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Not only news

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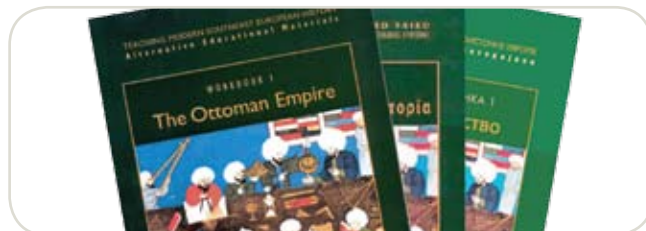
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**Employed
Empowered**

Employed, Empowered: "voices from the helpdesks"

Take a look at page 5 for the latest on this innovative and challenging project.



JHP book launches, press conferences and Training of Trainers

More on page 11.



Dutch students at CDRSEE

The CDRSEE was delighted to host the Dutch UN Students' Association of Utrecht in July. The CDRSEE and the Association are currently discussing opportunities for cooperating on an exciting active youth citizenship project

Employed, Empowered: working towards the reintegration of refugees and IDPs into a participative and fulfilling civil society by focusing on the human potential, rather than the liabilities

Successful first Roundtable in Belgrade

“Identifying the Employment gap: vulnerable groups in the labour market”



L-R: Dr Goran Opacic, Professor Slobodan Cvejic and Corinna Noack-Aetopoulos in the opening session.

Characterised by high levels of energy, commitment and participation (49 participants), the first roundtable of ‘Employed, Empowered’ kicked off the strategic planning strand of the project in Belgrade on September 14-15.

The two research directors of the project, Prof. Mihail Arandarenko and Dr Goran Opacic presented the findings of their surveys.

Attended by a wide range of stakeholders and experts, including help desk officers and project managers from the partner organisations, international NGOs, national NGOs, government representatives including the Deputy Commissioner for Refugees, Nikola Vukojevic and the State Secretary in the Ministry for Economy and Regional Development, Vladimir Ilic as well as the representative of the EU Delegation to Serbia, Jelica Stojanovic, the event laid a solid and creative groundwork for the rest of the project to build on.

Main observations drawn from the roundtable:

- refugees and IDPs tend to rely on personal contacts and the informal economy for survival
- the target group (refugees and IDPs) is very active
- support activities by the state are available, but information does not reach out to the most marginalised
- refugees and IDPs can not be regarded or treated as a homogenous disadvantaged group. Thorough segmentation and targeted measures are required for effective assistance.
- the most pressing issues are housing and employment opportunities
- property rights are far from being sorted out, which leads to a lack of capital available to the target group
- most refugees want to integrate, but emigration to third countries is viewed as especially attractive among target group respondents in South Serbia



Working group 1 in session

Main observations of the 3 working groups:

- a clear change in attitude towards a culture of performance would be needed to improve employability among the target groups
- a better knowledge of modern skills is essential
- positive discrimination for refugees and IDPs was discussed as a possible support mechanism
- education needs to be better matched to labour market requirements.



L-R: CDRSEE Development Officer, Ruth Sutton, Danijela Korac-Mandic, Project Director at the Novi Sad Humanitarian Center (project partner) and CDRSEE Director of Programmes, Corinna Noack-Aetopulos at the Roundtable event.

The results of the Labour Market Survey and the Target Group Survey

The results of these two surveys were combined into a gap analysis, which formed the basis of discussion at the first Employed Empowered roundtable of experts and will be widely disseminated along with the model solutions at the end of the 3rd roundtable. For details about dates for the upcoming 2 roundtables, please see the calendar on page 11.

Employed, Empowered is a cooperation of:



For any information about Employed, Empowered, please contact [Director of Programmes Corinna Noack-Aetopulos](mailto:corinna@cdsee.org) at corinna@cdsee.org.



This project is funded by the European Union.

The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the CDRSEE and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

This project is part funded by the Balkan Trust for Democracy.

CDRSEE and Corporate Social Responsibility

Working with its core donors and the leaders in the field through the Greek CSR Association, the CDRSEE has been designing and implementing a strategy of cooperation with companies wishing to enhance their social responsibility profile.

In addition to acting as a regional consultant on issues of philanthropy and social responsibility, the CDRSEE presented its portfolio of corporate opportunities to the Greek CSR Association at its annual conference.

“Civil society and business share common goals, democratic institutions, and economic progress through investment”.

With corporations in the region increasingly aware and able to meet their responsibilities, and the CDRSEE’s track record of good relations with the private sector, this looks to be a fruitful avenue of collaboration for all parties.



Cover of the CDRSEE's presentation

- Good Governance
- + The rule of law
- + Citizen engagement and active civil society institutions.
- = Healthy Society expanding demand for business as human needs are met and aspirations grow.

