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BALKAN BYTE PROJECT 2004
THE ELECTRONIC NETWORK OF KOSOVAR ENVIRONMENTAL NGOS

NARRATIVE REPORT (JULY 2004 – JUNE 2005)

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PRESENTED TO:

THE REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
for Central and Eastern Europe

INDEX PAGE

page 3	1. Acronyms
page 4	2. Introduction
page 5	3. Structuring of Sharri.Net 3.1. Assembly 3.2. Board of Directors 3.3. Staffing
page 8	4. Sharri.Net Activities 4.1. Web-page and web-portals 4.2. Sharri.Net bulletin “Eko-Logjika” 4.3. Mailing-List & Electronic Newsletter 4.4. Conference of Kosovar Environmental Organizations 4.5. Board of Directors Meetings 4.6. Meeting with Minister 4.7. Participation in trainings/ workshops and seminars
page 12	7. Identity of Sharri.Net
page 13	8. Conclusion
page 14	9. Annexes I. Working Plan and Budget for 2004 II. Financial Report July 2004 – June 2005 III. Mission Driven Business Plan of Sharri.Net

1. ACRONYMS

NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
Sharri.Net	Electronic Network of Kosovar Environmental Organizations
MAR	Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation
Eco 99'	Ecologic Association -99
Aquila	Environment Protection Association
REC	The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe
MESP	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning – Kosovo
GO	Governmental Organization
RTK	Radio Television of Kosovo
UNMIK	United Nations Mission in Kosovo
REReP	Regional Environmental Reconstruction Program

2. INTRODUCTION

The main goal of the REReP 2.3 “SEE NGO Electronic Networking” project for the SEE region and also in Kosovo is a stronger, better organized and coordinated environmental NGO community. One step towards this is the creation of a national electronic network among environmental NGOs.

Sharri.Net is the Electronic Network of Kosovar Environmental Organizations, which was created with the aim of establishing a genuine system (network) of environmental organizations for the exchange of information, experiences and knowledge about the environment, which can help in improving the world we live in.

Sharri.Net was established on 16 February 2002 by 18 environmental organizations, and it was registered at the UNMIK Office for Registration of NGOs on 26 February 2003, number of registration # 5102063-4. Without delay after its establishment, Sharri.Net launched activities, initially with the exchange of information, trainings, workshops, conferences, implementing joint projects, various environmental seminars in Kosovo and abroad.

The organizations that founded Sharri.Net are: MAR (Gjakova), The Group of Young Ecologists (Prishtina), the Kosovar Association of Ecologists (Prishtina), the Ecological Association 1999 (Prizren), Eko Center (Prishtina), Eko Sfera (Prishtina), Vision 029 (Prizren), Youth Vision (Malisheva), Kosovar Youth Council (Gjakova), Civic Initiative Forum (Ferizaj), Aquila (Pejë), Eko Klina (Klinë), Ecological Association (Pejë), Millenium (Dardanë), Eko Trepça (Mitrovicë), Drita e Krushë (Prishtinë), the Kosovar Association of Organic Agriculture (Prishtinë), SH I P (Deçan)

Ever since its establishment, the main objective of Sharri.Net was to expand the electronic network throughout the territory of Kosovo, where member organizations of the network would benefit from the exchange of experiences, information and data. Sharri.Net has implemented its activities mainly in the main centers of Kosovo: Prishtina, Mitrovica, Prizren, Peja, Gjiilan, Ferizaj, Gjakova, while organizations from other towns have used them as a linking bridge to join the network of Sharri.Net.

As a result of this activity of Sharri.Net, we now have more frequent communication between organizations, as well as more information on their activities. By supporting, stimulating and initiating joint projects of member organizations of the network, these organizations are now using the Electronic Network to find partners for the implementation of their projects.

