



Overview of activities in Serbia and Montenegro between 2001-2003

All of bullets listed below are established during the implementation of the project REReP 2.3 "Promotion of networking and cooperation of environmental NGOs : establishment of electronic computer network at national and regional level" in Serbia and Montenegro and all of them were missing in 2001 when project started after the survey of internet capacities were conducted

Training in using computer networks

According to conclusions of the Research on Internet capacities of environmental NGOs in Serbia and Montenegro, most of local NGOs need additional training in using computer networks. This was the reason to organize basic computer training courses. Three computer training sessions for beginners were organized and altogether 56 members, representatives of environmental NGOs, participated in the courses. Advanced step of training for the computers, for publishing on the web was organized in the framework of this project from 6-10. November 2002. The training was organized in the form of the web workshop and 20 members from environmental NGO organization were participated.

Steering Committee

In order to increase transparency and quality of the project the NGO Steering Committee was founded. It follows and directs project activities. Representatives of Environmental NGOs' country wide participate in Steering Committee work, some of them are elected on the National meeting in December 2002: Fifi, Guca, Vrelo, KEC, Young researchers of Serbia, DEF SCG, Young researchers of Bor, Lynx. Serbia and Montenegro representative in the Committee is Ms. Jelena Beronja

Volvox-electronic distribution list

Volvox-electronic distribution list was founded in December 2002 after the National meeting and statistics shows great increase of subscribers since December 2002 (30 subscribers) until now days- September 183 non-digested subscribers and 2 digested subscriber. Until September 2003, 746 messages were sent on the list and became a powerful tool for information exchange among environmental NGOs .

Environmental Resource Center (ERC)

Volvox- Electronic Network now is using portal of Environmental Resource Center (ERC) (www.erc.org.yu) encompassing following sections: news, events, institutions, experts, NGOs database, public media and independent journalist database, environment related project, data on environment quality, forms and



discussion groups, questionnaires and electronic catalogue of sorted publications. Volvox- Electronic Network of Environmental NGOs from Serbia and Montenegro uses the major part of News, Events, Questionnaires and Forums on daily basis, as well as electronic distribution list by the name Volvox, as a powerful tool of information exchange.

First National meeting

The first National meeting took place on the December 7th 2002, in the Hotel M-Best Western in Belgrade, gathering representatives from 60 environmental NGOs from the region. Participants were introduced with experience of other E.I. NGO Networks from the neighboring countries (Bulgaria-BlueLink and Romania-Strawberry Net) and at the same time they had an opportunity to influence on further realization of the project working in three working groups: Regional Cooperation, Network Capacity Building, Program of NGO Network

Volvox' administrators and content managers

Branislava Vasiljevic (member of NGO DEFYU) and Nikola Bozic (member of NGO Young Researches of Serbia) are elected to be administrators and content managers in Volvox Network during the National meeting in December.

Local coordinators

During the February 2003 Volvox Steering Committee published open competition for distribution of computer equipment according to the agreed terms established on the National Meeting Decembar 2002 as a result of the working group Network Capacity building. Five computer stations were distributed in March 2003. Result of that are LOCAL COORDINATORS country wide- which resulted in establishment of network of local coordinators and news contribution from different parts of the country (Novi Sad, Bor, Guca, Krusevac, Zabljak/Canyon Tara). Volvox Network will distribute 10 more computers in November 2003 according to the list of the NGO that was created at the same time when first 5 computers were distributed and by the same selection criteria that were established during the National meeting. This will significantly increase the number of local coordinators and coverage of all parts of Serbia and Montenegro with contribution of the NGO environmental news.

Monthly awards – distribution of internet hours (free of charge)

Every month administrators of the Volvox-Network are awarding the NGOs that are most active in publishing the news, participating in questionnaires and having the larger number of usage of ERC web portal. Each awarded NGO are receiving 10 free internet hours as a gift and stimulation for further active participation in Network activities



Codex of Volvox

When Volvox-Electronic distribution list started with activities lots of problems were encountered (large attachments, messages without subject, advertising messages etc.), creation of Volvox Codex was inevitable. This codex made by Nikola Bozic (administrator and content manager of Volvox Network) is trying to solve the problems, give answers and regulate Network activities.

Media Contacts

Since Volvox-Network is recently established electronic Network, media contacts are not developed enough until now (only local TV and radio stations were taking over some of NGO news) because Volvox Network didn't have all necessary tools for communication. By the end of this year when e-newsletter and web-page as well as previously created tools of communication will be established and tested, Network is planning to represent all those to the Media through National meeting and Press conference/Press Realize

Regional Cooperation

Exchange of the relevant environmental information (relevant meaning interesting, new for the both countries) is set up with the EkoNet-Macedonian Environmental Information Network www.eko.net.mk , with the Croatian! Alert-information service for environmental protection www.alert.zeleni.hr and with EkoForum-Regional environmental Press Center for SEE, Resource point from Serbia and Montenegro www.ekoforum.org.yu

Since this is relatively new established Electronic Network in Region and dealing with start-up problems, Network is expecting in the following project period to be more active in dissemination of the environmental news from this part of the Region and to cooperate on more active way with the neighboring Networks!