



National Conference

Building a Culture of Coexistence:

Cooperation between Civil Society Organizations and Local Governments as a Factor for Development of Interethnic Dialogue

18 October 2016, Skopje Fair - Business Hall
Skopje

Aims of the conference:

1. To enable a dialogue amongst key stakeholders at the local level and civil society to tackle the challenges of multicultural co-existence;
2. To strengthen the cooperation between civil society and local authorities in a multicultural setting;
3. To develop recommendations for future actions that support cooperation between ethnic communities.

The conference will serve as an open forum for dialogue between CSO grantees, local authorities and other stakeholders operating in the field of inter-ethnic relations. The CSO grantees (8) are of the IPA 'Civil Society Facility and Media Programme 2014, Priority 3: Promoting improved inter-community relations'.

The main goal of the Conference is to promote discussion, to build synergies and raise awareness about good practice in encouraging cooperation between communities.

Target group: Mayors from municipalities in which the projects are being implemented, the representatives of their municipality councils, Commissions on Inter Community Relations and/or the administration of the local government, the Secretariat for Implementation of the OFA (SIOFA), the Agency for Community Rights Realization, the Ombudsman, the Ministry of Education, ZELS, International Organizations/Institutions, the grantees and CSOs active in the field of interethnic dialogue

Total participants: approximately 140 participants

We will show a live twitter feed of the Conference's hashtag, as a way of reaching out to those interested that will not be able to attend.

CSF Project Fair: project stands will be set up at the Conference venue for the 8 grant beneficiaries to present information about their work and the outputs and results from the project activities.

Working languages: Macedonian, Albanian and English





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Draft Agenda:

09:30 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 10:30	<p>Introductory Remarks Opening by the Children's Choir from the project 'Decade of Belonging – Celebrating Diversity'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EU Support for Constructive Interethnic Relations - Mr. Samuel Žbogar, Head of the Delegation of the European Union ▪ Representative from Secretariat for Implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement (SIOFA)- TBC ▪ Ms. Vesna Babic Petrovski, Director, Agency for Community Rights Realization ▪ Presentation: EU Funded Projects Promoting Improved Inter-Community Relations Mr. Aleksandar Filiposki, Project Coordinator, YES Foundation
10:30 – 11:30	<p>The Situation with Multicultural Policies and Practices Moderated by Ms. Monika Veljanoska, Project Officer, ADI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assessment of the Implementation Progress of the Local Strategies and Policies on Integration of Ethnic Communities and Inter-Ethnic Community Relations - Ms. Monika Veljanoska, Project Officer, Association for Democratic Initiatives ▪ Review of the Ohrid Framework Agreement for Social Inclusion (SIOFA) – TBC ▪ NGO Sector and the Agency for Community Rights Realization- Ms. Sofia Graovac, Agency for Community Rights Realization ▪ Multi-Ethnic Research Study for Youth Entrepreneurship – YES Foundation <p>General Discussion</p>
11:30 – 12:00	Coffee break
12:00- 13:30	<p>Panel 1: Socio-Cultural Features of Municipalities and the Development of Interethnic Relations Moderated by Mr. Goce Bogoevski, Project Manager, COVS Prilep</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multiethnic urban municipality - Mr. Nevzat Bejta, Mayor of the Municipality of Gostivar ▪ Multiethnic urban municipality – Mr. Ziadin Sela, Mayor of the Municipality of Struga ▪ Multi-ethnic rural municipality - Mr. Mukrem Mehmedi, Mayor of the Municipality of Mavrovo – Rostushe ▪ Predominantly urban mono-ethnic municipality - Mr. Marjan Risteski, Mayor of the Municipality of Prilep (TBC) ▪ Predominantly rural mono-ethnic municipality - Mr. Sadulla Duraku, Mayor of the Municipality of Lipkovo <p>General Discussion</p>
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 – 15:30	<p>Panel 2: The Civil Sector as a Pro-active Actor in the Support of Inter-ethnic Cohesion Moderated by Ms. Dijana Stojanovic Djordjevic, Project Manager, Kvinna till Kvinna, Skopje</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Function of the Local Commissions for Inter-Ethnic Relations – Ms. Violeta Petrovska, Organization of Women “KUMANOVKA”, Kumanovo ▪ Inclusion of minority communities – Mr. Mihail Gotovski, National Roma Centrum, Kumanovo ▪ Multiculturalism and Interculturalism in the Educational Process – Mr. Goran Taleski, Peace Action <p>General Discussion</p>
15:30 – 16:30	Closing Session of the Conference: Recommendations and Conclusions - Ms. Jasminka Popovska, LDA



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