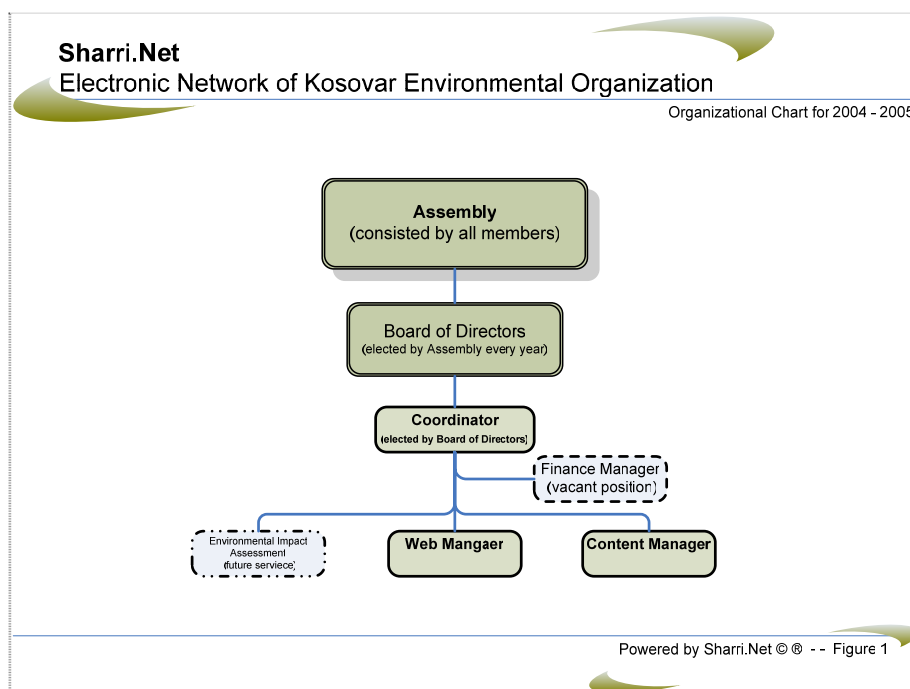
Until May 2003, Sharri.Net was led by member organizations of the Board of Directors, and in cooperation with the managing organizations of Sharri.Net; it had complete leadership of the projects. However, since May 2003, Sharri.Net has its own staff members but it still leads its projects for the good of member organizations.

Sharri.Net is trying to be the most reliable source for environmental information and network that assists the other organizations. Sharri.Net is trying to have a greater role in decision-making processes and promote the public participation. Other plans for Sharri.Net are to assist other Kosovar NGOs, not only environmental ones, to exchange information and present their activities (campaigns). Aside with this Sharri.Net wants to cooperate (sharing news, ideas, experiences, etc) and implement projects with other NGOs from the region.

REC was the main financial supporter since establishing of Sharri.Net.

3. STRUCTURING OF SHARRI.NET

In the Assembly of Sharri.Net was agreed that Sharri.Net would have organizing structure as bellow. According to Statute of Sharri.Net, Assembly approved that, Assembly Members have to meet every year in June.



3.1. Assembly

The **Assembly** is the highest-ranking body of Sharri.Net, it is made up of all members and meets once a year and it appoints the members of the Board of Directors; endorses the policies, financial matters and other issues of utmost importance for Sharri.Net. For becoming a Sharri.Net member each organization should sign Memorandum of Understanding and Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct.

3.2. Board of Directors

Board of Directors is made up of seven members and it implements the strategy previously endorsed by the assembly members; it also appoints the staff members, gives tasks and supervises the work of staff members and meets at least once a month. The Board of Directors is appointed by the Assembly Members based on the following criteria: he/she should be a member of Sharri.Net; have regional representation; at least two active years in the field of environment and three projects in the last year.

Name		Profession	Sex	Position	Years on the board
1.	Naser Bresa	Biologist	M	Chairman of the Board of Directors (BD)	3
2.	Ola Syla	Jurnalist	F	Member of the BD	2.5
3.	Adem Nikqi	Biologist	M	Member of the BD	3
4.	Ramadan Uka	Engineer	M	Member of the BD	2.5
5.	Butrint Batalli	Economist	M	Member of the BD	3
6.	Tafë Veselaj	Biologist	M	Member of the BD	3
7.	Besim Dobruna	Engineer	M	Member of the BD	3

Members of - Board of Directors



Ramadan Uka
Eko-Trepça
Mitrovicë

Naser Bresa
Eko 99'
Prizren



Butrint Batalli
MAR, Gjakovë



Ola Syla
Drita e Krushës
Prishtinë



Adem Nikqi
Aquila, Pejë



Tafë Veselaj
Eko-Klina
Klinë

Besim Dobruna
Eko-Qendra
Prishtinë



3.3. Staffing

Coordinator: Together with staff members, the coordinator carries out the tasks given by the Board of Directors; organizes coordination meetings of the Board of Directors; briefs the Board of Directors; designs projects and seeks new funds, etc.

