

To:
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Local office
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FROM: Centre for electronic communication: Eko.Net

SUBJECT: Narrative report for the period of March 2004–Jan. 2005

The following activities have been performed for the period of March 1, 2005 to January 31, 2005.

EKONET NEWS

During this period Eko.Net maintained an e-mail list used primarily to send a weekly digest of the most important and current news regarding protection of the environment. During the past period this service has continued to grow into a tool used fervently, not only by the NGO community, but by other types of users such as governmental and international institutions and individuals, through which they both receive information and submit their own news and comments.

As a result of Eko.Net's overall activity, the number of users of the mailing list has increased 30% (from 920 to 1,235 users) during the duration of the project.

WEB PORTAL www.eko.net.mk

During the project Eko.Net developed and maintained the web portal www.eko.net.mk. Through this portal Eko.Net offered different ICT tools and services to both the NGO community and other concerned stakeholders with an interest in protecting the environment. The statistical overview reveals that the portal's popularity has been increasing. It has become an important virtual location where all interested parties can obtain and publish information. The portal has reinforced itself as an online information centre with a vast archive of news, materials and information on events regarding protection of the environment.

Traffic Statistics on www.eko.net.mk

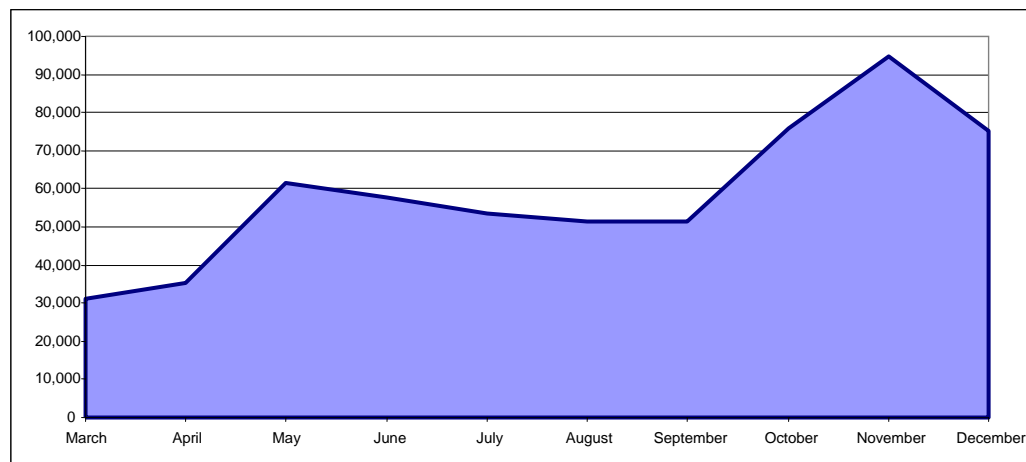
Summary

General Statistics through Dec. 31, 2004	
Hits	794,221
Page Views	203,740
Visits	36,131
Average Visit Length	13 min 10 sec

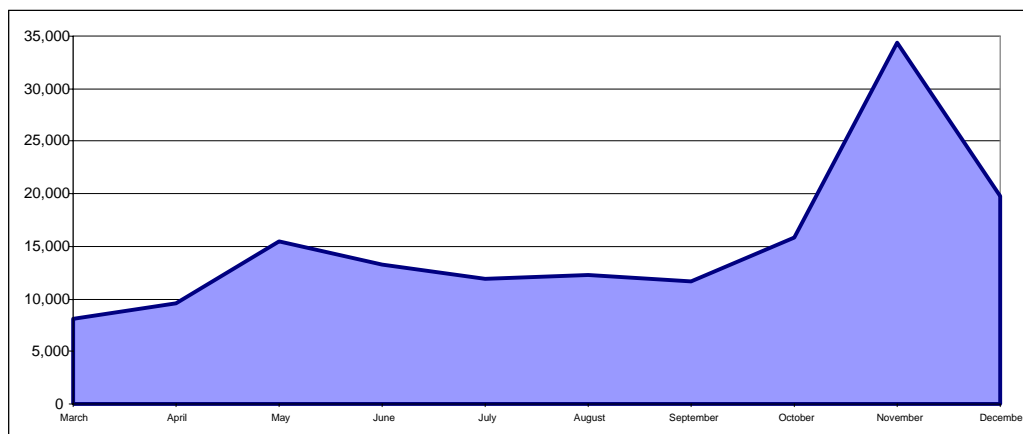
	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Hits	31,275	35,418	61,570	57,571	53,452	51,342	51,347	75,750	94,607	75,329
Page views	8,152	9,606	15,493	13,307	11,964	12,320	11,631	15,815	34,352	19,727
Unique visits	2,027	1,528	2,527	2,780	2,522	2,868	2,739	3,603	3,941	3,975
Min. per visit (avg)	17	11	13.5	13.5	12	11	12	13	15	13

