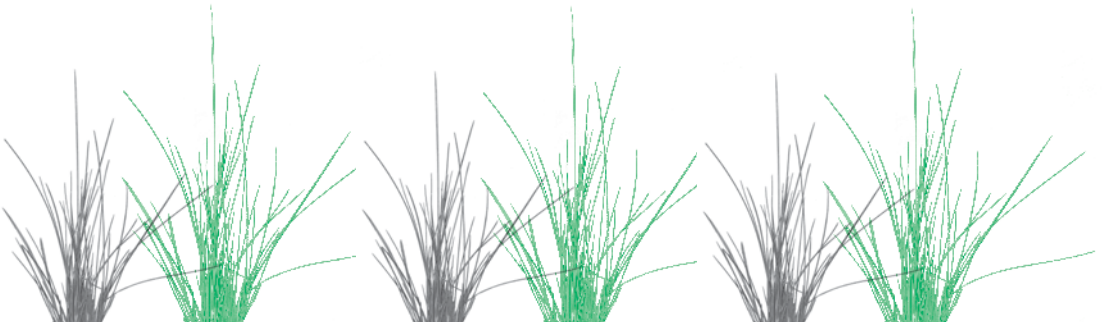
Civic Reconciliation		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Youth Information Center, Tetovo	Do it for you - What after the action of voluntary giving over the weapon?	$8,274.00
Expenses:		$0.00
		Total $8,274.00

NGO Support Program

- **Implementing organization:** Association of Citizens *OHO*, Skopje
- **Donor:** FOSIM
- **Partners:** MCIC, *OHO*, FOSIM, Euro Balkan Institute, Transparency Macedonia, NGO Network *Remont*
- **Aim:** to increase public interest, and to provoke politicians to take active part in the process of recognizing the name of the Republic of Macedonia.

In 2004, an initiative of several NGOs (MCIC, *OHO*, FOSIM, Euro-Balkan Institute, Transparency Macedonia, NGO Network *Remont*), as well as of public institutions and national media commenced, as a response to the Council of Europe's document pertaining to the name of the Republic Macedonia, Macedonian citizens, and the Macedonian language. A campaign with the slogans *Don't You FYROM Me* and *Say: Macedonia!* was undertaken to inform the public on this and other similar documents, and to provoke politicians to take up an active role in this process.

NGO Support Program		
Recipient	Purpose	Award
Association of Citizens *OHO*, Skopje	Say Macedonia!	$9,815.91
Expenses:		$0.10
		Total $9,816.01



Civil Society Program Area

Women's Program

The aim of Network Women's Program is to promote and support gender-sensitive policy-making on all decision-making levels, and to contribute to women's political and social empowerment as an important aspect of enhancing civil society in Macedonia.
In 2004, activities related to planning the transformation of Women's Program, having been initiated in 2003, continued for the purpose of gradually achieving sustainability of the program's key components.
The already determined spin-off strategy of the Gender Studies Research Center continued towards achieving more visible mainstreaming of gender studies in higher education institutions, i.e., towards gradual transformation into a Curriculum Support and Development Center, and partial integration within university structures. The activities of the Center in 2005 and 2006 will be implemented within the framework of FOSIM's Higher Education Program. The Information and Documentation Center strives towards ensuring continuous space for raising gender awareness of the public by documenting and disseminating information about the status of women in society. The key activities of the Center are included as a separate gender component of the NGO Info Center, established and supported jointly with funds of the Media Program of FOSIM and SDC.

Women's Fund for Dialogue Development and Understanding (Transformation)

- **Implementing organization:** Akcija Zdruzenska
- **Donors:** FOSIM and Network Women's Program
- **Aim:** to support local initiatives, encourage collaboration among women, especially those of different ethnicity, as well as to provide resources and training for further development. The program focused on one of the key segments of the Women's program - Women's activism, and transformation of women's NGO-sector into an influential movement, which is also treated as one of the most significant aspects of the activities of FOSIM's WP.