4. SHARRI.NET ACTIVITIES

Main focus of Sharri.Net was strengthening Network it self and strengthening NGO members through different activities.

4.1. Web-Page & Web-Portals

After lot of work and efforts, we managed to develop new dynamic web page of Sharri.Net (www.sharri.net), that's matches with the criteria's of the Business Plan. We are still adding some new components to the web. With the help of NGO Aquila, web-site now is available in English and soon will be available in to Serbo-Croatian language.



Figure 1 <http://www.sharri.net/>

Sharri.Net web page is updated at least once a week and contains: 1. information about environment, 2. Information about Sharri.Net and NGO members, 3. forum of discussion, 4. directory of environmental organizations, 5. useful environmental documents, and much more.

Sharri.Net in cooperation with NGO MAR (Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation), lunched web-portal for Aarhus Convention in Kosovo. This web-portal gives as the most updated information for process of implementation of the Aarhus Convention in Kosovo (www.sharri.net/aarhus).

Konventa e Aarhusit në Kosovë

Hyrje në Konventën e Aarhusit

KONVENTA E AARHUSIT

Informacione rreth Konventës së Aarhusit
 Konventa për:
 Të Drejtën në Informim,
 Të Pjesëmarrjes Publike në Vendim-marrje dhe
 Të Drejtën për t'u drejtuar Organave të Drejtësisë për
 çështje mjedisore (Konventa e Aarhusit).
 është miratuar në Aarhus të Danimarkës më 25 qershor 1998.

Konventa e Aarhusit është një marrëveshje e re mjedisore, e cila bënë lidhjen e të drejtave mjedisore dhe të drejtave njerëzore. Kjo Konventë i nesh obligimet që i kemi në ndaj generatave të ardhshme në ruajtjen e mjedisit. Përndryshe në bashkëpunimin në mes të publikut (komunitetit) dhe autoriteteve publike në një kontekst demokratik për çështje mjedisore.

Neni 1 i Konventës thekson se: "Me qëllim që të kontribuojmë në mbrojtjen e të drejtës së çdo individi të brezave të sotëm e të ardhshëm, për të jetuar në një mjedis të përshatshëm për shëndetin dhe mirëqenjen e tij, çdo Palë (nënshkruese ose ratifikuese e konventës) do të garantojë të drejtën e publikut, për të patur informacion për mjedisin, për të marrë pjesë në marrjen e vendimeve mjedisore dhe për t'u drejtuar gjykatës, në lidhje me çështje të mjedisit, në përputhje me klauzolat e kësaj Konvente.

Ndër Konventat mjedisore, me të drejtë, Konventa e Aarhusit është vlerësuar më e rëndësishmja, si Konventa e demokracisë në fushën e mjedisit. Ajo përfaqëson një dokument madhorë ndërkombëtarë me karakter të theksuar politik, sepse kërkon të realizohen në praktikë liri dhe të drejta bazë të njeriut në fushën e mjedisit.

Kjo Konventë është e rëndësishme sepse vendos një sere standardesh të njëjta për përshirjen e qytetarëve në procesin e vendimmarrjes për mjedisin dhe thekson rëndësin e përshirjes së një vizioni mjedisor në vendimet e pushtetit. Ajo pranon që çdo person ka të drejtën për të jetuar në një mjedis të përshatshëm për shëndetin dhe mirëqenjen e tij apo të saj.

