



ANNUAL REPORT 2011

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM PROGRAM

PROGRESS REPORT 2011

FOSM has successfully progressed towards achieving the goals set under the single priority of the Public Administration and Local Government Reform Program's Strategy 2011-2012: to accelerate the EU accession. Overall, in the first year from the strategic framework, FOSM has performed effectively and in compliance with the defined implementation plan thereby meeting the Program's objectives for 2011.

1) By means of its unique contribution to **monitoring progress achieved in the EU accession process and advocating for its acceleration**, FOSM remains one of the rare actors in the country devoted to sustaining EU accession process and promoting EU values. *Accession Watch Reports*¹ and policy briefs² developed serve as valuable source of information for MPs, civil society and media in assessing compliance of the governmental policies and practices relative to the priorities of the *Accession Partnership* and advocating for restoration of the EU integration process as the country's main priority. Public events and debates organized to discuss challenges in the European integration process serve as an important forum for civil society, journalists and international community to present opinions on the need to bring EU Agenda back on track. In the *2011 Progress Report for Macedonia*, the *European Commission* has integrated many findings from Accession Watch Reports, as well as FOSM's input provided in the framework of EC's formal consultation process with civil society. Also, FOSM provides input in the process on *EU* financial assistance programming and continues to be recognized as important player and opinion maker in the area of European integration.

Outputs:

- Four Quarterly Accession Watch Reports were communicated to the Parliament, the Government, EU Mission in Skopje, civil society and media;
- *Red Alert*³, a comparative analysis of EC Progress Reports for Macedonia 2008-2011, was prepared and served as basis for an informed debate on the country's position in the EU integration process;
- National conference *MK vs. EU or MK@EU* attended by more than 100 politicians, experts, representatives from Embassies, civil society and media contributed towards increased debate on the country's challenges on its road towards the EU;
- A reflection on the progress in implementing EU integration related reforms was submitted to the European Commission in Brussels as part of the formal consultation process with civil society;

¹ Please see [The rebirth is devouring its offspring - Eight Quarterly Accession Watch Report](#), [Fisherman's tales - Ninth Quarterly Accession Watch Report](#); ["TESKOTO" by the EU - Tenth Quarterly Accession Watch Report](#) and the [Euphoria for Euphoria – Eleventh Quarterly Accession Watch Report](#)

² [Sliding Promises](#) and [EU Accession and Poverty in Macedonia](#)

³ Please see at: <http://soros.org.mk/dokumenti/pub-reformite-vo-crveno-web.pdf>

- Two policy briefs titled *Sliding Promises* and *EU Accession and Poverty in Macedonia* were prepared and disseminated and they advocate EU accession as tool for stability and security and as instrument to alleviate poverty;
- Updated *Guide MK@EU* was prepared with a view to help journalists, NGOs, students and MPs to better understand and follow the EU accession process;
- 24 MPs, 14 high school teachers and 27 high school students were trained on EU-related issues and Macedonia's accession process;
- Two regional debates titled *Where are the European funds?!*, attended by over 250 representatives from local authorities, civil society and media, were organized in Prilep and Bitola and discussed the challenges in EU funds programming and absorption capacities.

2) Aimed at **establishing shadow negotiating teams capable to contribute to EU accession negotiations**, preparatory activities started in late 2011. *Institute for European Politics* and *Macedonian Center for European Training* worked on developing and preparing training curricula and training materials. Start of capacity building activities devoted to the establishment of four teams consisted of civil society representatives in the areas of employment and social policy, judiciary and fundamental rights, competition policy and consumer protection and public health was prolonged for early 2012.

3) Monitoring of municipal performances in the areas of education, urban planning, fiscal decentralization and local economic development for the period 2008-2010 has provided important information for **advocacy efforts for efficient decentralization process and improved service delivery by the municipalities**. Monitoring reports on decentralization⁴ showed that although there has been some progress in municipal performances related to implementation of their competences, significant efforts are still need on both, local and central level, with a view to provide an impetus for more efficient decentralization process. Findings and recommendations from monitoring reports on decentralization and policy briefs⁵ were recognized by municipal officials and by citizens as credible source of information that will feed future policy-making and advocacy for changes. Surveys on *Citizens' Satisfaction with Municipal Service Delivery*⁶ pointed out that local governments' priorities need to be addressed in order to improve service delivery in the partner municipalities.⁷

Outputs:

- Three monitoring reports analyzing progress in the decentralization process and municipal performances in the areas of education, urban planning, local economic development and fiscal decentralization in the period 2008 – 2010 were prepared and communicated to citizens and municipal officials from the 12 partner municipalities;
- Workshop attended by 30 municipality representatives from all partner municipalities aimed at discussing report's findings was organized;

⁴ Please see: [Report on Monitoring the Decentralization Process: Performance of the Municipalities in the Republic of Macedonia 2008-2009](#), [Progress or Standstill: Report on Monitoring the Decentralization Process in the Fields of Local Finances, Education and Urbanism for 2010](#) and [Reality or \(only\) municipal competence?: Monitoring the decentralization of local economic development in the RM](#)

⁵ Please see: [Decentralization in Republic of Macedonia: Delayed or Forgotten](#) and [Centralized \(Fiscal\) Decentralization](#)

⁶ Please see at: <http://soros.org.mk/default.asp?lang=mak&menuid=2061>

⁷ Bogovinje, Debar, Gostivar, Ilinden, Karpos, Kumanovo, Negotino, Ohrid, Strumica, Staro Nagoricane, Tetovo and Veles

- National conference aimed at encouraging public debate on decentralization's implementation and offering prospects for improvement was organized and was attended by more than 100 representatives from local governments, experts, civil society and media;
- Two policy briefs, *Decentralization in Republic of Macedonia: Delayed or Forgotten* and *Centralized (Fiscal) Decentralization*, were published and disseminated;
- Surveys on citizens' satisfaction with municipal service delivery were prepared and promoted in all 12 partner municipalities;
- An overall comparative report on citizens' satisfaction with municipal service delivery was prepared and disseminated.

4) FOSM contributed to **increased public pressure for transparent central and local government spending** by communicating and debating analyses and findings from quarterly monitoring reports⁸ for 160 public procurement procedures per year and comparing prices under which different public institutions procured same products, services or works, as part of so-called Indices of Rationality⁹. Media outlets' capacity and interest to monitor and report on the situation related to public procurements were significantly increased, thus increasing public awareness on the shortfalls in public spending and the need to improve the public procurement system. Findings from monitoring reports were quoted in EC's Progress Report for the Republic of Macedonia. Results from the monitoring showed insufficient transparency and accountability on the part of state institutions in public procurement spending, great discrepancies in prices under which public institutions procure goods and services, and broad space for malpractices and corruption. Findings were regularly communicated to media and stakeholders and received extensive media coverage. Proposed amendments to the Law on Public Procurements were submitted to the Government, the Bureau of Public Procurements, the Parliament, and EU Mission in Skopje, and they pushed for improvements in the public procurement system.

Outputs:

- Four quarterly monitoring reports for 120 public procurement procedures were produced and served as useful source of information for the media, civil society and relevant institutions;
- Two *Indices of Rationality*, comparing prices under which different public institutions have procured same products, services or works, were produced and served as useful source of information for the media, civil society and relevant institutions;
- A policy brief *Preventing Malpractices in Public Procurement*, proposing amendments to the Law on Public Procurements, was prepared and communicated to the Government and to the MPs;
- 45 proposals on improving the public procurement system were prepared and submitted to the Parliament, with the aim to amend the Law on Public Procurements. 6 of these proposals were incorporated in the new law adopted in late December 2011.

Partners: Macedonian Center for European Training (MCET), Skopje; Institute for European Politics, Berlin; Center for Civic Communication (CCC), Skopje; Center for Local Democracy Development, Skopje.

⁸ Please see [8th Monitoring Report](#), the [9th Monitoring Report](#), the [10th Monitoring Report](#) and the [11th Monitoring report](#) on the implementation of public procurements.

⁹ Please see [Index of Rationality 1 and 2](#).

Budget: Total amount of **18.049.024 MKD** was spent for implementing projects from Program's priority areas.

LAW PROGRAM

PROGRESS REPORT 2011

The Law Program aims to promote transparency and accountability of institutions, respect for human rights and support legal reforms in the Republic of Macedonia.

Transparency and Accountability

Aim: to ensure transparency and accountability by supporting strategic litigation aimed to limit the space for corruption in political party financing and conducive to increased access to public information.

As part of this project in 2011, a group of lawyers from the Macedonian Young Lawyers' Association (MYLA), trained by in-country and foreign experts on the right to free access to information, lodged a total of 120 appeals and 78 lawsuits concerning the exercise of the right to free access to public information. FOSM submitted 814 Freedom of Information (FOI) applications, whereby it requested disclosure of information by state institutions that are necessary for policy-making and implementation of program fields, in the following areas: political party financing, approximation of national legislation with the EU *acquis*, employments in the public administration and prevention of discrimination.

Moreover, in cooperation with Transparency Macedonia (TM), two reports were published and contain analyses of transparency in political party financing. For this purpose, 256 FOI applications were submitted to 55 political parties enlisted in the Single Court Registry of Political Parties and to institutions competent to supervise political party financing. Reports were published and promoted in front of the interested public (for more information visit: http://www.soros.org.mk/dokumenti/TM_IZVESTAJ_mk_WEB.pdf). FOSM developed a report that analyses the implementation of the Law on Free Access to Public Information in the field of political party financing.

In order to raise public awareness on the right to free access and build the capacity of the Commission for Protection of the Right to Free Access to Public Information, FOSM - in cooperation with the Commission - organized 10 training sessions for citizens, associations and officers tasked with information disclosure at public information holders who directly participate in law's implementation. Training sessions were organized in Veles, Stip, Kicevo, Debar, Resen, Struga, Strumica, Gevgelija, Kratovo and Delcevo.

Furthermore, FOSM outsourced two domestic experts who participated in the development of Comments on the Law on Free Access to Public Information and concerned 2010 amendments thereto. FOSM published and distributed the Comments to 700 information holders with a view to assist them in applying the provisions. The Comments are available both for citizens and associations and are expected to encourage them to further exercise their right to access to information created by the authorities. The publication also includes Macedonian translation of the Council of Europe's Convention on Access to Official Documents, which is signed by the Republic of Macedonia, and the

General Comment no.34 of the United Nations Human Rights Committee to Article 19: Freedoms of opinion and expression from the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

FOSM raised an initiative in front of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia to prepare the ratification of the Council of Europe's Convention on Access to Official Documents. The request for the Convention's ratification is consistent with Government's commitments assumed under the Open Government Partnership.