Employed, Empowered: Voices from the helpdesks

In its first 6 months of operation, the Help Desk strand of 'Employed, Empowered' has registered approximately 5,000 cases of assistance and employs 23 staff, many of whom are refugees or IDPs themselves.

The 10 help desks have so far offered support and services in a variety of fields, including:

- advice and advocacy on housing,
- legal counselling,
- assisting with access to rights and services
- assistance with employment and training
- settling and housing especially vulnerable persons

In addition, the help desk staff have been continually involved in enhancing cooperation between themselves and other relevant organisations as well as liaising and undertaking advocacy work on behalf of the target group with local municipal authorities on issues

and the hardest to resolve. What they need are more credit programs, more help with building material, and more business opportunities”.

Miodrag Milosevic, Helpdesk staff member in Nis



Staff of the Novi Sad Humanitarian Centre working at the helpdesk.

‘Our services are mostly legal services. We help our beneficiaries in filling in the forms, we provide them with legal counselling, inform them about their rights and about their opportunities”.

Jovica Buncic, Helpdesk staff member from Belgrade

‘I think that our office is well accepted among local media and among local institutions. Local media on regular basis inform public about work of our information office and help desk office, and local institutions work together with us on solving the problems of refugees and IDP’s”.

Nebojsa Jonlija, Helpdesk staff member in Valjevo

The helpdesks are facilitated and staffed in the field by the Novi Sad Humanitarian Center, the local partner of the CDRSEE for Employed, Empowered.



Help desk staff assisting with an enquiry

‘The most frequent questions are related to obtaining the Work Booklets from Croatia and Kosovo and for registering the children who were born during the existence of Republic Srpska Krajina, and we do everything that we can to help them with assistance from organisations from Croatia and Kosovo”.

Dana Teofilovic, Helpdesk officer from Kragujevac

“The two biggest problems of our beneficiaries are accommodation and employment. The other problems can be resolved, but these two are the most urgent

Joint History Project Research



supporting sustainable peace

The teacher training phases of each country's Joint History Project may mark the official end of a budget or report, but these events are just the beginning of the Joint History Project's implementation.

The real work of the JHP will take place in the classrooms of the region, as teachers and pupils engage with the subject matter and methodology in a critical and reflective manner.

In order to fully assess, improve and monitor the effect and potential of the JHP, the CDRSEE is undertaking a piece of research work that will endeavour to follow the books in use, evaluate their effectiveness and gain opinions from the teachers and students. In doing so, this will the project will continue to keep the needs, fears, constraints and the points of view of the teachers at the forefront and will allow for greater depth of understanding about what is important to the teachers, and not just what we assume might be important.

As an integral part of the JHP's on-going inclusive process and continuous striving to develop the work, this research will build on the teachers' evaluations and feedback to date and will aim to be part of a positive feedback loop that involves the teachers in the process as the vital part of the project.

The current phases of the JHP are made possible through the kind financial assistance of the following organisations:

- Albanian language edition    Private Austrian donors
- Croatian language edition 
- Bosnian language edition  
- Serbian language edition  
- Turkish language edition for Cyprus 
- Macedonian language edition 

The Southeast European Joint History Project. An EU-funded project managed by the European Agency for Reconstruction. The European Agency for Reconstruction is responsible for the management of the main EU assistance programmes in the Republic of Serbia (including UN-administered Kosovo), the Republic of Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.



For any further information about the JHP research, please contact **Development Officer Ruth Sutton** at ruth@cdsee.org.

For information about the JHP project management, please contact **Project Coordinators George Georgoudis** at george@cdsee.org or **Biljana Meskovska** at biljana@cdsee.org

Joint History Project's new Website

The CDRSEE is delighted to present the launch of its new Joint History Project website at www.cdsee.org/jhp.

With an entirely new look and more convenient navigation, the site not only contains the entire set of 4 Workbooks to download in 3 languages (English, Greek and Serbian) but the corresponding buttons, pages and evaluation forms are also in the relevant languages.

New pages, buttons, evaluation forms and downloads in each of the respective languages of the region will be available, as and when the Workbooks of each are published.



As always, we welcome any comments, suggestions or enquiries and should you have any, please do not hesitate to contact **Ruth Sutton** at ruth@cdsee.org



supporting sustainable peace

The Board of Directors

The CDRSEE is honoured by the commitment of the small group of dedicated individuals from across Southeast Europe, the EU and the US who provide the organisation with ongoing support, guidance and the benefit of their collective experience through their service on the Board of Directors.

Diverse in terms of background, discipline, knowledge, gender and age, this group is cohesive in its approach to the principles of democracy and civil society.