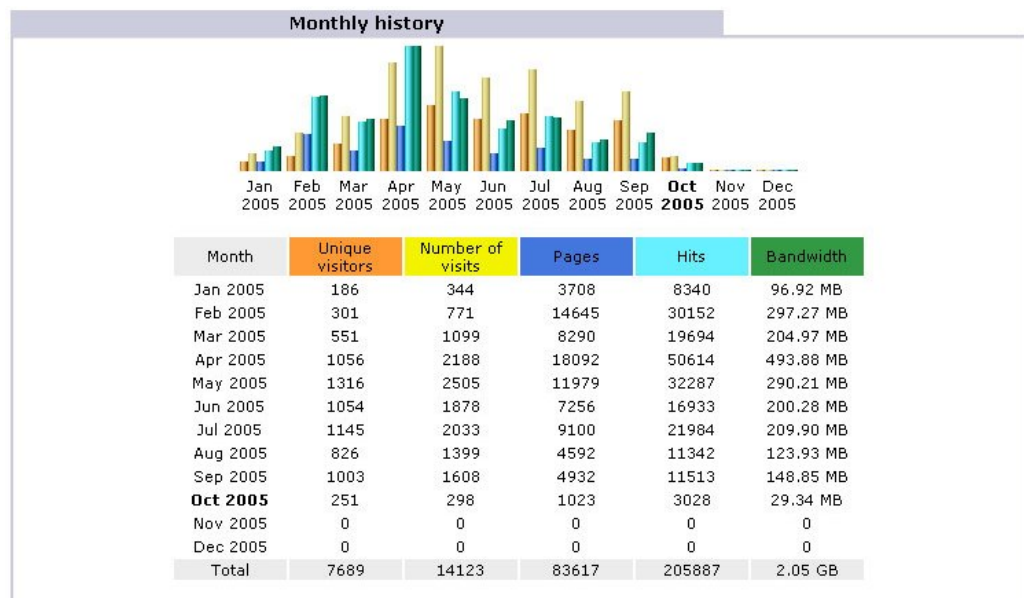
Qëllimi i Konventës së Aarhusit lidhet me thelbin e bashkëpunimit në mes të njerezve-popullatës dhe qeverive. Konventa nuk është vetëm një marrveshje mjedisore, gjithashtu është një Konventë për përgjegjësin, transparencën dhe gatëshmërinë e qeverive mbi këto çështje.

Si dokument juridik ndërkombëtar, Konventa përfaqëson një tërësi të drejtash, detyrimesh, rregullash e procedurash të detyrueshme për zbatim për shtetet që e nënshkruajnë dhe e ratifikojnë. Kërkesat e Konventës, të drejtat dhe detyrimet që ajo përmban, janë orientuar në momente kyç të marrëdhënieve mjedisore dhe grupohen në tri drejtime themelore të tyre që jo

Poster nga fushata e sensibilizimit të popullatës së Kosovës për Konventën e Aarhusit

Figure 2 <http://www.sharri.net/aarhus/>

In April 2005, Sharri.Net web-page was presented and highly recommended by main national broadcaster of Kosovo RTK, in weekly program multimedia. After this event number of visitors was progressively raised up, as you can see in graphs bellow.



Sharri.Net in 2004 designed web portals for NGOs, initially for the seven NGO members of Board of Directors than for the interested NGO members of Sharri.Net. Sharri.Net webpage is great opportunity for Environmental NGOs to publicize their successful projects or campaigns and to present them self to world wide (<http://sharri.net/?fid=40&&Language=Shqip&Lang=1>).

4.2. Sharri.Net bulletin “Eko-Logjika”

The aim of Eko-Logjika is to present the work of Environmental NGOs in Kosovo. Eko-Logjika contains information gathered from NGOs, information about projects or campaigns, information gathered from the daily newspapers and others. Last issues of Eko-Logjika (issue 7 & 8) were financed as was planned by project REReP 2.3 – 2004 (project in Kosovo).

Till now Eko-Logjika was printed only in Albanian language, but Sharri.Net is looking forward to find funds and to publish it in Serbian language. This will help Serbian NGOs to present their work through Eko-Logjika and webpage.

4.3. Mailing- List & Electronic Newsletter

The aim of mailing-list is to facilitate organizations and interested individuals for exchanging information about environment, grants, projects, funds, etc, and through this to benefit from the others experience.

Member of mailing-list are all the organizations that signed Memorandum of Understanding with Sharri.Net and all the individuals that express their will to be in mailing-list. Day after day members of mailing-list are increasing.

Sharri.Net has its section in Electronic Newsletter “Mjedisi Javor” managed by REC FO-Kosovo/a and every 2nd week presents information on environment and updates recipient list. All mailing-list members are receiving biweekly Electronic Newsletter “Mjedisi Javor”. All issues of “Mjedisi Javor” are available in Sharri.Net webpage (<http://sharri.net/?fid=90&subfid=92&Language=Shqip&Lang=1>).

4.4. Conference of Kosovar Environmental Organizations

Sharri.Net in cooperation with Ecologic Association-99, from town of Prizren, on June 2005 organized Kosovo wide Environmental NGO Conference. One day conference was attended by 45 representatives of NGOs, media and GO’.

