

**ЗДРУЖЕНИЕ ЗА ЗАШТИТА НА ПРАВАТА НА ДЕТЕТО**

**Defence for Children Rights (DCR)**

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# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**Association Defence for Children's Rights - "Educational entertainment Daily care center for street children"**

**January – December 2013**

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### Defence for Children Rights (DCR)

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#### *About us*

#### **Mission:**

Protection and respect of the rights of the children regardless of the race, color, sex, nationality, ethical or social background, religion, political or other beliefs guaranteed by the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

#### **Vision:**

Our vision is to create a world in which the child will enjoy and exercise their rights of mental, physical and social well-being according to the highest standards and can achieve harmonious development of personality, to grow up in a family environment in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding family as the basic unit of society and the natural environment for the growth and prosperity, and to be provided with the necessary protection and assistance so that it can take whole responsibility in the community.

#### **Values:**

Children's rights are inseparable from human rights: the right to identity, the right of access to education, the right (life) world to respect diversity as a basic principle of life.

Each individual should allow access to real and relevant information and services to be able to exercise their rights.

The state should provide political, financial and public commitment that all national policies to protect children based on the framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and advocate for the inclusion of diverse needs and interests of children.

#### **Structure of the Organization:**

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### Defence for Children Rights (DCR)

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1. PhD Vladimir Ortakovski, Professor at the Faculty of Security, **President at Defense for Children Rights (DCR)**
2. PhD. Oliver Bacanovich, Professor at the Faculty of Security, **Vice President at Defense for Children Rights (DCR)**
3. Kiril Trajkovski, social worker, **Member in the Executive Committee of DCR**
4. Mladica Kotevska, social worker, **Member in the Executive Committee of DCR.**
5. Irena Velkoska, **Member in the Executive Committee of DCR**

During the activities of the Project in the Center for 2013 were hired:

1. Irena Velkoska, **Project Coordinator**
2. Vasilka Jovanovska, **Social worker**
3. Natasa Gjorgjievska, **Psychologist** ( till 03.2013)
4. Ivica Pavlov, **Psychologist** ( 04.2013 – 12.2013)
5. Aleksandra Zakevska, **School Teacher**
6. Maja Bozinovska, **Pedagogue**

### **15 years of anniversary of the Association Defence for Children's Rights**

On 03.12.2013 in the facilities of the Republic Red Cross the Association Defence for Children's Rights organized a little ceremony regarding 15 years of existence of the organization. On the event every relevant stakeholders, partners, co – workers were present and awarded with certificate of appreciation and small cocktail party was arranged. Through the event the activities and the work of the Organization were presented and the final outcome in the past 15 years of work. Also, 3 TV representative and few journalist were present at the event.

The work and the activities of the Association can be track on its official website [www.zpd.org.mk](http://www.zpd.org.mk), and through the social networks **FACEBOOK: Day center for street children - Suto Orizari**.

*Annual activities:*

### **Educational entertainment Daily care center for street children**

The activities of the Center covers identification of children on street through mobile teams, registering children on streets, providing shelter, food, medical care, education both formal and in formal education, including the children on street in the formal education process, providing support and aid to continue with the education, creating psychological reports on every child, constant meetings with the parents of the children, close co – operation with relevant stakeholders, assistance in providing ID papers to the children and their families.

### **Registered and protected children**

During the period of 2013 the number of new registered children on the street is **54**. The children were identified through activities on terrain by the mobile teams, most of them begging on the street at the Hotel Alesandar Palace, on the street Partizanski Odredi, in Shuto Orizari and in front of the bigger super markets. The age of the children is between 4 – 12 years. The 54 children were not involved in the educational process nor in the institutional care provided by the State. Out of **54** children, **21** of them their parents are serving jail time in the prison for “Heavy Robbery”. Before involving the children in the Centre, meetings with the parents and review of the whole family documentation were made. During their first week in the Centre, the children were evaluated for their intellectual capacities, level of literacy, meetings with the psychologist which resulted with psychological report of the children and immunization and medical check of the children.

With consent of the parents / guardians of the children, they can visit and stay in the Centre and enjoy the benefits of the Centre itself.

On behalf of the Inter – municipality Centre for Social Work, the organization was contacted for fostering **2** children at age of 5 and 8 years who were registered as children begging on the street.