In 2011, traditionally and for the seventh time, FOSM celebrated 28th September – International Right to Know Day, in cooperation with MYLA, TM, Foundation *Metamorphosis*, Youth Educational Forum and Civil – Center for Freedom. Space was reserved in electronic and printed media (*Fokus*, *Plusinfo*, *SkyMk*, *On.net*, *Idividi*, *Dobrarabota.mk*, *Okno*, *Globus*, *GEM* and *Radio MOF*) for the purpose of promoting the website www.spininfo.org.mk, which is a new tool aimed to enable citizens, journalists and all stakeholders to get acquainted with the manner of submitting FOI applications and compare experiences related to exercise of this right in more than 3,000 cases. Moreover, we developed a video clip which was incorporated in the video designed by FOIA Net (Freedom of Information Advocates Network) to celebrate the International Right to Know Day.

In 2011, around 20 calls from citizens were registered to the free telephone line 0800 44 222. On one hand, the line provides assistance to citizens, and on the other, it provides information on different implementation of the law by information holders, as reported by citizens.

Legislation Approximation

Aim: to support transparent approximation of the national legislation with the EU *acquis*, by information and participation of civil society and monitoring implementation of newly adopted legislation.

In 2011, this subprogram presented the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia with analyses on the following draft-laws: (1) [Law on Misdemeanors](#); (2) [Law on Additional Criteria for Public Office Performance \(Law on Lustration\)](#); (3) [Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men](#); (4) [Law on General Administrative Procedure and implications of amendments thereto for around 60 draft-laws](#); (5) [Law on Financing of Political Parties](#), and (6) [Law on Free Legal Aid](#). Given that no proposals submitted by FOSM and aimed to amend the Draft Law on Lustration were adopted, in March 2011 the subprogram developed and motioned an [initiative to re-examine the constitutionality of the Law on Lustration](#).

In addition, FOSM representatives participated in the deliberations of working bodies within the Parliament and presented the Comments on the Law on Lustration and the Law on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men.

The analysis of the **Draft Law on General Administrative Procedure** expressed criticism for the reform called “administration is not silent”, which does not guarantee institutions' response and introduces new administrative labyrinth for the citizen. In addition and for the purpose of informing the public with the complex and harmful reform proposed by the Government, a [graphic scheme on the labyrinth “administration is not silent”](#) was published in weekly magazines *Fokus* and *Globus* and in the daily newspapers *Spic* and *Vreme*.

In 2011, the subprogram initiated the development of in-depth analyses of legislative acts aimed to assess the extent of adherent implementation of several key reform laws adopted with a view to bring the national legislation in line with the EU *acquis*. Therefore, the analyses titled “More Efforts for More Efficient Courts – Court Protection of Human Rights in Administrative Disputes”; “Misdemeanor Body – Positive Reform?” and “Shadow Report for Shadowed Commission – Report on the Commission for Protection against Discrimination’s Performance in the First Year of Operation” were published as part of the edition “Law Watch Analyses: A Closer Look at the Application of the Laws”.

The analysis that will be promoted in the upcoming period concerns the first year of operation of the Ombudsman’s Department for Implementation of National Preventive Mechanism against Torture. This analysis is developed in cooperation with the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of Macedonia. Given that the Directorate for Execution of Sanctions does not allow access to correctional and penitentiary facilities for non-governmental organizations, the analysis will focus on other closed institutions which should implement prevention mechanisms against torture (psychiatric institutions, police stations, transition centers for asylum seekers, etc.).

Furthermore, in cooperation with the Center for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution, FOSM developed an analysis of national legislation in the fields of employment, health care, education and law, aimed to assess the readiness to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The analysis identified series of inconsistencies in the national legislation in regard to the Convention, which – given that the Republic of Macedonia is signatory to the Convention – must be in compliance with standards upheld by the Convention. [The analysis titled “Invisible for Society”](#) was promoted on 25 November 2011, and the presentation was attended by a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, representatives from social work centers, day centers for persons with disabilities and all national organizations profiled in protection of rights of persons with disabilities.

In May 2011, FOSM employees attended basic training on human rights delivered by Silva Pesic, adviser on human rights at the UN Office in the Republic of Macedonia. The training was focused on UN’s basic acts and human rights protection mechanisms. In June 2011, FOSM’s Law Program employees attended advanced training on the rights of persons with disabilities and UN Human Rights Protection Mechanisms.

Human Rights Support

Aim: to improve protection of human rights by monitoring the implementation of newly introduced mechanisms on human rights protection and identifying weaknesses in their implementation.

Following activities were implemented **under the subprogram’s first component related to protection and prevention against discrimination:** 1) strategic litigations in front of the Commission for Protection against Discrimination; 2) development of joint advocacy strategy in cases of discrimination within the established NGO network; 3) continuous monitoring of the Commission for Protection against Discrimination’s performance in the first year of operation; and 4) development of Manual for legal practitioners with relevant case law from the European Court of Human Rights and the European Court of Justice.

In 2011, eight members of the NGO network held regular meetings and worked on developing the joint litigation strategy for cases of alleged discrimination raised in front of the Commission for Protection and Prevention against Discrimination (hereinafter: the Commission) In 2011, four procedures were initiated in front of the Commission and only one was approved. The complaint in which discrimination was determined is particularly important, in particular due to the fact that that it considered sexual orientation as discrimination basis. Two of the complaints lodged were rejected due to untimely procedure initiation, as indicated by the Commission. In one case, the Commission's response is still pending, despite the fact that the deadline for recommendation adoption has expired.

FOI applications were submitted to the Commission throughout the year. 72 FOI applications requested information related to all aspects of Commission's operation. The responses obtained were used to develop the Shadow Report on the Commission for Protection against Discrimination's performance and LPPD's enforcement in the first year of implementation. The Report will be promoted after the Commission submits its Annual Report to the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia.

The Handbook on European Non-Discrimination Law prepared by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights was translated for the purpose of further promoting the right to equality. The Handbook summarizes leading cases at the European Court of Human Rights and the European Court of Justice and is intended for legal practitioners from EU Member States and members of the Council of Europe.

B) Following activities were implemented **under the subprogram's second component on monitoring the implementation of the Law on Free Legal Aid**: 1) monitoring the implementation of the Law on Free Legal Aid; 2) monitoring court cases for which free legal aid is approved; 3) support and capacity building for associations, in order to be authorized for provision of preliminary legal aid; 4) legal aid provision for rejected free legal aid applicants; and 5) awareness raising on the right to free legal aid.

In 2011, in cooperation with six partner organizations, the monitoring methodology was developed for monitoring the implementation of the Law on Free Legal Aid. Total of 35 FOI applications were submitted and concerned the number of free legal aid applications approved and rejected; budget allocated to and spent for the free legal aid system; copies of decisions taken to reject free legal aid and reasons thereof; list of attorneys-at-law who were awarded cases with approved free legal aid; amount of funds allocated and intended to remunerate attorneys-at-law. The [Report on Implementation of the Law on Free Legal Aid](#) was developed, and identified weaknesses therein and its limited application to insignificant number of citizens who needed free legal aid.

Cooperation was established with courts and attorneys-at-law who were awarded cases with approved free legal aid. Trained monitors, in cooperation with MYLA, followed 22 cases with approved free legal aid, i.e., they attended 43 court hearings. In addition, FOSM in cooperation with MYLA and in-country and international experts, organized training on the free legal aid system intended for the attorneys-at-law enlisted in the Registry of Attorneys-at-Law Providing Free Legal Aid. FOSM and MYLA provide court protection for 7 free legal aid applicants whose applications were rejected.

For the purpose of capacity building and support for citizens' associations that will be authorized and enlisted in the Registry of Citizens' Associations Providing Preliminary Legal Aid kept at the Ministry of Justice, FOSM established cooperation with six associations and awarded them funds and contracted lawyers with passed Bar Exam. Four associations obtained authorizations on free legal aid provision by the Ministry of Justice, and in the second half of 2011 they provided preliminary legal aid for approximately 900 citizens.

In order to introduce the associations profiled in provision of legal aid with the possibilities offered by the LFLA, FOSM and MYLA organized three regional meetings in Stip, Bitola and Skopje. These meetings were attended by 26 associations. Toll-free line was established for the purpose of providing citizens advice on exercising the right to free legal aid. In 2011, 66 citizens were provided legal advice via the telephone line 088 44 222. For the purpose of further promotion of the toll-free telephone line, FOSM and the partner organizations prepared and distributed 4,100 leaflets in Macedonian, Albanian and Roma language. Furthermore, MYLA and FOSM uploaded a promotional banner on their websites.

Partners: Transparency Macedonia; Center for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution; Helsinki Committee for Human Rights of the Republic of Macedonia; Macedonian Young Lawyers' Association (MYLA); National Roma Centre (NRC), Kumanovo; Youth Cultural Centre, Bitola; Roma SOS, Prilep; IZBOR, Strumica; Educational Humanitarian Organization (EHO), Stip; HERA; Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Women in the Republic of Macedonia (ESE); Healthy Options Project Skopje (HOPS); Coalition for Protection and Promotion of Sexual and Health Rights of Marginalized Communities; and Republic Centre for Support of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities PORAKA, Skopje.

Budget: Total amount of **14.818.530 MKD** was spent for implementing projects from Program's priority areas.

MEDIA PROGRAM

PROGRESS REPORT 2011

In 2011, FOSM has successfully progressed towards achieving the goals set under the Media Program's Strategy 2011-2012. Majority of planned activities were implemented in partnership with Program's traditional partners from the non-governmental sector.

FOSM has progressed in its efforts to promote EU values and to enhance informed debate on EU-related topics, by means of: co-producing TV magazine dedicated to EU integration process and values and by building journalist capacity to raise issues related to the country's European integration. As part of the project **Journalists Fellows on EU**, FOSM provided support and training to seven young journalists engaged in broadcasting and printed media. In 2011, the co-production with *TV Alfa* on the magazine *Europe Now* continued. All issues of the TV magazine were dedicated to a particular EU-related topic and included participation of relevant in-country and foreign politicians and experts from Brussels-based institutions and EU Member-States. The magazine offered comparative analyses on given societal issues in EU Member States and Macedonia. FOSM covered

the costs for media monitoring¹⁰ of contents related to the country's European integration, NATO, the name dispute with Greece and other important societal issues in Macedonia.

Outputs:

- 60 topics per month on EU and NATO were prepared and published/aired in broadcasting and printed media;
- Magazine *Europe Now* was ranked among the three most viewed informative magazine programmes, according to the rating lists of agencies that survey media audiences;
- 8 reports were developed on the quality monitoring of media as regards their coverage of EU and NATO-related topics and were distributed to domestic and foreign institutions;
- 30 media stories were published on the media monitoring results;
- 3 public debates were organized in three different towns country-wide and were attended by 85 participants in total.

Significant progress was achieved in the area of advocacy for development of adequate regulatory framework for the media and monitoring its implementation in compliance with international standards. Main activities were focused in 3 spheres, those being: 1) election process and acts related to media coverage of elections; 2) analysis of media legislation in effect, with special emphasis on non-media legislation used as tool to pressure the media outlets; and 3) establishing domestic and international lobby groups of organizations that will advocate for freedom of media.

