Editor's Choice

Goran KOVACEV

IPARD in Macedonia, a chance for farmers and private consultants

Barbara MAJSA
Human Rights from Youth to Youth
Strategic management and adjustment of CSOs to changes in context

Strategic management is a concept of “management with vision” that considers the organisation as a whole connected with its environment and is focused on the organisation’s long-term future. Consequently, one of the roles of the strategic management in the organisational life cycle is to prepare the organisation to adjust to the changes in the context in which it operates. If the organisation is more prone to strategic thinking and if it practices strategic management more consistently, it can expect that it will be better prepared to face the contextual changes and to adjust more easily. Such organisations constantly monitor, timely become aware of the threats from the environment and permanently look for strategic opportunities that they could use. For a long period, CSOs in Macedonia are faced with unfavorable context from many aspects, but especially with changes in the funding opportunities and unfavorable legal and tax frame. In spite of that, it is evident that adjustment of CSOs is very difficult and is progressing rather slowly. Indicator for this is the number of organisations that have “survived”. This number changed from 11.350 organisations registered in the period from 1998 to 2011) to 3.732 in March 2012. The significant decrease in the number of active CSOs is a result of the fact that majority of the CSOs didn’t succeeded in mobilizing enough resources to sustain their activities. In a situation of withdrawal of the bilateral foreign donors that used to finance the CSOs, they didn’t find solution for one of the key strategic issues – search for alternative fundraising models. CSOs haven’t succeeded in convincing the local community, citizens and the businesses to support them. They haven’t developed their skills enough to be able to prepare successful project applications for other donors (ex. EU funds). They haven’t networked and created partnerships enough in order to be successful in mobilizing resources. The data from the assessment of organisational capacities of 20 CSOs, which was performed in 2012 in the frame of the project Technical Assistance for CSOs – TACSO, provide evidence for these difficulties. The assessment of the fundraising practices show that CSOs have only partly developed plans for the funds they need in a longer term, most of the fundraising is done on ad-hoc base, their fundraising capacities are limited and funds are provided from only small number of sources of same kind, usually donors, and often only from a single donor. In addition to the need to adjust their fundraising approach, CSOs are faced with strategic challenges in regard to adjusting their programme focus. While during the transition period and post-conflict crisis the key CSOs’ role was to deal with the consequences from that and they focused mainly on vulnerable groups, social issues, reconciliation and peace-building, in the period that followed CSOs were expected to receive bigger role in the democratization of the society, which should have meant more influence on the public policy, overseeing the government performance, advocating for principles of good governance etc. These CSOs’ roles should be even more emphasized in EU integration process when it is expected CSOs to be more involved in the working groups and bodies with responsibilities regarding the EU integration, programming of EU funds and supporting the negotiations. However, preparedness of CSOs to play significant role in these processes is questionable. This was confirmed with the above mentioned assessment. Although the analyzed CSOs are those that the general public considers them part of the “elite”, the assessment of their capacity for advocacy and lobbying showed that only part of the people involved in the organisation have some knowledge in this area, it is not up-graded further and is only partially applied. Additionally, assessment of their analytical capacities showed that they have insufficiently developed skills for writing policy papers and briefs. Actually, this is crucial for their role as advocates of the citizens’ interests and “watchdog” role that hold the government and other stakeholders accountable. Thus, one of their primary task for the future should be to strengthen the research and analytical skills, however also to involve and cooperate more closely with the academic community. In conclusion, CSOs could address the two key strategic challenges (fundraising and effectiveness in addressing the societal problems) with design of adequate strategies in order to cope with the changes in the context, to look for more alternatives, to undertake risks and to experiment more. They should accept that it is not sustainable for them to stick to the “business as usual” approach and that it is necessary to get used to their own change and to permanent questioning of their approaches in more aspects of their functioning, including their missions.