The number of direct users of the services of the Centre in the period of 01.13 – 10.13 is **151** children beneficiaries. From 05.13 – 10.13, **46** children had temporary termination of the services of the Centre in order to continue with the normal life and on the other hand, to create conditions for fostering new children who need care and protection , but also to meet different needs: the need of education and educational facilities , socialization , proper and intensive psycho - social and pedagogical treatment , vaccines , health

and social protection , identity , security , meals , clean water , hygiene and supportive environment to fully develop into healthy adult individuals.

**Reason** for termination of **46** children : for providing better subsistence and living conditions on other children due financial cuts, **10** children from eight different families move in Kumanovo and Tetovo to live with relatives, among **36** children due to positive reports on behaviour and improvements, also due to positive influence in their families (**13** families) for better parental care and responsibility, where only **2** parents from different families are employed as maintains in the Elementary school “ Braka Ramiz Hamid” and the City Mall in Skopje.

### **Children without personal documentation (ID), medical and social care and insurance**

In 2013 only **20** children with no personal documentation were registered by the Organization. Among **54** children for the first time had their first systematic examination and immunization and opened a health card in collaboration with the local Health Centre and with the NGO “HERA” Skopje. The Centre had help families with **5** new-borns in order to registered their children and provide personal documents. The DCR provided financial aid (22.674,00 denars or 369 euros) in order the children to gain personal documentation so they can role in the educational process.

Almost all of the children lives in the Municipality “Shuto Orizari” which means they have common social environment: come from families who are in a difficult financial situation of dysfunctional families without proper parental care with noted educational neglect, social and emotional problems.

Some of them are not registered in the birth registry and do not have health documents for which they are not allowed obtaining adequate health care and protection. Between the kids is registered a problem with malnutrition and lack of hygiene. Given all this attention is devoted to the general health of children through regular vaccinations, TB testing, examinations and providing other services (providing free skin and eye examinations and laboratory tests, hospital accommodation and treatments, and providing or purchasing prescribed medical therapies).

### **Prevented Underage Marriages**

In year 2013, 11/13 underage marriages are prevented. Although the underage marriages in this category of population is a common thing and a tradition, we continuously are trying to reach the children and the parents not to lobby and put a pressure on the kids to have underage marriages or extramarital marriages. The reasons for this actions are that the children are not both physically and psychically developed and lack of resources and education in parenthood. One of the cases is with 14 year old I.R where due complication she was transferred in the State Clinic for immediate abortion due complications.

Although the Centre had intervene in few occasions, we had a case where 15 year old B.M and 14 year old N.S without knowledge of their relatives or parents they left their homes and run away. Other case where 13 year old I.R involves in extramarital marriage and leaves for Kumanovo.

### **Children – Youth Club**

The Children – Youth Club continued to work this year also. The children are getting with wider education about their rights, the importance of education, in general primary and secondary school through motivational conversations, discussions, empowerment, creating moral grounds for their easier involvement in the Society. The workshops are conducted twice a week for 2-3 hours with pre prepared month operating programme. In the workshops are included children at the age of 12 – 16 years old who are fostered in the Centre.

### **Children on the street involved in pre – school and school institutions**

In the academic year 2013/2014 in the educational process included **35** first graders of different ages as follows: **31** children in "Braka Ramiz Hamid ", **1** child at the "July 26 " and **3** kids in night elementary school "As Makrenko" and they have provided the required documentation for enrolment .

But this year due to the mandatory submission of a certificate issued by the dental office, with all the children who had governed personal documentation was carried out additional dental examination on behalf of the Centre.

The second semester of the academic year 2012/2013, **93** children successfully completed or **65** children which still use the services of the Centre. The other **28** school children are children who have previously been temporarily excluded from the Centre for receiving a positive report and absence of street activities (begging, collecting plastic bottles, etc.).

In the academic year 2013/2014 the total number of children included in the regular education process is **88**, where later **one** of the children is conducting a marriage and leaves the educational process.

During their first week of school, the children are escorted from the staff members to their school, the children are provided with school bags, necessary school materials regarding the need of every child individually.

On behalf of the fans of the Scottish Football Team "Tartan Army" through the British Embassy were provided clothes, shoes, wardrobe, and school materials for the children. This provided material and moral support for the children because they are usually discriminated by their class mates for their social background and look. The Centre was visited from the Ambassador of Scottish Football Association "Tartan Army Children's Charity" (TACC) – Jim Hart and the selector of the Scottish representation Gordon Strahan (10.09.2013).