Outputs:

- The legislative framework that regulates the media sphere was analyzed and the publication will be distributed and publicly discussed at the time when the announced Draft Law on Media will be discussed;
- *Rulebook on Political Presentation Prior to the Election Campaign's Onset* was updated and interventions related to some clauses on media that limited the freedom of expression were accepted by the Broadcasting Council;
- Guide for local election committees was developed and regulated the manner in which media and journalists would approach them and use data from their websites related to the course of the election process;
- Report on the situation related to freedom of media was developed and distributed to all relevant domestic and international institutions;
- Report was developed from monitoring court cases on defamation and libel charges against journalists and was distributed to all relevant domestic and international institutions;
- Information was developed on media freedoms, and following its endorsement by 17 domestic and foreign organizations, was presented to the European Commission in Brussels.

Given the media context in the country and aimed to ensure diversity of public opinion in Internet media and to improve skills of media professionals working in Internet media, FOSM has expanded the set of activities in this regard.

¹⁰ Subject of analysis were prime-time news programs on the TV stations: *MTV1*, *A1* (until its closure), *Sitel*, *Telma*, *Kanal 5*, *Alfa*, *24 News* and *AlsatM*, and texts published in the following newspapers: *Dnevnik*, *Utrinski vesnik*, *Nova Makedonija*, *Vreme* and *Spic* (until their closure) and the daily *Fokus* (from its establishment).

Outputs:

- Three new current-affairs information portals in Macedonian language appeared in the country's Internet space and technical preparations for establishment of current-affairs information portal in Albanian language are underway;
- Contents of two weekly Internet magazines have been enriched and upgraded;
- Number of visits and readings from various Internet visitors reached more than 35 thousands a day for the portals in Macedonian language;
- More than 30 young journalists were trained to produce multimedia Internet contents and on online journalism.

Partners: Media Development Center (MDC); NGO Infocenter; Macedonian Center for European Training (MCET); Coalition *All for Fair Trials* and *Metamorphosis* Foundation.

Donors: Network Media Program London

Budget: Total amount of **18.059.634 MKD** was spent for implementing projects from Program's priority areas.

CIVIL SOCIETY PROGRAM

PROGRESS REPORT 2011

In the first implementation year of the Civil Society Program's Strategy 2011-2012, FOSM progressed towards accomplishing the goals set under the Program priorities, those being: empowering civil society, promotion of interculturalism and development of local democracy.

FOSM made a significant contribution to encouraging civic activism to respond to non-democratic policies and practices and to reaffirm open society values, by means of sustained social advocacy efforts and public expression of critical views. FOSM continued to support *Citizens for European Macedonia (CEM)* movement and other informal groups and CSOs that are critically oriented towards the autocratic regime and are able to stimulate citizens' democratic awareness. *CEM* encouraged public expression of citizens' concerns about the situation in the country, notably by organizing nation-wide debates and alerts and by social advocacy actions on crucial issues (human rights, media, political pressure and violence, corruption and crime). By hosting activities of numerous CSOs and informal groups, *CEM Club* provided space for exchange of opinions or public announcement of critical statements and promotion of open society values. Freedom of expression was supported through legal aid provision for intellectuals, journalists and civic activists exposed to attacks, defamations and hate speech expressed by pro-governmental media and government representatives. In the period leading to the Early Parliamentary Elections, country-wide public events, monitoring government policies and practices, and media campaign motivated citizens to oppose apathy and fear and to exercise their right to vote, which in turn contributed to 7 % increase in voter turnout.

Outputs:

- CEM movement stirred great public interest (5,376 supporters; 254 articles in the media; 2,583 monthly visits to CEM's website);
- As part of 26 nation-wide public debates, attended by total of 3135 participants, CEM stimulated public expression of citizens' concerns about the country's conditions and perspectives. CEM's alert *This Time You Don't* announced in daily newspapers and distributed to debate participants, as well as CEM initiators' columns in the media, encouraged critical thinking on policies and practices pursued by the Government;
- Second edition of the comic cartoon *Pecko*, stickers and badges with the motto *You Vote Too!*, the *Black Book* (documenting hate speech in the media), flyers titled *CEM Recommends* and other materials that encourage debate were published and broadly distributed on CEM's events;
- CEM Club provided alternative space to 51 NGOs, individuals, informal groups, embassies, which organized 207 public events (debates, promotions, projections, exhibitions, press conferences, trainings, meetings) with up to 4,845 participants. Tolerance among students, arms prevention among youth, sexual and health rights of marginalized groups, gender equality, treatment of drug users, social inclusion, immunization of Roma, identity issues, critical approach to presentation of history, open institutions, prosperity of the country, civic activism, reform of institutions, myths and truths about EU were the topics addressed on these events;
- FOSM supported maintenance of the web portal www.okno.mk containing critical articles on urban culture and policy, and CSOs' or informal groups' reactions to actual important issues (women NGOs against torture and inhuman treatment of political prisoners, youth movement against police brutality, Green Coalition against the smelting factory, the struggle against fascism);
- Legal aid for protecting freedom of expression was provided in 14 defamation cases;
- The campaign on increasing voter turnout, supported by 30 NGOs, included 5 different mottos was promoted with announcements in newspapers, TV video clips, billboards, leaflets, badges, posters, pens;
- FOSM's extensive monitoring of Government policies and practices in the period of 14 weeks leading to the elections was published in 4 announcements in the newspapers;
- Events in 10 cities and the online campaign *I'm Voting* provided direct communication and interaction with more than 30,000 citizens. In just 30 days, more than 20,000 Internet users have joined the Facebook group *I'm Voting* or visited the website (www.glasam.org and <http://facebook.com/glasam>). 171 posters by 96 authors and 30 video clips by 27 authors were submitted to the open call announced within the campaign.

FOSM progressed towards encouraging intercultural understanding and cooperation as a precondition for tolerant society and thereby provided unique space for dialogue and opened informed debate on sensitive issues. Books on Macedonian history and identity of ethnic Macedonians and Albanians by prominent foreign authors have been translated and used for debates to overcome divisions in society. Issues important for building an inclusive society (role and position of ethnic minorities, women's barriers, gender analysis, rights of marginalized groups, cultural and identities mixtures, critical approach to history interpretation) were publicly discussed and promoted tolerance and understanding. Multicultural initiatives that stimulate intercultural dialogue and cooperation were supported (Roma artists performances, development of professional capacities of young Roma and support of cultural events that promote multiethnic and multicultural values). Support of the Contemporary Arts Center's efforts to revitalize the cultural heritage of smaller ethnic and religious communities in rural areas and to establish regional links continued.

Outputs:

- Seven books on Macedonian history and identity of Macedonians and Albanians were translated (from English or French into Macedonian language) and preparations were made for printing;
- Support was provided for translation and printing of two historical books (from Ottoman Turkish into Macedonian language), written more than hundred years ago by Ottoman authors and describing the Macedonian issue and history during the Ottoman Empire;
- Initiatives of 3 CSOs (*Comics Center*, *Kontrapunkt* and *Ufuk*) were supported;
- Following the positive response from the world music circulation of the compilation CD *Šutka tani mo than/Shutka my Home Town* by Macedonian Roma rappers, published by FOSM, a live Roma act has grown out of the original studio project; technical, logistical and musical professional support was provided for rehearsals and non-profit performances in Macedonia, Serbia, Croatia, Austria, Denmark and Hungary were co-founded;
- Cultural life in rural communities was animated by Contemporary Arts Center through 50 cultural activities with 300 participants and 15,000 visitors, and 40 movie projections with 2,500 participants.

Aimed to **enhance local democracy through active civic participation in decision-making processes and development of responsible and accountable local government**, FOSM continued its involvement in the *Community Forums Program* managed and financed by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). In July 2011, SDC started new program cycle that will last until the end of 2014. In 2011, FOSM implemented forums in three municipalities: budget forums in Gostivar and Bogovinje and project forum in Bosilovo. Citizens demonstrated high interest in participating in forum sessions where all stakeholders discussed community problems, identified priorities and developed project ideas (project forum) or discussed municipal budget spending and designed 2012 municipal budget that incorporates citizens priorities (budget forum). By means of participatory decision-making, forum participants in Bogovinje and Gostivar selected the projects to be funded by SDC and municipal funds. New model of assisted budget forum was developed (where the municipality organizes the forum with financial support from SDC); FOSM moderators were engaged in two of three municipalities to provide support to the municipalities.

Outputs:

- 13 forum sessions with up to hundred participants per session (44% of which were women) were held in three municipalities;
- Increased awareness of citizens and local authorities on involvement of all stakeholders in the decision-making process by means of jointly developed municipal budgets for 2012 in two municipalities and discussions on community problems and possible solutions thereto;
- Two municipal projects (one in Bogovinje and one in Gostivar) were selected through participatory decision-making and supported by the program fund, and four projects were developed by the forum participants in Bosilovo;
- 40 recommendations for the municipal budget were provided by the citizens in Bogovinje and 19 in Gostivar.

Partners: NGO Infocenter; *Metamorphosis* Foundation; Media Development Center; Youth Educational Forum; Contemporary Arts Center; Youth Cultural Center, Bitola; Regional Center for Sustainable Development, Gevgelija; Regional Center for Sustainable Development, Kratovo; Center for Community Support, Resen; Center for Community Development, Kicevo; Association for

Development and Activism *Aqua*, Struga; Center for Sustainable Community Development, Debar; Center for Sustainable Development *Porta*, Strumica; Strategic Development Consulting – Forum Coordination Unit, Municipalities of Krushevo, Bosilovo, Bogovinje and Gostivar and Association of Local Self-Government Units.

Donor: Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Budget: Total amount of **28.432.897 MKD** was spent for implementing projects from Program's priority areas.

INFORMATION PROGRAM

PROGRESS REPORT 2011

Blogging for democracy

The project *Blogging for Democracy* focuses on additional capacity-building for activists who are already working on certain cause both in their communities and on national level, in order to provide them with skills and tools that would enable them to connect with each other and with the general population. Thanks to the project, educational and technical resources were made available to the public, thereby increasing opportunities for online activism of NGO members and individual citizens. The project is follow-up to the previous project *Social Media for Democracy* during which number of training sessions were delivered for more than 60 activists, educational resources (guides and manuals) were developed, and the platform for thematic group blogs Kauza.mk was established.

- Continuous technical support for users of Kauza.mk, in regard to maintenance and creation of new thematic blogs, as well as promotion of activist content from the Macedonian blogosphere and/or NGO websites through social media, public events and via Global Voices - International Network for Citizen Journalism.
- Research - evaluation of available online services that enable active civic participation in Macedonia, including resources, training and services developed in this field and available online for free, in order to continue most effective activities that best suit the context in Macedonia.
- Public debates and other activities aimed to raise public awareness about online activism will be organized as part of the project.