References

2 “In line with the Law on associations and foundations from 2010 all associations were obliged to re-register”
The mission of the volunteers of Humana human rights journal (Humana Magazin) is to educate and activate young people with regard to human rights and social issues as well as spread knowledge of other civil organizations and projects. Even though everything has started with a simple idea of a free magazine available to everyone, the association today, which has emerged from the magazine, has a radio programme and a film club, arranges complex trainings and occasionally organizes smaller and bigger events. Humana Magazin, Hungary’s one and only magazine devoted to human rights so far, has been written and edited by a small group of enthusiastic youth for three years now. The creator-founder Anna Kertész had worked for several national and international non-governmental organizations before but she wasn’t pleased with the method practised by them. She wanted to approach the topics of human rights and social issues from another point of view and tell stories of individuals in a completely different way. Therefore, she founded Humana in 2009. The twelve-month-long project was launched as a Youth in Action 1.2 programme on December 10 that year with the support of the European Commission. During that time twelve issues of two thousand copies per each were published, which focused on economic rights, traditions, wars, refugees, liveable environment and the rights of generations among others. Despite of the seriousness of these subjects, the editors did – and still – not intend to insist on writing in a rigidly academic style but creating a balance between profoundness and lightness so that both professionals and non-expert, average readers were able to read meaningful essays and lighter texts. The highly motivated group continued working after the project had ended, which basically meant the end of the financial support and the offline issues as well, nonetheless, the members never thought of giving up; they searched for other possibilities and began to concentrate more on the online magazine. The structure detailed above still prevails but in addition to that, Humana has broadened its activity field by shooting videos, writing in English and providing translations of some inspiring articles. Furthermore, having applied to the new marketing trends – with the use of social media sites – Humana is trying to build a more interactive relationship with its readership and introduce itself for other users who might have interests in human rights and/or social issues. However, this effort is being under attack as Facebook, for instance, has started prioritized paid contents, which makes it difficult for NGOs to transmit their messages to their potential audiences. It’s worthwhile mentioning that Humana does not accept any support from political parties or religious organizations in order to reserve its freedom and independence. The entire association is based on democratic values so no one is being forced to act, rather everyone has the right to decide when and how much he or she wants to contribute. Luckily, the people – authors, editors and other volunteers – on board share the passion to “objectively reveal the contradictions of the already established stereotypes, the complexities of the issues concerning human rights”. Without this strong and committed collaboration among organizational members the currently ongoing Youth in Action 1.2 project called Transhumana would have never happened. Transhumana is a sixteen-month-long exchange programme between Hungary and Transylvania, which combines theoretical and practical aspects prolifically. Young people interested in media, human rights and civil sphere are participating in it by which they are able to gain relevant experience and knowledge before they step into the labour market. Every three months a training meeting is held and an issue is published with two thousand copies printed; the project ends with a conference in 2014. Besides its own large-scale programmes, Humana attends festivals such as Sziget, VOLT, Ördögkatlan and appears in the media such as Petőfi Rádió, Klubrádió and Tilos Rádió regularly. Humana also holds charity events to help other civil organizations or initiations in more need such as Igazgyöngy Foundation and Ambédkar School in Sajókaza. Humana and its activities have been already awarded for several times in Hungary. The radio show called Kontúr received the Szegő Tamás medallion; the National Society of Students and Youth Journalists (DUE) chose one of the published Humana Magazin’s covers the best cover of the year in 2010. The Foundation for Democratic Youth (DIA) named Humana the best voluntary project of the year in 2012. Anna Kertész gave a lecture on TEDxYouth@Budapest 2012 – What we need to succeed? with the title of Words Responsibly Undertaken referring to responsibility that journalists bear. The vision of Humana can’t be other than trying to establish stable and flourishing relationships with foreign organizations to “educate tolerance and the acceptance of diversity” among people regardless of their origin, ethnicity, age, gender etc.