Graphs

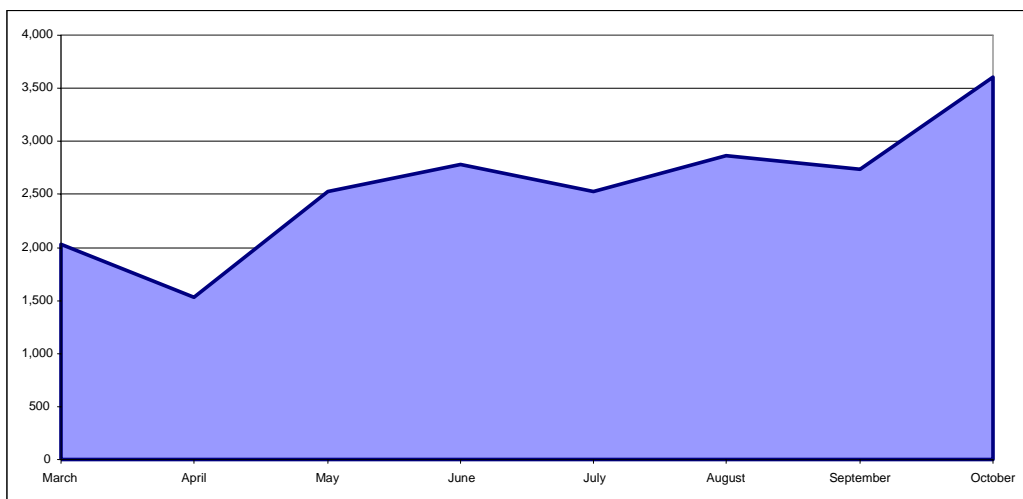
Hits



Page Views

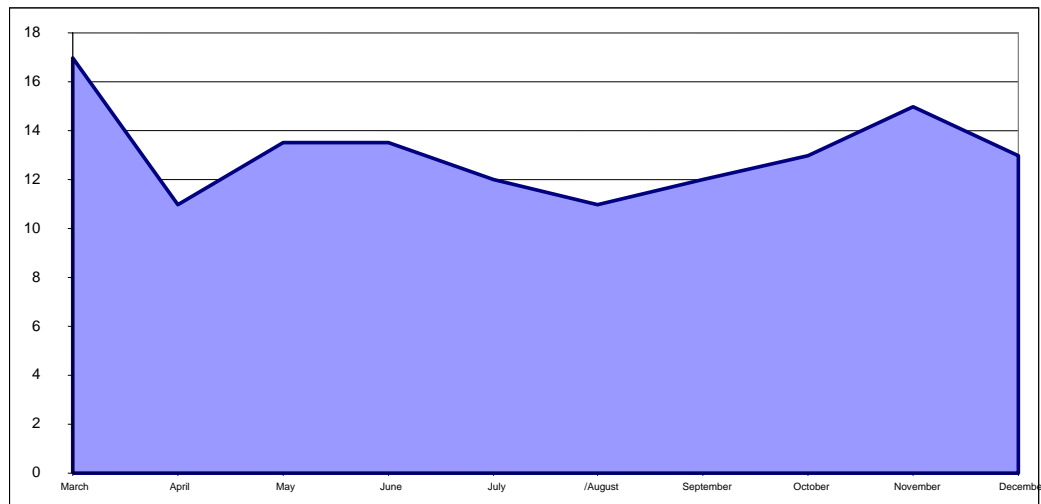


Unique Visitors



* Although the number of Unique Visitors is relevant for analysis, it should be taken into account that the number of visitors shown in the statistics is lower because it is based on unique IP addresses – which means that any computer in a network that is connected to the internet through a server is seen as one IP address. Thus visits from people working in larger organisations, institutions or companies are considered as visits from one unique visitor.

Average Time Per Visit (minutes)



It is clear from the statistical and graphic overview that the portal's popularity and its importance have been increasing steadily. The scope of future efforts should be to increase the number of active users, which is still very low.

Eko.Net also worked continually during this period on arranging content of the web portal service of the existing categories:

- general info (Eko.Net services contact addresses, as well as a codex for the proper use of web portal services);
- news (grouped by category, e.g. newspapers, NGO sector, institutions, foundations, regional news, etc.);
- calendar (seminars, conferences, debates, camps, press conferences, etc.);
- virtual library (work materials needed by NGOs, reports connected to the environment);
- environmental law (laws, conventions and protocols that are part of the Macedonian legal system, as well as online legal advice in cooperation with the Legal Centre for Environment);
- useful links (web pages concerning environmental protection issues);
- Eko Forum (free space for debate and discussion of different environmental topics);
- Write Together (users can write joint projects);
- Eko interviews;
- Eko stories;
- Registration and services; and

- Eko.Net in the media (articles concerning Eko.Net activities).

There are 480 administrators (members of NGOs) registered on the web portal.

Eko.Net offline

Eko.Net has developed and published a multimedia CD which consists of two parts:

- Multimedia presentation of the environmental situation in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Offline version of the web portal all the same information; also with the possibility to synchronise data between local client software and the portal

Eko Bulletin