In the first half of 2004, in compliance with the recommendations of the Feasibility Study[4], a transformation plan was developed along with a strategy for institutionalization of this segment of the FOSIM Women's Program. The process of approval of the Transformation Plan by the FOSIM Board and the Network Women's Program Sub-Board was completed in April 2004, and spin-off preparations took place, so that as from January, 2005 the program could act independently. The transitional phase included the following activities: the creation of *Akcija Zdruzhenska* and organizing the office; preparation of the NGO sector for the transformation of the Program; identification of local communities for the implementation of Local Women Initiatives Development and Support Program. Along with

4 Towards the end of 2003, a Feasibility Study was conducted, primarily aiming to consider all possible options and provide recommendations for a preferred transformation of the program.

the process of founding the organization, a series of meetings took place for the purpose of informing major women's groups on the transformation and updated information from the field (detailed mapping of initiatives undertaken to avoid overlapping). In addition, 7 meetings with more than 70 women activists were organized in different towns in Macedonia, aiming to explain the transformation, and to identify communities where *Local Women Initiatives Development and Support Program* (one of the main programs of the new organization) will be implemented. Five pilot communities were preliminarily selected, and as a follow-up of the meetings, women from those towns[5] were asked to participate in the planning workshop which was to be held in January 2005 in Skopje. One of the recommendations in the FS was additional capacity building of the team of trainers as one of the main resources of the new organization. Therefore, three additional training seminars in Advocacy, Gender Analyses (delivered by *Tim Tri*, Belgrade) and Basic Research Methodology (delivered by the Research Center for Gender Studies) were organized for the team of trainers in 2004. From April till June 2004, the team of trainers delivered 24 three-day training seminars in NGO Management for the eight NGO Support Centers established in socially and economically deprived areas in Macedonia. In addition, the team was engaged in delivering training in Women Human Rights, Women and Politics for women's groups, and Public Participation and Advocacy training for the Interethnic Program of FOSIM. The

Photo: Gordana Matic

team was selected to deliver 9 training seminars for increasing gender sensitivity of NGO activists (gender mixed groups) in the course of April-May 2005.

The first official public promotion of *Akcija Zdruzhenska* took place during the NGO Fair in December 2004. In addition, public discussion *Local Women's Activism in Macedonia: Challenges for Sustainable Results* was organized in order to discuss the governmental obligations and the role of women activists in advocating the implementation of the Beijing Platform and Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

The local elections, originally planned for November 2004, were postponed for March 2005. Therefore, activities connected with the elections will be implemented in the first half of 2005. Forums with elected local officials and local women activists will be organized in 5 local communities (selected within the *Local Women Initiative Development and Support*

5 Bitola, Sveti Nikole, Kumanovo, Veles, and Debar

Program). The purpose of the forums is to discuss LG plans for improving women's life in communities, the priorities of local activists, as well as the possibility of future cooperation among them regarding the issue of gender equality.

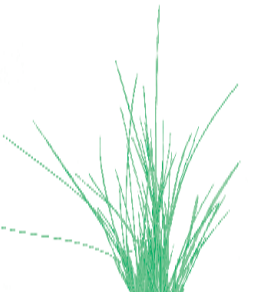
Fund for Dialogue, Development & Understanding		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Association of Citizens Akcija Zdruzenska, Skopje	Institutional support	$80,947.86
Expenses:		$9,162.17
		Total $90,110.03

Global Access

- **Implementing organization:** FOSIM
- **Donors:** FOSIM and Network Women's Program
- **Aim:** to facilitate the participation of women activists from Macedonia in the global initiatives of women's activism.

Partial financial support was provided to two representatives of the Macedonian Coalition of the *World March of Women*, to attend the Preparatory meeting for the 5th International Meeting of the *WMW* in Geneva. In addition, a representative of the Association for Emancipation, Solidarity, and Equality was supported to present the results of the shadow report on the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, at the Preparatory Session of the UN Committee on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, planned in January 2005, and postponed for July, 2005, in NY.

Global Access		
Recipient	**Purpose**	**Award**
Rozina Vuzaj, Skopje	Participation in the European Meeting of the World March of Women, Brussels	$725.00
Aleksandra Nakova, Skopje	Participation in the European Meeting of the World March of Women, Brussels	$725.00

Jasminka Friscic, Skopje	Pre-Session of the 33rd Session of the CEDAW Committee, NY, USA	$1,103.00
Association of Citizens Akcija Zdruzenska, Skopje	Organizing a roundtable: The Global and Regional Processes, and the Macedonian Women's Activism	$3,671.46
Expenses:		-$0.47
		Total $6,223.99

NGO Congress Expenses:	$425.00