I am not a teacher, but an awakener, as Robert Frost said, is the driving force of every good teacher there is. Education is the stepping stone towards a bright future, successful people and a shining nation. Going outside of the box and reflecting on some sort of informal education such as the one acquired in the surroundings of multiculturalism while practicing a foreign language and simultaneously gaining work experience is an essential piece of the puzzle that forms the image of an intellectual. Young people that are brave enough to fly out of the nest and experience new places, cultures and people are prone to lead. Kontext Au pair and Student Ltd. is a non-governmentally related company specialized in the field of international education and cultural exchange, based in Skopje, Macedonia. Ever since its’ establishment in 2007, Kontext is the mirror of the passion and dreams of its founder-the nowadays Managing Director Mrs. Aleksandra Bozhinovska who believes that there is no better classroom than the world itself and that a country’s best ambassador is a youngster thriving to absorb as much of the cultural diversity and global education as possible while priding himself with national heritage, beautiful native tongue and loved motherland. The company has been building its reputation as a trustworthy, reliable and serious consulting partner to many young people trying to achieve their educational and cultural goals through summer work placements, internships, language learning courses abroad and cultural exchange programs based on a stay with a host family in a foreign country. The company sets its vision on the belief that taking part in cultural integration and globalism are the core of each young individual’s path of success. Kontext believes that the future indeed relies on youth empowerment and that the youngsters are each nation’s hope for a brighter tomorrow. During the years, the company has helped many students experience the power of international educational and cultural exchange programs. Kontext strongly believes that these chapters of a young individual’s life do make an immense difference in the formation of the character as a future adult, parent, professional, colleague and friend. Young people are happy to have the possibility to experience different work conditions, different language surroundings and an uncommon for them tradition practice, combine the newly learnt things with what they already know and get the best of both worlds - a divine bliss of the usual and already experienced and the new ideas and experiences gained from abroad during their stay. Helping young people take the best of the world through education and cultural experience and bring it home is an extremely rewarding process. Knowing that Macedonians bring a little part of Germany, UK, France, Turkey, Greece, New York, California, Toronto, Cape Town and other magnificent spots on the map gives the greatest pleasure of all. Making a difference in young people’s life is making a difference in the country’s development. Kontext prides itself with many projects on a year to year basis: Undergraduate and Graduate programs abroad, Internship programs in Germany, USA and Turkey, Student Work and Travel programs in Germany and USA, language learning programs worldwide, Au pair programs in EU and USA. All these projects and programs help empowerment of young people with all the benefits they offer - language knowledge enhancement, gaining new work experience in a multicultural environment and the very important open-mildness to new ideas, ways and paths of achieving success. Young people are the only ones that can change the future and it is essential that they are provided with the proper tools to do so.
Today we face an enormously large and rapid progress in all fields, particularly in the area of technology, all this makes a man careless in their attitude towards what is there, I would like to say that despite rapid technological development plan value system in society is very low. This whole development is blinded us as human beings in politics so prevalent idea for individual profit, while ethics, socialization and nature are victims of sick human ambitions. Before uncertain time as a global problem occurs the ethical crisis in the ecology, economy and in the process of socialization. However there are groups of people with that level of common human duty for positive cooperation through dialogue and socialization is remarkable and enhanced relationship of respect, solidarity, partnership, and thus allied humanity can address the identified problems and challenges the future. I have expressed a great stop for frantic pace of the destruction of all that is good and green light for NGOs as organizations that are not covered by the policy covers and stand out in the spectrum of possibilities offered within the social and economic development in a society. I have expressed, a great stop for frantic pace of the destruction of all that is good and green light for NGOs as organizations that are not covered by the policy covers and stand out in the spectrum of possibilities offered within the social and economic development in a society. I personally experience the same form as the enhanced participation of ordinary citizens in the process of improvement of living and making decisions that are in public interest and contribute to quality of life in multiple segments. We will focus on social development that offer non-governmental organizations. So the wheel turns and lack of ethics in society brings people together who have a common combat power in a community in which they explored the problems and each associate. Due to the characteristics of each association and understanding they are easily faced with solving the problems caused by rapid economic development. The fields in which they work are usually in addressing issues of protection of the human environment and environmental sustainability of the economies in the world. I think the way social NGOs contribute much because of the ways in which we organize them in developing various projects for the common good, mostly followed by many meetings and cooperation among team members. The methods of operation of NGOs improve social life, they are like fields of creative people who expose their ideas are selected and implemented to achieve the common good effect. NGOs conduct activities also in the economic sectors. It could be said that it plays a crucial role in the sustainability of civil society. Such income from economic activities are a major source of funding organizations. Often NGOs are allowed to generate revenue by increasing efficiency in the implementation of programs and better enable cross differentiated services. Ethical maturity in the people with enthusiasm and a desire to improve the future on global level, with a wider social progress and progress in economic terms.
IPARD in Macedonia, a chance for farmers and private consultants