### ***Collaboration with relevant stakeholders***

### **Schools services, including pedagogue department and school teachers**

DCR have made necessary meetings and appointments with the staff of the local schools where the children of the Centre are registered, and discussions about their situation and status have been made. They are willing for collaboration with the Centre and the children and that collaboration resulted positive in order to keep attendance of the children in the schools. Also during the classes they are provided with special attention in order to learn the materials well, although the Centre is providing support to those children regarding any exams, homework's, etc. Also the Centre is organizing meetings on regular basis with the parents of those children who attend at school in order to improve the relation of the children with the schools. Excellent collaboration is provided between DCR and the Elementary schools "Braka Ramiz Hamid", "July 26" and "As Makarenko"

### **Ministry of Labour and Social Policy**

The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (MLSP) has address for our presence in many meetings and workshops. DCR was a part of the making the Action Plan for Children on Street 2013 – 2015. Our mutual cooperation is on high level regarding exchanging information, data and on addressing the issue for children on street.

### **Ministry of Internal**

Educational workshop was conducted with the parents and representatives from the Police Station (PS) in Cair – Biljana Utkovska and Ministry of Internal (Mol) Department for Prevention – Katerina Stojkova where education and topics for Prevention of Human Trafficking, Juveniles Marriages and violation of children's rights were covered.

### **NGO "HERA"**

Due to good collaboration and our partner organization "HERA", we manage to conduct **5** workshops where 3 of them were with the parents, regarding raising awareness about STDs, other diseases, infections, sexual protection and about the food and the risk of getting a food from the trash. They provided aid regarding free dermatological examination and therapy for the beneficiaries.

### **Voluntary Centre Skopje (VCS)**

During the year of 2013 humanitarian activities are conducted with volunteers from Spain, France and Holland through the VCS. Through various educational and creative activities, the children had the

opportunity to socialize, learn more about different culture and diversities. The workshops were conducted 3 times per week, from 12 – 14 o clock, with groups of 10 children. The children had positive impressions and also learned different social activities and improved their creative skills. On behalf of the VCS on 06.12.2013 in the GEM Club, an event took place “Get to Know my Culture”, where through the interactive workshop, the children gain new knowledge about various cultures, hearing different travelling experience, degustation of different food, etc. The children were able to present their creative works to the rest of the participants.

### ***Providing financial sustainability for children on the street***

#### **Project “Face to Face” (“Лице во Лице”)**

The Project “Face to Face” was implemented by “Centre for Media Activities” Skopje where children from the Centre at age between 15 - 22 years could sell magazines on the street and keep percentage of the sell (50% of the sell for themselves) in order to improve their material status. This philanthropic project had helped 8 children from our Centre to find temporary job by selling magazines. Their position is well known, they have not finished Elementary School and they are not in position to find jobs. In collaboration with the “Centre for Media Activities” certain workshops of education for communicational skills for children/youth took place and made beneficiaries of our Centre to successfully sell the monthly magazine to the broader public. The activity was sustainable through the year with main goal the “Centre for Media Activities” to organize in the future possibility for work positions in various legal entities and companies.

The reward “Employee of the Month” was given to A. Regepi, children from our Centre as most frequent and successful salesman.

International week of street sellers (04.02 – 10.02 2013) an event was organized where at the town square salesman of the magazine “Face to Face” were directly involved with citizens, where the citizens wore their uniforms for 15 minutes in order to experience their everyday work life, to understand and encourage their initiative.

### **Season jobs**

DCR with close collaboration with different legal entities in Macedonia has provided 4 work positions for our beneficiaries in Johnson Matthey. DCR also has assisted in constructing motivational letter and completion of the documentation for the children. On 13.05.2013 two of the children (Ergan and Ergin) has received their first employment, later on 03.06.2013 the third employment of I.Regepi and on 02.08.2013, E.Jusufovski. This is a great opportunity for the children regarding the fact that they do not even finished elementary school and with no work experience.



Also DCR is trying to find employments for the parents and empower them in finding one. After the public call for employment in the Public Company "Macedonian Forests" for 1600 persons, the Centre had managed to help in **49** application where only **one candidate** have gotten the job.