The Chair of the Board of Directors, 2002-2006:
Ambassador Richard Schifter

With thanks to Board Rapporteur Costa Carras for the following piece.

No-one has combined the best of the United States and the best of Southeastern Europe so well as our recently retired Chair, Richard Schifter. Born to Jewish parents and brought up in Vienna he alone of his family was able to escape and make his way to the US in 1938, returning to Berlin in 1945 as an American serviceman.

He lived the epic days of US inspired reconstruction in Europe, became a lawyer and distinguished himself in the State Department under the Reagan, George Bush Senior and Clinton Administrations in particular spearheading the American effort in the field of human rights.

The Southeastern European Cooperative Initiative which brought together all the countries of the region was his brainchild and represented a major contribution to the part of Europe where he was born both in its concept, that of collaboration between the countries of the region in the economic and social field (rather than an exclusive relationship of each with Brussels) and in its implementation, including the Business Advisory Council.

After retiring from the State Department in January 2001 Richard Schifter became Chair of the CDRSEE Board of Directors later that same year, to which he made an indelible contribution until he retired in December 2006.



The Chair of the Board of Directors, as of November 2006: **Dr Erhard Busek**

With thanks to Vice Chair Nikos Efthymiadis for the following piece.

An outstanding example of combining vision and leadership at a policy level, while understanding the real needs of citizens, Dr Erhard Busek is widely known as a tireless advocate of the human potential for cooperation and cross-cultural dialogue. Specifically focused on issues of integration across the wider Europe, Dr Busek is a thoughtful and effective statesman as well as a sensitive and open minded academic.

Following a very successful career in Austrian politics and Academia, he has devoted most of his recent efforts to the need for progress and economic development of the new democracies in the Balkan and Danube Region.

Appointed Vice – Chancellor of Austria from 1991 to 1995, Dr Busek has also held the post of Special Representative of the Austrian Government for the Enlargement of the European Union and is currently the Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for Southeast Europe.

He joined the CDRSEE's Board of Directors in 2003 and has worked consistently and efficiently for the interests of the organisation in addition to his numerous other commitments. His appointment to the Chair in November 2006 was unanimous.

Dr Busek has proved to be one of the most important and competent facilitators in bringing together the economic and social interests of South Eastern European countries with those of the EU. Political achievements notwithstanding, it is meeting him in person that reveals what is truly remarkable about Dr Busek and the reason why the CDRSEE is honoured to work with him: regardless of the content of any discussion or dialogue, the impression of Dr Busek one gains and takes away is of a sensitive yet practical individual who is genuinely interested in the person he is listening to-not because that person is a president, but because that person is a human being.

In November 2006, the 21 person Board of Directors took the decision to streamline itself in order to increase its capacity to respond to issues swiftly, but without losing its democratic nature. In May 2007, the Board took on a new form, with a serving membership of 14 and an Advisory Council of 8 as a standing resource to be drawn on for particular matters or support. For the full CV's of all Board Members, please go to the website at www.cdsee.org/aboutus_board.html.

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Neslihan Tombul – Managing Director and Senior Representative of The Bank of New York	Istanbul
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The Staff of the CDRSEE

The CDRSEE is delighted to welcome 2 new staff members, both of whom joined the team here in Thessaloniki in June 2007.

Biljana Meskovska is the new Project Coordinator for specific country phases of the JHP, who has just completed a post with the ‘Realizing the Dream Foundation’ in Washington DC and Antonis Hadjiyannakis is the Projects Assistant, currently also working for the Stability Pact and is a former CDRSEE intern.

For complete biographies of each staff member, please go to www.cdsee.org/aboutus_staff.html

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Project Coordinator: **Biljana Meskovska**
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Projects Assistant: **Antonis Hadjiyannakis**
antonis@cdsee.org

CDRSEE Staff Participation in Events

Staff member attends Olympia Seminar, July 2007

Organised through a collaboration between the Kokkalis Foundation, The Municipality of Olympia and a number of prestigious academic institutions (Yale and Duke Universities from the US, Makedonia and Patras Universities from Greece and the Inter-scientific and Intercultural Center) the seminar offered an in-depth, and up to date overview of new theoretical and empirical research on a range of topics relevant to the CDRSEE's work.

Among others, it explored the dynamics between war, conflict, and identity, including interstate and civil war, terrorism, riots and genocide. CDRSEE project coordinator George Georgoudis participated in the seminar along with professionals and post graduate students ranging from countries as diverse as China, USA as well as Southeast Europe.