Goran KOUACEV (Macedonia)  
goran.kouvecv@mbdp.com.mk

European perspective of Macedonian agriculture and rural development became viable on 17th of December 2005, with Macedonia gaining candidate status for European Union (EU) membership. The new outlook allowed the Country access to the Union’s Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance in Rural Development (IPARD). The objective of IPARD is two-fold: (a) to provide assistance for the implementation of the ‘acquis communautaire’ concerning the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and (b) to contribute to the sustainable adaptation of the agricultural sector and rural areas in the candidate country.¹

The main general objective of the Macedonia’s IPARD Programme is thus to: “improve the competitiveness of agricultural holdings and the food industry developing them to comply with Community standards, while ensuring sustainable environmental and socio-economic development of rural areas through increased economic activities and employment opportunities.” This shall be achieved through following specific objectives of the Programme: (a) improving the technological and market infrastructure of commercial agricultural holdings and food processing industry aimed at increased added value of agro-food products and achieved compliance with EU quality, health, food safety and environmental standards and (b) Improved quality of life of rural population, increased income and creation of new employment opportunities.²

IPARD operation is a co-financing partnership activity equally disbursed between public and private funds. EU through European Fund for Agriculture and Rural Development (EAFRD) participates with 75% in the public funds and Macedonia through Agency for Financial Support in Agriculture and Rural Development (AFSARD) with 25%, creating thereby the first half of the investment. The other half i.e. the private funds are means of the private investors.

According to the Multi-annual Indicative Financial Framework (MIFF), EU provided amount of € 85.7 million for 2007-2013 allocated into 3 priority axes:

1. Improving market efficiency and implementation of EU standards;
2. Preparatory actions for implementation of measures for protection of agricultural environment (Leader +) and
3. Development of rural economy. The funds can be accumulated and spent in n+3 years of time, where n is the year of approval. Within these three priority axes, three measures are accredited so far: measure 101 - Investments in agricultural holdings to restructure and to upgrade to EU standards; measure 103 - Investments in processing and marketing of agricultural and fishery products to restructure and upgrade to EU standards and measure 302 - Diversification and development of rural economic activities. IPARD is the only component of the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance directed mainly towards private non-governmental sector. This makes IPARD extremely important for the farmers, private advisors and the national economy in general. Advisory service is the link that connects farmers, companies and entrepreneurs from rural areas and IPARD creating therefore preconditions for market-oriented partnership. Private consultants are encouraged to write investment programmes and business plans for IPARD supported investments and to follow their partners in success or failure.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/enlargement/assistance/ipard
² Republic of Macedonia, Operational Programme under the EU Instrument for Pre-Accession for Rural Development (IPARD), National Plan for Agriculture and Rural Development 2007–2013, Skopje, 2007, p. 16

Image courtesy of: entrepreneurclubfeut.com
Since September 2013 Municipality of Tearce is amongst eight municipalities in Macedonia that has founded youth council and youth parliament. During these nine months the organization CED with the support of the coalition of youth organization SEGA and the financial support of Secretary General of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia, started the promotion of the idea of establishing youth Council, its functioning, its aim and the practical implementation. Through these two mechanisms it is expected application of youth participation in the work of the Local Self-Government and to emphasize youth priorities in the municipality. The project aims to increase the youth participation in the decision and policy making processes through implementation of functional institutional mechanisms within the Local Self-Government of the Municipality of Tearce. After the promotion, the concept was presented to the members of the Council of the Municipality of Tearce and it was approved by the all members of the council. With the establishment of Youth Council and Youth Parliament in the municipalities in Macedonia the first step towards increasing youth participation in decision making processes at local level is made. This model of youth participation in the work of the Local Self-Government gives youth sense of belonging, and makes them to feel useful in the local community enabling conditions for active citizenship. Some of the Youth Councils tasks are such as organizing different seminars, lectures and events related to youth issues and youth participation. Establishing the youth parliament of the Municipality of Tearce, this will be consisted by 23 youth members. The aim of the youth parliament will be to organize different workshops, trainings and other meetings relevant to young people in the community. This project is implemented by the Coalition of youth organizations SEGA in partnership with the Center for education and development (CED) and in cooperation with the Municipality of Tearce. The project is financed by the Secretary General of the Government of the Republic of Macedonia.
BeFair na ČZU, aims and challenges