Eko.Net regularly publishes the *Eko Bulletin* – a monthly digest of the most important environmental news, interviews and coverage of interesting events. It has been distributed to NGOs, municipalities, institutions, companies and citizens throughout the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia – thereby raising levels of interest and awareness concerning environmental issues. It has also helps to advocate and promote Eko.Net services and goals.

International Cooperation

The primary goal of the project was to establish a national network that will have a solid reputation in the environmental NGO community, based on terms of tools, service quality and equal treatment of all stakeholders. Eko.Net, through international meetings, seminars, workshops and personal contacts, has indeed established a firm framework for future regional and international concrete activities and cooperation.

There is continued cooperation and exchange of information with BlueLink (Bulgaria), Volvox (Serbia and Montenegro) and Green Centre (Croatia). Eko.Net is also registered on UNMIK's Shari Net, from which we distribute news from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Training of Eko.Net Members

During this period, members had one or more training sessions and attended different seminars to increase internal capacity Eko.Net resources.

Workshops on ICT Tolls

Eko.Net conducted two workshops on web-based project planning and development during the period.

For successful organisation of the internet workshops, a curriculum was developed and distributed among workshop participants.

The workshops were conducted in Skopje.

Subjects discussed and practised on the workshops were:

- 10 steps for planning a successful web/IT-based project;
- explanations of the development process and all the elements involved in it; and
- presentation of the tools and services that can be accessed from the www.eko.net.mk portal.

The goal of the workshops was to educate and encourage NGOs to incorporate web-based activities into their future projects or implement them into current ones. They also afforded an opportunity to promote our services and the tools, which were developed for our users and, in general, Eko.Net's mission and activities.

Organisational Work

During this period the Eko.Net office was in constant contact with users and anyone interested in the exchange of information concerning environment-related situations, activities and concerns and protection efforts.