Fifty-six post-graduate students, researchers, and media professionals from as many as twenty countries participated and the ideals of peace and cooperation provided the ideal backdrop for the seminars, which aim to promote effective intercultural dialogue and critical thinking on crucial political issues of our times and to reiterate Olympia's role as an international centre for intellectual inquiry.

CDRSEE's presence at international events

International recognition of the CDRSEE's creative, yet practical approaches to the challenges of conflict and sustainability was once again forthcoming throughout the summer. Most notably, the CDRSEE was invited to participate in three events, all of which involved intergovernmental and civil society collaboration including both academic and pragmatic looks at the issues of peace, justice, shared values and shared challenges.

Nuremburg: Building a future on peace and justice June 25th-27th

In 2 day forum held in Nuremburg, under the title 'Building a future on Peace and Justice' a gathering convened jointly by the Government of Germany, Republic of Finland, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Crisis Management Initiative and the international Center for Transitional Justice, took place- consisting of a number of workshops and plenaries, each hosted by a different convener organisation.

Among others, speakers included the German Foreign Minister (Frank-Walter Steinmeier) and the Minister of Justice of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (Sharif Al-Zu'bi) as well as a number of former Special UN representatives, advisors and institution heads in the areas of conflict prevention, human rights and justice. The CDRSEE was part of a large contingent of civil society organisations and contributed to the workshops and plenaries, in particular, the sessions on 'Alternative approaches to dealing with the past' through its experience of the Joint History Project, 'Disclosing hidden history: Lustration in the Western Balkans' and 'Our Town, Our Future'.

Marshall Memorial Fellowship June 28th-July 1st

As a valued partner of the Balkan Trust for Democracy, the work of the CDRSEE is well known to the German Marshall Fund for the United States. With a 25 year celebration of the Marshall Memorial Fellowship, the 2007 Forum on Transatlantic Affairs held in Schloss Elmau (Germany) in June, drew a wide range of participants and speakers, among whom were the CDRSEE.

Attended by experts from a mixture of disciplines, including politicians, journalists, municipal administrators, businesses and CSOs, the forum covered a range of issues under the umbrella theme of 'Common values and shared challenges' in US and European Politics within a globalised world. The CDRSEE was invited to not only participate, but also to present and discuss on a panel entitled 'A model society-Similarities and differences between American and European values'.

Calendar of Events



AUTUMN 2007

October 12th 2007: Zagreb

JHP book launch (Croatian language edition) and press conference.

October 19th-20th 2007: Belgrade **Employed, Empowered**

Roundtable 2: "Identifying niches to build up sustainable livelihoods"

October 29th 2007: Sarajevo

JHP book launch (Bosnian language edition) and press conference

October 30th 2007: Zagreb

Roundtable discussion on the Croatian language edition of the JHP books.

November 23rd-24th 2007: Belgrade **Employed, Empowered**

Roundtable 3: "Tactics of penetrating the market niche and supportive training programmes"

November 28th 2007: Skopje

JHP book launch (Macedonian language edition) and press conference

December 1st-2nd 2007: Tirana

Training of Trainers' conference with the Albanian language JHP books

December 1st-2nd 2007: Tirana

History Education Committee Meeting

December 3rd 2007: Tirana

JHP book launch (Albanian language edition) and press conference

December 6th 2007: Thessaloniki

Meeting of the Board of Directors

European Forum, Alpbach **August 16th-September 1st**

With the broad theme of 'Emergence' as this year's focus, the European Forum, Alpbach took place between August 16th-September 1st, at which the CDRSEE delivered a speech within the session on 'Europe as a mediator in the dialogue of civilisations'. Director Nenad Sebek highlighted the capacity of the Joint History Project as a vehicle for mediation and reconciliation between cultures, through posing numerous questions to the participants about the current 'clash of civilisations' and Europe's potential roles and responsibilities. In addition, the US Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr Zalmay Khalilzad was presented with a set of the JHP books.



Nenad Sebek presenting the US Ambassador to the UN, Mr Zalmay Khalilzad, with a set of the JHP books at the Alpbach Forum

CDRSEE: Mission statement and sponsors

The CDRSEE supports regionally owned civil society initiatives in Southeast Europe as part of a long term process of reconciliation.

Promoting the principles of social responsibility and leadership from within, the CDRSEE works with partners across the region to facilitate the emergence of mechanisms that can change patterns of hostility into cooperation.

We are committed to the ideals of inclusivity, participation, diversity and respect for common values as we strive towards the goal of sustainable peace; recognising that the peoples of the region have the courage, skills and wisdom to determine their own futures, but perhaps lack the opportunities to do so.

We are motivated by the belief that our contribution is part of a synergy-that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts-and that a society based on a shared set of civic values for the region is not out of our collective reach.

The CDRSEE would like to thank its core sponsors for their continued support:

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