Active Civic Participation

The project *Active Civic Participation* is follow-up to activities aimed to increase transparency and accountability of state institutions, by their openness to processes of active civic participation via local capacity-building for partnership and network development for cooperation with local and national institutions that express political will to include citizens in the decision-making processes, as well as via training for NGOs and potential civic activists.

The project enables citizens to address institutions and general public through a series of sophisticated, but at the same time, simple tools conducive to conveyance of their requests and meeting their information needs. Project's technical component includes upgrading and

improvement of several already established platforms, as well as capacity-building and support for their users.

- Curriculum for active civic participation was created, together with guidelines for utilization of Wiki Technology, which – in addition to their usefulness for the project - also serve the public interest as tools that stimulate enrichment of Wikipedia contents.
- Three municipal wiki portals (for Skopje, Veles and Debar) were opened within the Wiki.mk (wiki.mk) platform, the contents of which are updated in cooperation with local NGOs, whose capacities were strengthened by means of training. Two cycles of training were delivered and are comprised of 3 training modules each, one for the basic teams with 22 participants, and another for 17 volunteers.
- Popravi.mk (popravi.mk) is a service that enables citizens to assist in identification of problems that occur in public areas. By sharing them via mobile phone applications or online, citizens help municipalities to resolve these problems faster and more effectively. In 2011, Popravi.mk was completely redesigned, new functions were added, such as offline data storage that enables publishing of data later when access to Internet is enabled, and without having to visit the website, Android mobile application was upgraded and the function on separate profiles of municipalities was added.
- In order to promote Popravi.mk service to local self-government units as tool for interaction with citizens, informative meetings were held with individual municipalities (2) and ZELS (3). Under way is the preparation of legal documents needed to formalize the cooperation with ZELS, as a representative of all municipalities, and documents needed for individual cooperation with the Municipality of Aerodrom, as a pilot municipality.
- Pisi.im (pisi.im) service provides citizens with the option to ask their elected representatives (mayors, municipal councilors and MPs) questions via e-mail. The transparent process enables all citizens to choose a representative and raise a question, which – in addition to being sent to the selected representative by e-mail – will also be posted on the website. Due to technical problems with the existing software, the system is currently transferred to the latest generation of appropriate free software (alaveteli.org) and we are developing an application that will work in synergy with the portal for free access to public information spinfo.org.mk.
- Continuous promotion of services and resources through websites and through social networks Facebook and Twitter. In order to increase the visibility of services in the civil society, Popravi.mk and Pisi.im were presented at the regional meeting *Citizens on Guard*, held in Belgrade (6-7.12.2011) and at the International POINT Conference - *Political Responsibility and New Technologies* in Sarajevo (16-18.02.2012).

Open Educational Resources Initiative

The project's overall goal is to contribute to development of critical thinking and democratization in Macedonia, through constructive use of new technologies as tools for increasing the quantity and quality of educational, scientific and academic e-contents. In particular, the project's specific goal is to raise awareness and build capacity of the academic public in regard to creating and using Open Educational Resources (OER), via multilateral cooperation with all stakeholders and by public

awareness raising. Number of resources has been created as a result of project activities implemented so far, and thus created conditions for more active inclusion of the academic and scientific community in publication of OER.

- To present, the expert project team worked on development of informational, promotional and educational materials, available in Macedonian and Albanian language, in digital and printed form. 500 OER guides, 1,000 posters (1000 Macedonian and 500 Albanian) and 1,300 flyers/leaflets were printed.
- The guide has an informational purpose and is intended for key stakeholders (the Ministry of Education and Science, the Bureau for Development of Education) and for the general public, which can learn how to use already available resources and engage in their development. The guide covers a broad context and builds on previous Open Access and Free Software initiatives, thus covering several aspects of the open movement. The poster is motivational and promotes sharing.
- The website www.oer.mk has been created and is available in Macedonian and Albanian language, serves as resource center, while the section intended for sharing and promotion of such resources placed elsewhere on the web is under preparation. Facebook page has been created for greater promotion.
- In order to establish a Coordination Group tasked to network and strengthen contacts with relevant institutions, meetings were held with a number of individual experts from relevant sectors (higher education, state institutions, primary and secondary schools) with a view to include them in the initiative.

Online Privacy

The *Online Privacy* project contributed to raising awareness on human rights related to the use of new technologies, by providing training and presentations and by creating multimedia and interactive e-contents available online.

According to the evaluation performed by *Metamorphosis* in this area, privacy protection, and especially online, remains an important need in Macedonia. Additionally, public awareness raising and understanding of problems by citizens were identified as necessary and as major challenge in protection of human rights on the Internet. Therefore, activities implemented as part of this project focused on needs and challenges identified.

Contents were also shared by means of a public relations campaign, organized in cooperation with the media from Macedonia, and by means of public events and collaboration with relevant institutions, NGOs and activists.

Outputs:

- 13 short educational films were created;
- 10 educational games for children were developed;

- 12 screenings in 8 municipalities, covering 14 schools and at least 600 students;
- An animated film about cyber-bullying;
- Films, games and other resources are made available on the website 'Safe on the Internet';
- Presentations aimed to raise public awareness were held on 4 public events (seminars, presentations and conferences)¹¹.

PING.MK Content aggregator

Project's main goal is to promote alternative sources of information, by providing quality analyses or substantiated opinions that range from individual blogs, through websites of organizations and portals, to any other kind of new media. To that end, the content aggregator ping.mk was created and promoted, as a service that directly contributes to increase of availability and visibility of generated local e-contents from Macedonia. What distinguishes this service from others is that it unifies the contents from all types of local websites. Users of the service contribute by voting and visiting published links and by posting new sources and new content. The option to create groups provides an opportunity for creating communities based on common interest in a particular topic, geographic area (municipality, settlement, neighborhood), or as movements for civic activism.

Outputs:

- Layout of Ping.mk has been redesigned and now has a portal look and 8 newly created categories: Politics, Economics, Health, Sports, Technologies, Entertainment, Culture and General, which host contents added by various groups that exist on the aggregator.
- 7 billboards were placed as part of promotional activities for this service; two in Skopje and one in Tetovo, Ohrid, Bitola, Prilep and Stip. In addition, advertising campaigns were conducted on Facebook, contributing to significant increase of visits.
- An average of 2,000 visitors read Ping.mk's contents on daily basis.

Partners: Directorate for Personal Data Protection, Internet Hotline Provider, Macedonia; Institute of Economics at UKIM; NUBSK; Macedonian Electronic Libraries; Popravi.mk; ZELS; Municipality of Aerodrom; Focus Foundation – Veles; NGO Wikimedia Macedonia; Center for Sustainable Community Development – Debar; Youth Educational Forum and IT.com.mk

Budget: Total amount of **9.806.767 MKD** was spent for implementing projects from Program's priority areas.

¹¹ <http://metamorphosis.org.mk/mk/vesti/makedonija/2062-konferencija-za-strateshki-pristap-vo-razvojot-na-mehanizmite-za-zashtita-na-lichnite-podatoci>, <http://metamorphosis.org.mk/mk/aktivnosti/2088-otvoren-nastan-na-tema-obrazovaniето-i-internetot> and <http://metamorphosis.org.mk/mk/vesti/makedonija/2061-seminar-na-tema-zashtita-na-lichnite-podatoci-vo-telekomunikaciskiot-sektor>

EDUCATION AND YOUTH PROGRAM

PROGRESS REPORT 2011

FOSM successfully progressed towards achieving the goals set under the priorities from the Education and Youth Program Strategy 2011-2012, those being: 1) education policy; 2) Roma education; and 3) youth activism. Overall, FOSM performed the first year of its education strategy effectively and according to the foreseen implementation plan, meeting fully the program objectives assigned for 2011.

1) FOSM achieved the anticipated progress in attaining the Program's goal to **influence the education policies in regard to overarching EU policies**, by means of effective capacity-building training for the established group of 25 education professionals. EC's *Progress Report for Macedonia* (2011) reiterated the EU-level education and training benchmarks 2020 as challenge in the country, concluding that "progress is inadequate", while the country is only "partially meeting its education priorities". This makes FOSM's strategy efforts in the area of education policy more valid. FOSM worked closely with the Center for Educational Policy Studies (CEPS) at the Faculty of Education, Ljubljana, in commissioning and successful launching nine training modules in education policy¹². Three of these modules were delivered by CEPS until the end of 2011, as envisaged under the implementation plan. Under CEPS's supervision, the training group is tasked to apply the knowledge acquired and complement the training with individual work on policy papers, policy briefs and/or range of education research on issues important for the education reform in Macedonia.

Outputs:

- Contract for Training Services was signed with the Center for Educational Policy Studies at the Faculty of Education, Ljubljana and tailored training program comprised of 9 modules was developed (including the "zero" and "finishing" modules);
- Training group of 25 people with diverse profiles in education was established: 12 of them are university faculty, 4 are school practitioners and 9 are NGO activists and education specialists;
- Zero and first two training modules were delivered by CEPS;
- Trainees were assigned to 4 working groups and started work on policy papers, analysis and/or research in the area of their expertise.

2) Significant progress has been achieved in regard to FOSM's commitment **to ensure greater access to quality education for Roma**. As was the case with previous project years, in 2011 *Roma Education Program's (REP)* beneficiaries continued to demonstrate far better school performance (higher completion and achievement rates and lower absenteeism) compared to non-project students. FOSM sees the collaboration with schools and other relevant institutions in 3 municipalities (Gjorce

¹² Training modules: (0) Introduction course; (1) Introduction to Education Policy, Modern State and Public Policy; (2) Accession to European Union: Educational Chapter; (3) School, Power and Authority; Values, Culture and Education; (4) Education Policy: Pre-School Education and Primary Education; (5) Education Policy: Upper-Secondary Education; General Education and VET; (6) Education Policy: Higher Education; (7) Curriculum and Educational Planning; (8) Quality Assurance and Financing in Education; and (9) Final Conference – Educational Policy in Macedonia.

Petrov, Prilep and Kumanovo) as window of opportunity for significant impact through development of inclusive local education strategy and action plan responsive to needs and potentials of all children across the schools in these local communities. Additionally, 7 partner schools are assisted in developing annual school plans, by applying child rights programming based on achievement of specific children rights as set out in international documents, such as the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

FOSM's extensive Roma education portfolio and positive evidence from its work with Roma children and youth sustained and advanced the strategic partnerships with *USAID*, *Pestalozzi Children's Foundation (PCF)* and *Roma Education Fund (REF)*. *REP* is regarded by the donors and even by the government as a flagship project with high potential for scale-up. *REP* has been also promoted and involved in regional and cross-border cooperation and exchange of positive education practices for Roma.

Highlight under this strategic priority is the number of alumni that include 787 Roma secondary and 59 university scholarship students who graduated with FOSM's and partners/donors' support in the period 2004-2011. At least half of *REP* university graduates in various study fields were employed as civil servants and have been assigned to different positions in the Macedonian public administration. In their capacities of state advisors, heads of departments and/ or units, chiefs of cabinet, etc., across different state institutions, they are in a position to directly influence public policies affecting the Roma population.