BeFair na ČZU is officially admitting in this document to promote sustainable development and social responsibility. Decent working conditions, environmental sustainability, community development, fair price and the prohibition of child labour - are all essential for us, as they are the pillars of Fair trade. For this reason, we support ethically traded products that give us confidence that in their manufacture does not appears violations of human and labour rights, children’s rights and irreversible environmental damage. We want to lead by example in socially conscious behavior and promote public awareness of development issues. Based on the above, we declare that: as a model of responsible consumption we will minimize and rationalize the overall consumption; we prefer products that guarantee compliance with labour and environmental standards; we will support local production, for products that can not grow in our climate, we prefer products made under decent conditions; we will report regularly on their activities in support of fair trade. Currently, we are aiming mostly to the global development education of university students and in December will start our campaign, which will be aiming to the High school students. Education is for us a key to the development and we are acting by that. We are trying to educate people about developing issues through non-formal education mostly. But as well we are organizing different types of lectures; the most visited are so called “Travelers lectures”. These lectures are divided into two main parts, first one is focused on different issues about Fair trade and second one is about some exotic country, presented usually by some young traveler, or photographer. We would like to contribute, as much as possible, for the better balance of the global capital, because we consider capital unbalance as one of the biggest contributors to the world poverty, which is still deepens. Therefore we are trying to familiarize people with possibilities they have. Because public should know possibilities of action through socially responsible behavior and its impacts on the Countries of the Global South, especially connected with poverty reduction strategies. It is important to realize that the purchasing power of consumers is huge and if it’s correctly use, it can bring far-reaching socio-economic changes that may contribute to the improvement of the capital balance in the world and improve the living conditions of marginalized producers and workers in developing countries.

Hynek ROUBÍK (Czech Republic)
hynek.roubik@seznam.cz

Practices for successful project management

The right mix of planning, monitoring, and controlling can make the difference in completing a project on time, on budget, and with high quality results. These guidelines will help you plan the work and work the plan. Given the high rate of project failures, you might think that companies would be happy to just have their project finish with some degree of success. That’s not the case. Despite the odds, organizations expect projects to be completed faster, cheaper, and better.

(by: techrepublic.com)

Leonardo Da Vinci internship project: “EU work experience to increase employability”