### ***Events and recognitions***

All event regarding annual celebration (Christmas, New years Eve, Ramazan, Easter, Halloween, International Voluntary Day) are followed with certain event for the children of the Centre. More important and significant dates for the annual activities below.

### **Certificate of appreciation**

On 10.12.2013 on the anniversary day of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights, the Award for Human Rights for 2013 of the Embassy of France in Skopje was given to the DCR Skopje in honor of the excellence in the field of Children Rights. On 08.03.2013 the Centre was previously visited from the French Embassy and the Ambassador Laurence Auer as a sign of good collaboration with the French Embassy in Skopje, the children have made a little performance as a sign of gratitude.

### **International day of children on the street – 12 April**

Upon the celebration on 12 April, the children from the Centre have visited the First Children Embassy "Megasi" followed with educational workshop about their rights. After the event the children have visited the City ZOO in Skopje. Regarding this date, Macedonia is involved in the Global Action "Together We Are Stronger" in order to raise the awareness to the public regarding this issue and an event was created for collecting donations from citizens called "Caravan for donation of food".

### **Rights of the Children – Children's week**

Regarding this event, DCR has organized workshops where the children could show their creative made works, have a small sport competitions, etc. The activities provided by the Centre and other organizations were: "Children have right to know their rights", Children have rights to express their opinion".

On behalf of Johnson Matthey repairs to the electrical installations, painting and repairs of the roof of the Centre were made. Later that year in October on behalf of the Catholic Church and the Red Cross the Centre was helped with interior renovations and providing operating equipment. In collaboration with the German

organization Ku Kuk – Kunst Kultur Konzeption that deals with constructing playgrounds for children, with thanks of the German Ambassador in R. Macedonia and representatives of the super market company DM, financed a playground for children in our Centre.

During the year, in – kind donation was made from the Mobile Operator VIP, Komercijalna Banka, The Lioness Club, Sparkasse Bank.

### **Lobbying, advocacy and monitoring of the situation of child rights in Republic of Macedonia**

DCR in 2013 worked on lobbying and advocacy for children's rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, monitored the situation of child rights in the country , as well as the work of state institutions and local government units in terms of their actions when it comes to protecting children and their rights , especially the children belonging to marginalized groups. The monitoring is done through the activities of the Centre: Collaboration with parents, Workshops for parents, Workshops for children and free social and legal aid, through the work of the State Council for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency where the president of the Council is also the president of DCR, Mr. Vladimir Ortakovski.

In order to provide greater and more efficient protection for children, especially for cases where parents force their children to beg on the street, this year the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (published on their web site and the Media 24/11/2013) conduct a precision of the provisions in the Family Law for stricter sanctions for the abuse of children and severe neglect of performing parental duties.

DCR is strongly committed to help and contribute with our experience working with street children. Guided by this will besides the limited human recourses due lack of finances, the Centre with the long experience working in this area contributed for the research of the professor B.Arifi from the South Eastern European University (SEEU) conducted on 13.02.2013.

On 27.02.2013 a meeting took place in the conference room of Dare Dzambaz between representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Republic Red Cross, representatives of DCR and representatives from the “Centre of Media Collaboration”. The topic of discussion covered the significance of education, especially the inclusion in the educational process of marginalized category of children regardless of the age of the children and discussion regarding the concept of providing education for craft works in order to become competitive on the labour market.

On 20.02.2013 participation in the focus group in the Project “Civil Society Monitoring the Implementation of the National Strategy for Roma and Action Plan of the Decade in Macedonia” conducted by Association “Initiative for Social Changes – InSoC”.

On 05.03.2013 on behalf of the “Roma Resources Centre” workshop was created regarding Discrimination conducted by Dusko Minovski – president of the Commission for Prevention of Discrimination of R. Macedonia.

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On 21.03.2013 on behalf of Ministry of Education (MON) meeting was made where DCR took place along others: Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Red Cross, Centre for Media Activities and Centre for Social Works.

The DCR became a part of the Regional Partner Network through the “Centre for Youth Integration” from Serbia, a network between 7 organization and institution from Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo, Novi Sad, Banja Luka, Mostar and Zenica.

On 27.05 – 28.05.2013 representatives from DCR were on educational workshop “Identification and Report of cases where hate crime exist” a part of the Project “Support of the Nationals Stakeholders in tackling hate crime and hate speech” conducted by Coalition “All for Fair Trials” Skopje.