Outputs:

- 855 Roma students in 1st to 8th grade from 7 project schools received direct out-of-school support on daily basis; project primary school beneficiaries achieved by 26.02% higher completion rate compared to non-project students (91.68% versus 65.66%), higher average school success (2.82 GPA versus 2.37 GPA) and lower school absenteeism (64.61 average number of absences versus 101.61 absences); All 8th grade project primary school graduates enrolled in secondary schools;
- 25 subject-based curricula at 7 project schools were enriched with intercultural education contents;
- 22 training sessions on children's rights were delivered to more than 300 students, Roma Education Centers project staff, teachers from targeted project schools and Roma parents;
- 92.68% of 82 Roma university student beneficiaries successfully completed the academic year, while 10 students graduated. Together with students who graduated in previous project years, the project has reached a total number of 59 Roma university graduates; capacity building training package was delivered jointly by FOSM and *OSCE* to *Romaversitas* students and staff, the transformation process of *Romaversitas* is underway;
- *Analysis of Roma Education in the Republic of Macedonia* document was developed and published. It provides analysis of the current state of affairs and addresses different aspects of education of Roma and explores possible measures and activities for improvement.

3) Although the assigned objectives have been fully met and impressive outcomes have been achieved under the strategic priority on youth activism, the environment of the existing strategy requires more time and efforts to **diminish the gap between youth and open society values**. Being

exposed to high politicization and widely-present populism, Macedonian youth suffers from deep apathy and inertia. The research¹³ carried out by the Youth Educational Forum (YEF) suggests that young people do not see their future in this country, youth participation is very limited and they could not influence the work of public authorities. Therefore, the progress made under this strategic goal gains in value. The Program attracted an impressive number of youngsters from all over the country and empowered them, by means of broad range of training (debate, street law, youth rights, youth activism, freedom of expression, organizing public events, etc.) and by participation in numerous creative and other public local, regional and national youth events. As a result of lobbying and advocacy actions lead by YEF and the *Local Youth Initiative*, a network of 45 youth organizations united under the slogan “*In Defense of Participation*”, the Government withdrew from Parliamentary procedure the Draft Law on Youth developed in a non-transparent manner and in the absence of actual youth participation and broad consultation process.

Outputs:

- 450 young people, members of 14 local youth clubs, were trained in youth activism, debate and youth rights; 300 members of youth clubs took part in National Debate Tournaments; over 100 debaters participated in the International Debate Tournament: *Macedonia Open 2011* and 6 members took part in the *World Debate Tournament*, held in Turkey;
- The survey *Capitulation, Confusion or Resistance: Social Capital of High School Students in Macedonia* conducted by FOSM's strategic partner Youth Educational Forum on a representative sample of youth from 14 cities country-wide was completed, published and widely promoted. Survey findings served as base for training designed and delivered by YEF;
- Online radio – *Radio MOF* was established and is run by 50 high school students from different cultural and ethnic background, thereby providing space for young people to express themselves;
- 150 young people participated in the *Freedom of Expression Summer Youth Academy* that started with flesh mob of 120 youngsters from different ethnic communities dancing for their freedom of expression in the center of Struga and ended with street art festival called *LOUD*;
- 30 local public events promoting EU values and youth participation, as well as multiculturalism and coexistence among young people from different background, were organized country-wide.

Partners: Youth Educational Forum, Skopje; *Dendo Vas*, Skopje; *KHAM*, Kumanovo; *Vrama Si*, Kumanovo; *Aid for Poor and Handicapped*, Prilep; *Step by Step* Foundation, Skopje.

Donors: United States Agency for International Development (USAID); *Pestalozzi Children's Foundation*; *Roma Education Fund*.

Budget: Total amount of **35.583.860 MKD** was spent for implementing projects from Program's priority areas.

¹³ *Capitulation, Confusion or Resistance: Social Capital of High School Students in Macedonia* available at: <http://mof.org.mk/publikacii/mof-publikacija-kapitulacija-konfuzija-ili-otpor.pdf>

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM

PROGRESS REPORT 2011

FOSM has successfully progressed towards achieving the goals set under the priorities from the Public Health Program Strategy 2011-2012: (1) to enhance the check-and-balance activities of civil society actors; (2) integration of health and Law concepts; and (3) human Rights protection of socially marginalized communities. Program objectives assigned for 2011 were implemented in compliance with the planned dynamic.

- 1) FOSM progressed in achieving the program goal on **monitoring and advocacy for transparency and accountability of public health institutions**, notably by introducing social accountability framework and community monitoring methodologies to CSOs interested in building their capacities to hold the government accountable for transparent public health budgeting and quality of health service delivery. FOSM provided two training workshops for 7 CSOs to successfully pursue monitoring and advocacy activities and to apply new methodologies and tools for evidence-based advocacy. Aimed to ensure sustainable, context-specific, technical assistance to budget projects, FOSM continued to support the capacity building for local technical assistance providers in budget monitoring and analysis. As regards the insufficient supply of medicines for patients with chronic diseases, FOSM continued to support efforts towards increasing transparency of government decision-making on access to essential medicines. As a result, budget allocations for pharmacies' quotas were increased. Moreover, support was provided for a project targeting long-term availability of quality HIV treatment and initiated by the affected community.

Outputs:

- 7 CSOs participated at two community monitoring training workshops; 4 Roma CSOs were awarded grants for community monitoring of health services related to immunization of Roma in 4 municipalities; and 1 CSO was awarded grant for community monitoring of quality of health services for drug users;
- Strategic planning for the period 2011-2012 was carried out and budget advocacy was integrated within CSO' program areas of work.; 4 Roma CSOs benefited from continuous technical assistance for budget monitoring and community monitoring of implementation of the *Program for Active Health Protection of Mothers and Children* on local level. Monitoring of Program's implementation in the first half of 2011 was completed and advocacy activities for 2012 Program content and budget were conducted;
- As regards insufficient supply of medicines for patients with chronic diseases, the strong pressure put on the Health Insurance Fund (HIF) resulted in increased budget allocations for pharmacies' quotas by 300 million MKD. Medicines' affordability was improved, whereby 29 medicines were transferred from the in-patient to pharmacy list of medicines. Positive list of medicines was supplemented with several antihypertensive medicines, 3 medicines for children affected by cystic fibrosis and therapy for persons with chronic leukemia;

- The project aimed to force key governmental institutions to ensure sustainable and integrated method for procurement of essential set of antiretroviral drugs through the HIF started in December 2011.
- 2) Progress was achieved towards **promotion of application of human rights principles in the delivery of health care**. FOSM continued to support development and capacity building for a new generation of lawyers interested to take cases of human rights in health care. Core group of 14 lawyers was established and exchange of practices has started. In collaboration with the project team, they will participate in continuous process of upgrading the *Practitioners' Guide for Patient' Rights*,¹⁴ as one of the main tools for their work. Other valuable source of information developed within the project includes the design of topic-specific website: <http://www.healthrights.mk/>. The website contains separate sections related to interests of lawyers, health care practitioners and patients.

Outputs:

- 3 training sessions for practitioners interested in the area of human rights in health care were conducted;
 - The first fellow successfully completed the 2-years Fellowship in Law, Human Rights, and Patient Care;
 - English version of the *Practitioners' Guide Human Rights in Health Care* was produced and the draft of patient-friendly guide for general public was prepared;
 - Professors teaching the course of law and health participated were trained to use the Community of Practice as online tool for exchange of materials with colleagues from other countries.
- 3) Aimed to **support law-based protection of the health rights of socially marginalized communities** (LGBT population; sex workers; drug users; people living with HIV and Roma), FOSM supported capacity building for HR CSOs and thus contributed to greater community mobilization and encouragement of victims to report cases of health rights violations. Too often, the health system is a place of punishment, coercion and rights violations of SMCs, rather than treatment and care. FOSM remains to be the only donor that supports human rights protection of SMGs. In the *Annual report on sexual and health rights of SMG*¹⁵, numerous cases were documented and free legal aid was provided to SMC's members. However, positive changes on individual and group level will not suffice until systemic changes happen on institutional level.

FOSM has significantly contributed towards increased engagement of Roma CSOs in public health issues affecting Roma health. Community-based paralegal program was successfully established in 2 municipalities. Macedonian Roma Health Mediators (RHM) model developed with FOSM support has been accepted by the Government as an innovative approach to improve delivery of health and social care services to Roma. It is expected that the first group of 16 trained RHMs will be employed in selected municipalities. This intervention is expected to contribute to the Decade of Roma Inclusion's implementation. In order to ensure greater access

¹⁴ <http://www.healthrights.mk/>

¹⁵ <http://coalition.org.mk/2012/04/objaven-e-godisniot-izvestaj-za-sostoibata-so-seksualnite-i-zdravstvenite-prava-na-marginaliziranite-zaednici-za-2011-godina/>

to quality medical education of Roma, FOSM continued to support the implementation of the Roma Health Scholarship Program. Successful implementation of activities contributed to increased number of Roma scholars by 64% compared to the previous year.

Outputs:

- Three year advocacy plan (2011 – 2013) was developed and highlights the range of advocacy initiatives planned in order to protect and advance the rights of socially marginalized communities;
- 3 publications on sexual and health rights of SMCs were prepared and published, those being: *2011 Report on Sexual and Health Rights of SMCs*; *research Media, Non-Discrimination and Marginalized Communities*, and *(Homo) Sexuality in the Education Process in the Republic of Macedonia*;
- Legal representation was provided for SMC's members in following cases: 14 cases of drug users, 2 cases of transgender persons, and 1 case of person living with HIV;
- Continuous free legal aid was provided to sex workers who are victims of the police raid from November 2008. An application was motioned in front of the European Court of Human Rights in regard to the criminal procedure whose final outcome at the national courts was unfavorable for 7 clients;
- Set of training on institutional capacity building (project cycle management, communication skills, strategy planning and administrative/office work) was provided for the organization of sex workers; the information line was established and is operated by 4 trained sex workers; 8 issues of the magazine *From Us For Us* were published;
- 2 training sessions were delivered on the concept of paralegal assistance for health, basic set up of the health system, rights in the area of health care, health insurance, systems for protection and manner of acting when exercising and protecting the right to health;
- 6 paralegal assistants were selected to provide paralegal assistance in the area of patients' rights protection, health care and health insurance in 2 municipalities (Suto Orizari and Delcevo), and educational round tables were organized to familiarize the Roma population with issues of interest related to health care;
- Informative seminars to introduce Roma Health Mediators were organized in 4 municipalities; 100 workshops for Roma families were conducted in 8 municipalities, and one training on sensitizing social and health workers on Roma socio-cultural specifics were held;
- Guidelines for monitoring and evaluation of RHM's work were developed and submitted to the Government for approval. 16 RHMs passed the final exam from the RHM vocational training and are expected to be employed by the end of 2011;
- Roma Health Scholarship Program was promoted (20 media announcements, 5 presentations on national TV and 4 on local media). 129 students applied for scholarships, 83 of them passed the first selection and attended the advocacy camp. 75 students were awarded scholarships and 34 mentors were engaged.