The Center for Intercultural Dialogue (CID) has opened a Leonardo da Vinci programme office within the youth center MultiKulti in order to provide internship opportunities for young unemployed people. The project “EU work experience to increase employability” has as objective through the mobility action to create a local impact on the labor market in Kumanovo. Within the project several benefits have a practical work experience abroad. These people are from the professional categories where most unemployed people come from (finished social sciences - law, marketing, economy or technological engineering). This project supports 6 participants in further training activities in the acquisition and the use of knowledge, skills and qualifications in various areas of their work. In this way with this practical work experience we will facilitate the further development of the interns.
Life in front of youth is like a pace of hammer in front of one painter, and as long as one painter collects enough colors to depict his best picture, we, as youth, want to create and have our possibilities in order to live a colored life. Our reality is built as a result of our human invention and it is harmful. People need the true reality which is supposed to be built according to the essential sources of life. Now I want us to stop in our Balkan countries, and figure out what is the problem with our society by looking at the first important guiding foundations— for example: what strategies are used to guide youth? Where is the teacher to be listened, and which is the global influence over the Balkan society? Our Balkan countries are not more important than we are, but the problem is the people, who believe that our countries are more important than our lives. That’s why passes a year, a decade, a century, and there is still lack of freedom, peace or a normal life. So, this is the evident reality, but you, try to think what kind of reality would be important if it has no freedom or peace? And this is what our Balkan countries have to deal with. We have different religions, different nations, and different ways of disrespecting our invented integrity which is a result of our political aspects, also our human identity which is an endowment from our Creator. In this point can be connected youth, therefore, can be found ‘the misleading teacher of the society’ which is made of politics who play the restrictor, depriver, corruptor etc. When there is mentioned religion than there is present also its fellow whose name is the faithful human, and a faithful human must be called the one who appreciates his/her life by appreciating others’ lives, or his/ her own God Creature. This means that there is no religion advice which leads us towards to depriving each-other as long as faithfulness is realized based on appreciation. If there is any convincing advice from the representatives of religion or patriotism than we have to be sure that they are also the miss-interpreters of their beautiful invented lie that supports our false reality, in the Balkan countries and all over the world, because the Balkan reality is also a result of the global society. Furthermore, our politics consider their alternatives to be more important than our lives; because they are separating us by putting barriers between our communities, not to let us exchange, thinking that we are different from one another even when we know how short our life to spend for these silly things is. Our Balkan countries have millions of people, and in us are endowed the same abilities that are endowed in any other generation around the world. Our problem isn’t any lack of ideas, but it is lack of courage to follow our instincts to change. If we stop and look our Balkan image today we can notice nothing unusual except our politics that stand as a barricade in the middle of us and our chance to change. There is always said that avoid politics, be who you are supposed to be, work yourselves etc. But how can we go through these paths when the random worker and the student are obliged by the politics to have their partial membership certificates which corrupt us way before we start our work and educational research as individuals. This is the kind of reality that we as youngsters don’t belong to, and this what we must consider as a wrong reality for our human society. The meaning of this life is to live it and we can have differences as many as we want but when it comes to society than there in no difference. We have to agree with the way we have come up, having our differences, but why those differences have to stop us share our cultures, maintain our education, be conscious towards to living life peacefully? We as youngsters need to be invested our ideas, our educational systems must be recuperated, and our politics must be responsible for the structures of our nations in Balkan as long as they dare to present our will. In this way any change can happen, because we, as youth, are the future of our countries and our society, and if we don’t have a valuable start than we will have a terrible ending together with our society. So our politics should work in their business and we as youngsters should go on educating ourselves. The founding of the Balkan society is us, and our global influence is to integrate our cultures overseas, but our teacher is our politician and he prevents us to complete our dream. You as a reader may consider these facts as problems that appear all over the world, but you should also think about our life standards? Imagine that if in some countries around the world have economical crisis than we in Balkan have insurance crisis which is way too worse than the first. I, as a citizen of Macedonia see that we go through many difficulties: employment and education are too low, our investments which are supposed to be in education are contrary being in materialization. If we don’t have a ministry of education that does its job well than we as students will not have values in our professions, even if we all become academics, as long as our society is a ‘Black Pearl’ than we all are ‘white idiots’. Our intention is to be part of Europe, but we still have problems with the language which is the base of one country. There are certain places in Macedonia where our ethnic groups (either majorities or minorities) grow distantly, because we as youngsters attend our educational courses separately. In some places where live only Albanians, the official Macedonian language is practiced but not learned, and that is as a result of our Ministry of Education, also it is because of the non-official Albanian language who want it as an ethnic right. The lack of the official language separates Albanians from the Administrative information, medical information, taxation information etc. And we are waiting Europe to come and solve these problems! What we have to do is make up our minds to help ourselves and stop being perseverant people. Our national decisions shouldn’t be that strong, and turn into pressure against our lives. These notes might not look well to your opinion, but this is the pain of youth, and I as a part of it, present that these are the difficulties which don’t let us play an important role in our society and maintain it in best way we can. So, every disadvantage of these cases is or becomes a disadvantage for the civilization of our nations, and also our civilization as humankind.
Several days ago I was swimming in internet and when I suddenly felt tired of hyper checking Facebook, so I ended up opening TED TALKS, and as we know TED has this original idea of categorizing several videos into one name, which make it more easy for the searcher to know exactly what he was looking for (the logic requires from us to think that we are never sure what will we find during surfing we don’t always know what is exactly what we’re looking for). And so I came across this category of videos that explained what we need to do to work better. Generally all the videos and the lectures were perfect, but one in particular got my attention and then triggered a lot more than just a thought. It was about the history of the Wright brothers who “accidentally” or just by “case” won the race to invent the first airplane. And it was strange because they were not the one who invented the concept of the flying with an instrument, but they were curious, they wanted something so bad, that at some point the beat the “experts”. And in the other side of the race were some bunch of people with mustaches, highly educated, highly paid and finally highly recognized by several instances of sciences and society; but they were just too few of them (but they can’t be never enough of them), and they lost the race. I was surprised to know that the Wright didn’t just accidentally won a race, but the beat a group which was, in itself (or as it seemed the immediate winners of the race) – but they didn’t, they lost the race to two young boys who loved flying more than everything they could every desired, they trusted, they believed it was possible, probably even dreamed that it could be possible just to fly as superman, but that at some point they come across the genius idea of inventing the instrument whom latter will be called the airplane and that will bring other people from one place to another. When I come to think about transporting people, and that they thought it was possible, it was the moment they officially entered in the race. Immediately I started to think about every possible process they might have thought, and I couldn’t find anything logically to explain this. But latter I thought about the rest of the video who explained about trust, and how important this trust is. But then I wondered “Is it possible that these experts had any trust at all?” And the answer was “They didn’t”. This lack of trust was also explained perfectly during the video. But this lack trust was not reason enough to explain why they lost. And then when I watched the video some more time, I come to understand that reason of this lack of trust. They were the only one from whom the society expected so much, and not just for the sake of inventing a way to fly but to understand the social imagination behind this necessity, they were just a few people highly educated schools, with too much responsibility about everything technical, and so less time to “believe in something” (shortly for them flying was just as work) but in the case of the Wright brother was not like this, they felt that this was possible, they suffered and experienced every possible feeling of an inventer. Several days later I watched a scene which helped me to understand what in theory seemed almost impossible. I was walking out of my home, and since I live a place where you mostly find students, the cars (principally) are not allowed. In the past these cars were allowed and several time this trans crossing by car under the feet of thousand and hundreds of students who live in the dormitory, caused many troubles, because by fact this area is their area. So I was walking and I come across a policeman that was making a ticket for a car that had parked nearly in the front of the dormitory. The driver was of course unhappy. But I was so interested to ask the policeman if the ticket he was compiling was a right thing or no; “was he a he dreamer, who wanted this country to feel more free, more responsible, more European, more and more” or was he the kind of person who this ticket was just part of the job, a thing that had no much matter for him, but just was about to please the order of the head of the station who wanted money to fill the empty basket. But the policeman is just one, or they may be just few, and in the case that everyone would decide to have their cars parked in from of every dormitory, would he have the courage to ticket every one of them, would he find the courage to do the right thing and inspire other people to trust in this country.
The role of NGOs in tackling environmental issues