Objectives of Conference were:

1. to present Sharri.Net and Sharri.Net services to the others, promoting Sharri.Net Business Plan;

2. to made open call for organizations to join the electronic network;
3. to offer opportunity to NGOs for presenting them self and their work;
4. to see MESP strategy toward environmental NGOs, etc.

Media representatives as well were present in the conference and after that; they published some articles for the conference in daily newspapers.



Generally speaking, Conference it self achieved more that was planet, due to this we are considering as successful one.

4.5. Board of Directors Meetings

Every month Board of Directors of Sharri.Net was gathered to evaluate the progress of sharri.net activities and to suggest new ideas and fields of engagement.

Beside regular monthly meetings, every time that Board we was meeting with the Board, we have had workshops on different topics, which workshops lead to new projects.



4.6. Meeting with Minister

After official request made by Sharri.Net, for meeting with the Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning (www.mmph.org),

Minister Mr. Bajram KOSUMI (now Prime Minister of Kosovo) agree to meet with as on February 18, 2005. In this fruitful meeting we agreed to cooperate more closely for sake of environment... After this meeting MESP involved Sharri.Net in lot of decision



making processes and considered us as partners in field of environment.

4.7. Participation in trainings/ workshops and seminars

During 2004-2005, member organizations of electronic network participated in different seminars, workshops and trainings inside and outside Kosovo/a, this was great help for local NGOs cause they gain more knowledge how to manage with different environmental issues.

Sharri.Net developed new policy towards all the member organizations who gain to participate in seminars/ workshops or trainings through the electronic network, so those participants should give voluntary work to the electronic network.

7. IDENTITY OF SHARRI.NET

1. Identity

Full legal name:	The Electronic Network of Kosovar Environmental NGOs
Acronym:	Sharri.Net
Legal status:	Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)
Registration number:	5102063-4 (UNMIK NGO Liaison Office)
Official address:	Kodra e Diellit Rr. III Lamela 26, FP 160 Prishtinë, Kosovë
Postal address:	Kodra e Diellit Rr. III Lamela 26, FP 160 Prishtinë, Kosovë
Contact person:	Butrint BATALLI , Coordinator
Telephone number:	+377 44 118 317
Fax number:	+381 38 552 123
E-mail:	info@sharri.net or
Internet site:	www.sharri.net

2. Bank details

Account name	Sharri.Net
Account number	1501001002448954
SWIFT code	RZBAATWW Acc. Number in EURO: 55.055.404EUR
IBAN code (optional)	
Bank name	Raiffeisen Bank of Kosovo
Address of bank	Prishtina, Kosovo
Name of signatory/ies	Butrint Batalli; Burim LECI; Ramadan S. Uka
Position of signatory/ies	Coordinator; (Members of Board of Directors)

8. CONCLUSIONS

Mission of Sharri.Net is to create an independent system of information exchange among civil society that will serve as a platform for exchange of knowledge, experience and resources that would consequently lead to an efficient environmental protection.

Since its establishment, Sharri.Net as Electronic Network made significant progress in achieving this mission. We achieved: to establish functional organized structure, to improve and to consolidate our services, to be a reliable source of information, to support environmental NGOs, to create and maintain relationship with decision makers, and much more. We are aware that we didn't accomplish yet our mission and every day we should care for environmental degradation.

Beside this, Sharri.Net wants to help/assist other Kosovar NGOs, not only environmental ones, to exchange information and present their activities (campaigns) in sharri.net web-page. Aside with this we want to cooperate (sharing news, ideas, experiences, etc) and implement projects with other NGOs from the region.

Sharri.Net is in process of self construction and if we will not have financial support for coming years 2005-2006, it will pose a real risk that all the efforts and all the Sharri.Net structures made so far will vanish.

Kosovar institutions aren't ready and they do not have funds to support such kind of network as Sharri.Net. International organizations (donors) that are at present in Kosovo every day are giving less financial support to NGOs.

REReP 2.3 project and REC FO Kosovo contributed in establishing and strengthening the Electronic Network - Sharri.Net, but, because Sharri.Net didn't succeed yet to sell its own services, still the main problem for Sharri.Net is finding new funds for its environmental projects.

ANNEXES

I. Working Plan and Budget for 2004

II. Financial Report July 2004 – June 2005

IV. Mission Driven Business Plan of Sharri.Net