Partners: Public Health Program Network's initiatives: *AMHI*; *AEMI*; *LAHI*; *SHARP*; *IHRD*; *RHP* and *HMI*¹⁶. Local partners: Coalition *Sexual and Health Rights of Marginalized Communities*, Skopje; *HERA*, Skopje; *HOPS*, Skopje; *ESE*, Skopje; *KHAM*, Delcevo; *CDRIM*, Skopje; *Roma SOS*, Prilep; *LIL*, Skopje; *Roma Resource Center*, Skopje; *Si Com*, Skopje.

Donors: OSF Public Health Program, NY and Roma Education Fund

Budget: Total amount of **38.816.265 MKD** was spent for implementing projects from Program's priority areas.

EAST EAST: PARTNERSHIP BEYOND BORDERS PROGRAM

PROGRESS REPORT 2011

Program's overall effectiveness in meeting the goals defined under the Strategy 2011-2012 is high. Significant number of CSOs and individuals that maintain firm interest and capacities for initiating or participating in regional advocacy and monitoring efforts were supported. Six initiatives were hosted in Macedonia and over 75 participants were supported to participate in 20 initiatives abroad. The highlights of this year's achievements are two study visits organized on the request from Open Society Foundations in Kyrgyzstan and Ukraine. Macedonian civil society representatives and experts participated in creation of several regional advocacy networks. Additional value was created by supporting regional initiatives that address issues not covered under FOSM's existing programs interventions. Planned initiatives focused on public spending, political parties funding and establishing contacts with Greek civil society actors have not been initiated yet.

1) By facilitating contacts and enabling participation in events organized in Macedonia and abroad, the Program significantly contributed to empowerment of civil society actors for active and effective participation in public policy making in number of areas of interest. The *Center for Civic Initiatives* (CCI), Prilep led a partnership initiative to establish regional anti-trafficking monitoring structures to follow anti-trafficking strategy implementation in the region. The Coalition *All for Fair Trails*, Skopje (CFT) became partner in the regional advocacy anti-corruption network that voices the need for the region's accelerated EU accession process. Influential environmental watch-dog CSOs from Macedonia contributed to regional advocacy efforts aimed to advance energy efficiency agenda in compliance with EU requirements and standards.

Outputs:

- One *CFT* expert contributed to the regional comparative analysis of anti-corruption legislation and policies development at the workshop organized in Romania;
- 2 experts and one journalist attended advocacy conference *Lessons Learned from the EU's Approach to Judicial Reform* in Brussels, organized to advocate for acceleration of the region's EU integration process;
- 3 representatives from leading environmental CSOs from Macedonia attended the regional advocacy conference *Energy Strategies in Southeast Europe: Analysis of Decision Making*, organized in Croatia and with their presentations contributed to the comparative analysis of the decision-making process on energy efficiency strategies;

¹⁶ Accountability and Monitoring in Health Initiative (AMHI); Access to Essential Medicines Initiative (AEMI); Law and Health Initiative (LAHI); Sexual Health and Rights Project (SHARP); Roma Health Program (RHP); International Harm Reduction Development Program (IHRD) and Health Media Initiative (HMI).

- More than 50 participants in the *Together for Prevention and Cooperation in the Fight against Human Trafficking in the Western Balkans* multi-stakeholder regional conference hosted by CCI, recommended the governments in the region to support: curricula innovation, improved policies on protection of unaccompanied minors, further capacity building of state and non-state actors and advanced communication and cooperation. External Monitoring Tool developed by the regional CSOs network and regional monitoring structures were presented;
- One CSO representative was trained on *Indicators of Local Wellbeing* monitoring methodology at the workshop organized in Romania;
- Representatives of Youth Education Forum, Skopje (YEF) and Helsinki Committee shared experience in formal and non-formal models for HR education, as part of the seminar *Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights: From Theory to Practice*, organized in Croatia. Participants in the seminar requested the governments in the region: to advance formal and non-formal HR curricula, to secure continuity of HR education policies and to enable continuous capacity building, as well as to allow effective external monitoring.

2) Aimed to contribute to reaffirmation of open society values, support was provided to dozen cross-border initiatives on the rights and dignity of people with intellectual disabilities, Roma, youth, small ethnic communities, people in need of palliative care and individuals living with HIV. Interventions include launch and/or participation in regional social advocacy networks, improvements to legislation and policy solutions. Macedonian successful model of developing network of daily centers for people with intellectual disabilities, managed by CSOs and lessons learned from efforts to establish independent living for people with intellectual disabilities (launched by OSI and supported by FOSM and OSI/MHP) were inspirational for activists and professionals from three Central Asia countries. FOSM's 10 year substantial involvement in developing successful models for Roma inclusion in education informed the efforts of IRF in Ukraine to launch models for improving education outputs of Roma students. The *Budapest Declaration* advocates improvement of existing policies to comply with international guidelines and anti-discrimination legislation in the region and as such contributed to effective implementation of the Anti-Discrimination Law in Macedonia. YEF's knowledge and experience in youth mobilization inspired youth leadership initiatives in Central Asia.

Outputs:

- 27 members of the national anti-mobbing network participated in the closing conference organized by the *Regional Network for Health and Safety at Work* in Croatia;
- 2 members of the *Balkan Civil Society Development Network* (BCSDN) participated in the annual coordination meeting of BCSDN, organized in Serbia. New advocacy strategy and plans for expansion were produced;
- Prof. V. Davchev of UKIM, Skopje attended *Questioning Transitional Dynamics in Redefining Cultural Identities* conference, organized in Slovenia;
- 2 representatives of CIRA, Skopje contributed to the discussion on *Aiding Development through Spin-off Organization in the Western Balkans*, hosted by OSF Albania;
- 4 representatives from Poraka, Skopje contributed to the debate at the conference *Empowering Parents: Improving the Lives of Disabled Children*, held in Kyrgyzstan;
- Follow up 5-day study visit hosted by Poraka in Macedonia provided opportunities for 12 parents and teachers from Kyrgyzstan (7), Kazakhstan(2) and Tajikistan(3) to learn about policy solutions and practices in social service delivery for children with intellectual disabilities;
- 3 representatives from Dendo Vas, Skopje attended the seminar *Best Practices in Child Development and Pre-school Education: Integration of Roma Communities*, held in Ukraine;
- 4-day study visit in Macedonia, hosted by Dendo Vas, offered 14 teachers and representatives of selected Ukrainian municipalities opportunities to learn from government

representatives, schools principals and teachers, parents and CSOs about successful strategies in improving Roma education;

- Over 20 CSOs and 30 Macedonian government and public institutions representatives attending 2 workshops organized by *Poraka and Dendo Vas* learned about challenges and policy solutions for children with mental disabilities in Central Asia and Roma education in Ukraine;
- 4 experts in palliative care attended the regional conference *Enhancing Palliative Care Compliance to International Standards* in Romania;
- 2 experts attended the workshop in Hungary and contributed to the drafting of *Budapest Declaration* issued by the newly established *Network of Low HIV-Prevalence Countries in CEE*;
- Over 60 intellectuals, 15 of which are *Sarajevo Notebooks* associates, at the public debate in Skopje, hosted by *Independent Writers of Macedonia*, critically assessed the 20 years period from the wars in the region and voiced the need to support individual and organized acts of resistance to fight spreading ethno-nationalism;
- 5 intellectuals and civil activists contributed to the regional debate at *Facing the Past/Creating the Future* conference, organized in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- One young activist selected to take part in the spring session of *Workers and Punk University* in Slovenia;
- YEF representative contributed, by presenting lessons learned in youth organization, to the discussion on how to boost critical response by civil society at *What Future for Democracy and Civil Society* conference, hosted in Armenia. YEF representative's presentation on mobilizing youth experiences enriched the program at the *Summer School for Democracy* in Kyrgyzstan.

3) By initiating and participating in various international initiatives, civil society organizations from Macedonia significantly contributed to advancement and promotion of intercultural understanding, cooperation and tolerance. Initiatives' formats vary from officially endorsed platforms to small grassroots initiatives, each - in its own capacity - aimed to significant impact promotion of tolerance and cooperation in the country and in the region. *Regional Network of Ethnic Communities Vulnerable to Racial Discrimination in Public Life* formulated policy recommendations for improvement of social, economic, cultural and political status of Balkan Egyptians, Askalies, Beiasi and Rudara. *Regional Cultural Cooperation Platform* recommended for establishment at *Facing the Past: Creating the Future* conference, held in Sarajevo, aims to foster cultural cooperation among civil society actors interested to promote regional cooperation by critically assessing developments in countries from ex-Yugoslavia. *Western Balkan Rural Communities Cultural Connection and Cooperation* scaling-up network efforts (financed by SDC and FOSM) were supported, recognizing the initiative's potential to contribute to advanced regional cooperation.

Outputs:

- *Cities Squares: Innovative Approaches to Open Public Spaces for All* initiative involved over 100 students and civil activists from Macedonia, Albania and Montenegro. Participants contributed to total of 3 public debates, attended 10 lectures and produced over 15 public performances in number of city squares in Skopje, Tirana and Kotor, advocating for creative and inclusive approaches in cultural policies;
- Over 40 participants from 20 rural communities from 6 countries and part of the *Western Balkan Rural Communities Cultural Connection and Cooperation* project participated in various capacity building and experience exchange meetings; 20 cooperation projects were developed utilizing local and regional resources available;
- Over 30 participants from 5 countries in the region endorsed the *Platform for Effective Participation of Ethnic Communities Vulnerable to Racial Discrimination in Public Life of*

Western Balkan at the final conference held in Struga and hosted by the *Union of Balkan Egyptians*;

- 4 school teachers and members of NGO Flladi, Tetovo were trained in methodology to integrate migrants' children in the education and social life, as part of the workshop *Equal Education for All: Remedial Education for Migrants' Children*, organized in Romania;
- 4 members of the production team that worked on the documentary feature *Rumelija-Crossroad of Cultures*, attended the regional seminar *Tolerance and Cultural Interaction: Overcoming Conflict and Prejudice*, organized in Bulgaria;
- 20 cultural civic activists from the region drafted the *Regional Cultural Cooperation Platform* strategy and its founding documents, at the workshop organized by *Kontrapunkt* in Skopje ;

Partners in hosting initiatives: Center for Civic Initiatives, Prilep; Union of Balkan Egyptians, Skopje; *Poraka*, Skopje; Contemporary Arts Center, Skopje; Coalition for Sustainable Development, Skopje; *Endo Vas*, Skopje and *Kontrapunkt*, Skopje;

Budget: Total amount of **6.466.568 MKD** was spent for implementing projects from Program's priority areas.

REGIONAL RESEARCH PROMOTION PROGRAM (RRPP) IN WESTERN BALKANS¹⁷

RRPP's purpose is to contribute to development of research capacities in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, and bring them in line with scientific standards of partners in Western European countries. RRPP aims to foster and promote research in social sciences, with a special emphasis on young and female researchers from the region. Project's second phase started in July 2011 and will end in June 2013. This report presents information on the program's second phase, i.e., July 2011 - December 2011. In this period, the Local Coordination Unit (LCU) in Macedonia (which functions at FOSM) provided daily support for the work of RRPP project partners and RRPP's head office. LCU Macedonia focused on following three activities:

- Completing projects that were financially supported in the program's first phase (2008-2011);
- Support for RRPP's Regional Call for Proposals 2011;
- Development of project proposal on improving policies in social science research area.

Outputs - Research Projects: *by 2013, a number of regional social research projects of good quality and on transition relevant topics implemented throughout the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo, Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia).*

The following projects, supported by RRPP in the previous phase (2008-2011), were successfully completed by December 2011:

- *Between Internal and External 'Other': Deconstructing National Identity in Macedonia* (Anaytica, Skopje);

¹⁷ www.rrpp-westernbalkans.net. RRPP is coordinated and operated by the University of Fribourg (Switzerland). The Program is fully funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. In Macedonia, the Program is implemented by the Foundation Open Society – Macedonia.

- *Nation-State and Institutions of Academic Knowledge: Production and Legitimizing Dominant Discourses of/on Knowledge about Society* (Institute for Social and Humanities Research Euro-Balkan, Skopje);
- *Generation Getting Nowhere: Transition of Unemployed Youth in Transitional Macedonia* (Reactor – Research in Action, Skopje);
- *Mapping the Leaders of Macedonia and Albania: Reproducing or Circulating Elites* (Center for Research and Policy Making – Skopje and Institute for Democracy and Mediation - Tirana);
- *Role of the European Union in Democratic Consolidation and Ethnic Conflict Management in the Republic of Macedonia* (Political Science Department at the Faculty of Law, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University - Skopje);
- *Gender Practice of Universities in the Republic of Macedonia: Inclusion/Exclusion of Women in Decision-Making Structures and Processes* (Institute of Gender Studies at the Faculty of Philosophy, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University - Skopje).

Call for Regional Research Proposals in the Field of Social Sciences 2011 was announced in July 2011. Total of 39 applications were received by the end of the deadline (19 September), where Macedonian organizations appear as leading organizations.

Following two project proposals were selected:

1. *Europeanization by the Rule of Law Implemented in the Western Balkans*. Main leading organization is the Institute for Democracy *Societas Civilis* - Skopje (IDSCS). Their project partners are individual researchers from Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro. Seven researchers are involved in this project.

2. *Mitigation and Development in Albania and Macedonia: Effects of Remittances on Education and Health of Family Members Left Behind*. Main leading organization is Analytica from Skopje. Their project partner is the Albanian Center for Social and Economic Research from Tirana. Eight researchers are involved in this project.

In total, two projects include 15 researchers, 13 of which are young researchers and 9 are female researchers.

Outputs – Cooperation and Networking: communication and cooperation among researchers and research institutions is in place across the region and RRPP partners are in a position to set up and further enhance individual and institutional networks by 2013.

Based on the guidelines provided by RRPP, LCU Macedonia developed the *National Policy Dialogue* project, whose goal is to encourage enhancement of present policies and practices in the field of social science research (SSR) in Macedonia.

More specifically, the goal is:

- to assess the current situation, provide recommendations and advocate for improving the status of the young researchers;
- to mobilize the research community, support and initiate constructive discussion for improving SSR;
- to increase public awareness on the necessity for change of policies that regulate SSR.

Implementation of activities defined in the *National Policy Dialogue* will start in January 2012 and will end in June 2013.

In 2012, the Program's main focus will be to support the new Regional Call for Project Proposals (March 2012), the work of RRPP partners in Macedonia and in the region, to organize seven regional

capacity-building training in Macedonia and in the region (Output - Capacity Building), to organize RRPP's annual scientific conference in Sarajevo (May 2012).

Budget: Total amount of **2.164.118 MKD** was spent for implementing projects from Program's priority areas.

EMERGENCY FUND for Alleviation of Consequences from the Economic Crisis 2009 - 2011

In mid-2009, George Soros established the Emergency Fund to help vulnerable groups cope with the effects of the global financial crisis in particular countries from the traditional region where the Open Society Institute has been active. For a period of two and half years, this Fund provided up to 100 million USD to support humanitarian projects that help people who are most affected, especially the most vulnerable groups, and to help civil society organizations adjust to sudden change of circumstances. In 2011, Macedonia received **46.742.583 MKD** from the Emergency Fund.

Small-size projects (up to 1.160.250 MKD or 25.000 USD) approved by FOSM's Executive Board:

1. The project ***Donation of Protective Equipment for Application of Chemicals and Protection from Green Tobacco Sickness for Farmers*** awarded to the ***NGO for Education, Business and Consulting*** from Prilep, targeted 800 registered farmers from rural villages in the Prilep area and aimed to directly reduce health risk of farmers and to indirectly reduce their costs of production. As part of the project, tobacco farmers received: set of protection equipment (cap, mask, coat and gloves), educational material (brochures) on the importance of using protective equipment and instructions for equipment's proper use, and training on the effects of green tobacco sickness. Outcomes include: direct support for tobacco farmers to overcome the economic crisis's consequences; raised awareness on the need to use protective equipment in tobacco production; trained farmers on the symptoms, prevention and treatment of green tobacco sickness. The project was implemented in the period May – October 2011. The implementing grantee ***NGO for Education, Business and Consulting*** contributed 4,500 EUR to OSI-provided funds and will further support tobacco farmers by means of various activities.
2. The project ***Initiatives for Social Sustainable Development of Farmers from the Pelagonia Region*** awarded to the ***NGO Youth Cultural Center*** from Bitola, addressed the actual situation faced by farmers in Pelagonia Region: from high production expenses, insecure policy of contracts with buying-off companies, low price of tobacco, low education level of farmers, general economic crises, to poor social policy. Project's aim is to contribute to better social conditions of farmers from the Pelagonia Region, especially tobacco producers, by providing free expert advices, help in communication with governmental institutions on using social benefits, increasing the level of knowledge in rights and responsibilities stemming from contracts signed with tobacco companies. This will lead to improved organizational capacities of farmers' associations, in order to be able in future to decide by themselves about quality of conditions offered, wherein they can lose social benefits, etc. The project was implemented for a period of four months and started on 1 March 2011. The organization contributed 1,302 EUR, in addition to FOSM's approved budget. As follow-up activity from the initiative, it is expected that members of Tobacco Producers' Associations in the Pelagonia region will be included in the working group established at the Ministry of Agriculture and tasked to draft amendments to the Law on Tobacco. Project's sustainability includes numerous consultations and public events organized with a view to contribute to

strengthened skills of associations' members, so that in future they would demonstrate more organized activism in the fight for their rights.

3. Grant in the amount of 18,865 EUR was awarded to the **Association for Protection of Children Rights** from Skopje and aimed to implement the project **Day Care Center for Street Children**. The project improves conditions for growth and development of Roma children from Suto Orizari, who spend most of their time on the streets. Through individual and group, direct and indirect, educational and supervisory work, street children and their parents will be provided assistance and support tailored to their needs and aimed to stimulate their persistence and support to overcome difficulties that they will face during the period of integration; include them in the education process; learn about culture and history; develop their curiosity and desire to explore and upgrade their knowledge. Project's outcomes are: 1) everyday care (Monday - Friday) provided for 80 children, satisfying basic needs for hygiene, food-snacks, clothes and shoes, education, regular attendance to schools, sports and recreation and organization of leisure time; 2) group of older children (at the age of 14-16) enabled for independent life and continuation of education, preventing recidivism to street environment and entering into juvenile marriages; 3) raised level of parents' responsibility for their children, increased information for parents in terms of their legal obligations towards the children and proper exercise of their parental rights; 4) public awareness on child rights raised, as well as on the importance of exercising one's rights and the importance of legal measures if those rights are not respected; 5) all children successfully completed the relevant school year. The project will be implemented in the period January - December 2012.
4. The grant awarded to **Feminist Initiatives** to implement the project **Stop Political Mobbing** is focused on political mobbing, as highlighted under the economic crisis and consequences thereof for the individual, his/her family and work organization, because victims of mobbing often become unproductive and lose their jobs. Given the growing awareness that mobbing is not an isolated episode and individual problem, but rather a structured, strategic problem deeply rooted in the organizational, cultural and broader social framework, the project will point out the possible consequences of mobbing and the importance of pursuing strategic approach to developing, implementing and evaluating prevention programs for mobbing. Project's outcomes are: 1) established system of support to victims of mobbing, through counseling unit and on-line counseling; 2) 400 participants educated on prevention against mobbing and wider public debate on the issue of political mobbing. The project will be implemented for a period of five months, and started in December 2011. Project's total budget amounts to 995.931 MKD, 508.298 MKD of which were awarded by FOSM and 487.633 MKD are contributed by the organization.
5. **Foundation for Local Community Development - Stip** was awarded 1.122.990 MKD to implement the project **Educational Action for Children from Socially Deprived Families**. Project's main objective is to assist underachieving primary school students in catching up with school curricula. Up to 64 primary school children from Stip, coming from families that benefit from social welfare and subsequently families that are most affected by the economic crisis, will be the direct target group of the project. The rationale of project interventions is to sustain private expenditure and to promote and support equality in education at times of economic crisis, as one of key open society values. Being neither educated nor employed, parents from such families are unable to provide additional (at home) support or cannot afford to pay tutors. Although the Law on Primary Education (from this school year onwards), provides for additional classes targeting underachieving students, the schools have not started to implement them. That is why the project intends to ensure targeted additional out-of-school learning support for these students, as one of the measures for successful completion of relevant school grade and transition to the next grade in primary education. In doing so, the project brings another benefit by engaging teachers as

tutors, in particular those who have lost their jobs due to the economic crisis or from political reasons. The project will last until the end of the current school year (31st August 2012), in hope that at the beginning of the following school year the schools will manage to properly organize additional support for all students in need.

6. **Multiethnic Theatre Play** project awarded to the grantee **Cultural Association Dunek** from Gostivar prevents the crisis' impact on access to cultural life for youth in multiethnic communities (Gostivar, Tetovo and Debar). The project will expand opportunities of young people from all ethnic communities to participate in cultural life and to increase mutual communication and inter-ethnic relations and tolerance. Six performances of multiethnic theatre play for an audience of at least 2000 participants will be held in a period of two months (from November 2011). Project's total budget amounts to 402.456 MKD, 312.481 MKD of which were awarded by FOSM and 89.976 MKD were contributed by the organization. Project's sustainability is seen in the possibility for repetitive performance of the play with new, young enthusiasts that will participate in this kind of cultural activities aimed to raise mutual tolerance in their respective multiethnic communities.
7. **Cultural Project Management School** project awarded to **Esperanza World Culture Center** addresses lack of capacities on the part of cultural managers to run cultural initiatives and manage cultural cooperation projects that should boost Macedonian cultural presence both in the EU and in the Balkan. The project aims to enrich cultural managers' knowledge on European, national and regional cultural policies, to improve their managerial skills on cooperation projects in the field of culture and to establish active networks of regional cultural managers, thus bridging scarce funding available for culture at times of economic crisis. This will lead to improved knowledge and skills of Macedonian cultural managers, increased competences to participate in European projects and developed relations with European colleagues that should result in future joint actions. The project will be implemented in the period December 2011 – November 2012. Project's total budget accounts for 3.051.446 MKD, 419.984 MKD of which were awarded by FOSM and 2.631.462 MKD by other donors.

Large-size projects approved by the Emergency Fund Subcommittee of Open Society Foundations

1. Education Support for the Poor

In August 2009, FOSM received an amount of 48.607.421 MKD from the Soros Emergency Fund to implement a two-year project on reducing the effects of the economic crisis on the Macedonian families related to costs for schooling their children. The rationale of project interventions was to sustain private expenditure (household's expenses) in order to promote and support equality in education at times of economic crisis, as one of key open society values. The project was designed to support around 20,000 primary school students (at the age of 6-15) by providing them with the most necessary school materials (notebooks, drawing papers, crayons, maps, etc.)

In the course of the school year 2010/2011, packages with school materials and school bags were donated to **19,636 students** at 308 primary schools in 85 municipalities. In addition to the standard package, 11,037 students from upper primary grades (fifth to eighth) received geography atlases. The ethnic composition of students who received donations in the school year 2010/11 was: Macedonian (43.2%), Albanian (31.5%), Turks (5.3%), Roma (10.5%), and others (9.5%). Additionally, school packages were distributed to 1,169 students with special needs and students without parental care who live in foster care families or orphanages.

2. Youth Independence Project

The two-year project implemented by Youth Educational Forum, in partnership with *Youth Cultural Center*-Bitola, Foundation for Development of Local Community - Stip and Association for Development and Activism AKVA - Struga, was supported by the Soros Emergency Fund in a total amount of 20.530.299 MKD. The project's overall goal was to contribute to youth activism and participation through support and promotion of financial, political and cultural autonomy of young people. This was achieved by empowering young people with knowledge and skills, increasing their employment possibilities, organizing events and creating sustainable recourses for quality socio-cultural life of students that foster youth activism and participation. For that purpose, all resources and expertise of 4 local NGOs joined into an informal network of 5 Youth Centers established in 5 university cities throughout Macedonia (Skopje, Tetovo, Struga, Bitola, and Stip).

In 2011, following results were achieved under the projects components:

(1) Soft-skills Development for Employment Support - provided education and training in soft skills that are essential for being competitive on the job market, for more than 200 senior students and recent university graduates from middle and lower social class;

(2) Youth Activism and Participation Program - student resource centers where around 1000 students and young people had the opportunity to engage in three types of clubs: Verbal-Cluster, E-Cluster, and Art-Cluster. Career Advice Office was one of the primary functions of Youth Centers which served as recourse points for 300 students *seeking employment* in terms of career training, information dissemination, application support, etc. 26 public events were organized within the Youth Activism and Participation Program and aimed to promote and enforce freedom of expression, individualism, independence and youth activism, as well as public discussions and conferences, art performances, festivals, online campaigns with participation of more than 6000 young people. 2011 project activities were covered in over 40 stories and interviews aired on national and local media (TV, radio, newspapers, news aggregators) and were reported in over 150 online articles.

3. Income Generation through Collecting Recyclable Plastics

In March 2011, the Roma Business Information Center in Macedonia (RBICM) was awarded a grant in the amount of 10.075.518 MKD to create opportunities for income generation by means of plastic waste collection.

Large number of Roma people (estimated at around 5,000) are engaged in the waste recycling system and work as informal collectors of recyclable waste materials (mainly PET and other plastic waste), often together with their family. They work unrecognized, unorganized and unprotected from health-risk conditions. These people continuously face uncooperative attitude on the part of households due to insufficient awareness on the importance of waste sorting and recycling.

Project's objectives include development of sustainable income-generating opportunities for plastic waste collectors, notably by provision of training, capacity building and technical support; replacement of current practices on waste picking from waste containers with more formalized collection of sorted plastic waste from households and commercial buildings;

contribution to environment protection, by public awareness raising on waste recycling; and building cooperation with households, commercial entities and municipalities as regards waste sorting and collection; development of plastic waste recycling system in Macedonia, by introducing better practices.

As part of project activities, 350 waste collectors were trained in plastic collection, sorting and were educated about health hazards related to their work; 8 persons were trained on promotion of waste sorting/collection and negotiations with representatives of households and commercial buildings as regards organized waste sorting/collection; 300 posters and 5,000 flyers were distributed to households, commercial buildings and other institutions and aim to raise public awareness; 1600 framed holders for plastic bags were placed at 160 selected locations in 4 pilot areas in the City of Skopje and are intended for plastic waste sorting and collection from households and buildings; new practice on organized and efficient plastic waste sorting and collection from households and commercial buildings was established and replaces the unorganized and unprotected waste picking from waste containers by informal waste collectors; 20 tons of PET and other plastic waste were collected on monthly basis and will ensure regular income for 180 households, predominantly Roma, which will - in turn – enable efficient waste collection and supply.

4. Day Centers for Adolescents and Youth

This project is implemented by the Republic Center for Support of Persons with Intellectual Disability – *PORAKA*, in the period January 2011 to December 2012, with a total budget of 5.842.741 MKD, 2.852.962 MKD of which were provided by the Emergency Fund. Emergency Fund's assistance for this project aims to support maintenance of existing Day Centers for Adolescents and Adults with Intellectual Disability. *PORAKA*'s Day Centers provide the needed support for users on daily basis, as well as training activities aimed to improve skills for independent living, education programs, vocational-occupational programs and social, cultural and sports activities and support to families of members with intellectual disability.

Project's main goal is to guarantee continuation of community-based services created, i.e., 3 Day Centers for Adolescents and Adults with Intellectual Disability. Project activities, as described below, are implemented at 3 Day Centers of *PORAKA* located in Skopje, Radovis and Ohrid. Main objectives include: continuation of family support with the aim to prevent institutionalization; training on independent living for users of the Day Centers; education for parents in order to prevent institutionalization of their children with intellectual disability; finding possibilities to develop Day Centers Network, as well as advocacy in front of the Government and local authorities.

The project targets persons with intellectual disability and their families in the Republic of Macedonia. Direct beneficiaries are users of Day Centers in Skopje (39), Ohrid (17) and Radovis (10).

Program activities include: individual assessment of persons accepted at the Day Center based on their potentials and possibilities; creation and work on individual working program with Day Center's users; creation and updating files on users' achievement (positive and negative effects); creation and implementation of group activities program at Day Centers; and socialization activities.

5. Community for All - Macedonia

The project provides bridge-financing in the year 2011 to community-based housing service that has been established as part of the initiative Community for All - Macedonia (C4A-MK). Project's total budget amounts to 10.877.669 MKD, whereby the first half of the annual budget is covered by the Public Health Network Program at Open Society Foundations and the second half, in the amount of 5.438.834 MKD, is covered by the Emergency Fund.

C4A-MK aims to establish community-based housing services in Macedonia for people with intellectual disabilities who are currently residents at the Special institution Demir Kapija.

Housing services in Negotino/Demir Kapija (southern Macedonia) were the first services to have been fully established within C4A-MK, with 32 clients living in eight community homes. In addition to community-based housing, *PORAKA* Negotino also provides day program services to these clients, as well as to number of other people with intellectual disabilities who live at home with their families and who receive no other form of support. Day services are essential to the success of C4A-MK, as they complement housing services and prevent institutionalization of people with intellectual disabilities who live at home without community-based support.

6. Legalization of Roma Housing - Macedonia

Reportedly, a staggering 44% of Roma live in illegally-built houses. In 2011, the Parliament of Macedonia adopted a law which aims to aid the process on legalizing illegally constructed housing. However, many Roma families are unable to benefit from this law, due to their low income, poor education and insufficient access to information on the law and its implementation.

Project's overall objective is to increase the share of legally owned houses by Roma in the Republic of Macedonia, with focus on 6 municipalities with predominantly Roma population, i.e., towns of Skopje, Kumanovo, Kocani, Prilep, Tetovo and Stip, by providing financial and technical assistance in the process.

Project's direct implementing parties are Habitat for Humanity Macedonia (HFHM) from Skopje and National Roma Centrum (NRC) from Kumanovo. The project is planned to be implemented in two phases, the first one starting in August 2011 and aimed to assess needs, inform and motivate low income Roma families living in illegal houses to start the legalization process, the legal deadline for which is set for 3 September 2011.

Project's second phase, in 2012, includes the establishment of Roma Legalization Fund in the amount of 16.986.060 MKD by HFHM; 14.758.380 MKD will be provided by the Foundation Open Society Macedonia and 2.227.680 MKD by HFHM. This Fund will offer no interest micro-loans intended to cover expenses for land purchase, geodesy study and legal taxes needed in the legalization process. NRC will establish a Resource Center in Kumanovo tasked to provide support (legal and technical advice) related to Fund opportunities and the legalization procedure. HFHM will also provide technical advice on construction issues to Roma families.

The project's duration is planned for three years, with possible extension. Project's total budget amounts to about 41.815.410 MKD, 2.459.730 MKD of which are provided by HFHM

Major findings and outcomes from the first phase in 2011 are:

- Many Roma have applied independently and, more importantly, the interest in submitting applications on housing legalization was much higher than expected;
- The legalization process is more complex than initially assessed and therefore an increased number of complicated cases in front of the Administrative Court is expected;
- Direct contact with citizens was crucial for the increased number of legalization procedures motioned from the initially expected;
- Appropriate staffing at the Resource Center and presence of community facilitators, as well as legal assistance on case-to-case basis, case monitoring and monitoring of law implementation are essential for the attainment of anticipated goals;
- 2,586 questionnaires were filled-in in 13 municipalities country-wide;
- 1,519 claims were submitted and administrative procedures on legalization have started in 6 targeted towns;
- 15,000 copies of the *Guidebook to Legal House* that explains the legalization procedure were distributed in Roma settlements in 12 municipalities.

Total budget of 1.748.076 MKD was spent in 2011, for the implementation of the project's first phase.

Budget: Total budget of **46.742.583 MKD** was spent for the implementation of the Emergency Fund projects.

General budget of FOSM

FOSM Program administrative costs:	13.747.576 MKD
FOSM general admin costs:	24.729.027 MKD
FOSM overall budget for 2011:	257.697.484 MKD