It is a fact that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a substantial role in most spheres of modern life. Moreover, the quality and development of the NGO network in a country or a region, contribute to efficiency of democratic institutions. At the dawn of the 21st century modern society encounters a problem that affects us all, whether we are living in the western or eastern hemisphere, without reference to race, color or religion. It is the issues of environment protection. One must understand that if this issue is regulated only on a government basis it is only being put on hold. Matters like this demand an urgent inside-out approach in order to be solved. This is where NGOs play a crucial role. The first task of NGOs is raising awareness. This is usually done through lectures, flyer distribution, brochures, educational seminars, and with the development of technology, through online medias. NGOs try to reach the level where each individual in their area of action understands that, when it comes to the environment, they are the main stakeholders and that the future is in their hands.

Most constitutions include the right to a clean environment. NGOs are there to protect that right and make sure it is fully enjoyed by individuals. Sadly, most of the people don’t know about that right and its breach may governments or private corporations left unpunished. Environmental NGOs are there to prevent that. Seems that sustainable development has become a word of the day. Yet most governments fail to implement this principle. Environmentalists aren’t “tree loving hippies”. They actually promote a rational and equitable use of resources, within a planned programme. Those NGOs who receive more funding can afford all the technology necessary for monitoring and analyzing the environmental quality, and inform local communities and governments of the current state of air, water or land. Also, I would like to stress their role in the implementation of legislation. Since they are highly motivated by principles in which they strongly believe, NGOs try to implement laws on the protection of the environment to the fullest. Related to this, I would like to add a function that I notice missing in most countries and that should be promptly fixed-NGOs should be actively involved in drafting and adopting of legislation in the environmental sphere. Since most of the NGOs are experienced in environmental issues, they are the most qualified when it comes to advising the local government on actions that should be taken in order to protect the environment, meaning they help in preparation, application and execution of projects on environmental protection. Besides that, it is a well known fact that environmental NGOs have a very broad network and they can easily connect in order to create or promote projects which includes signature collection, protest performances, fundraising or anything else that might improve the environmental politics both on the local and governmental level. When it comes to the international level, (if we take the last example of Greenpeace and the Arctic incident) some NGOs are so well-developed and their goals are much broader, that countries and even the international community are ready to support their actions. In conclusion, environmental NGOs do bring good to the world. Yet, there are many problems to be solved in order for them to fulfill the goals that they have set. The most common one is corruption and unfortunately some environmental NGOs are used for political manipulation. Nevertheless, we can’t forget that when it comes to the environment we are all connected, and the activities of NGOs, meaningless as they may seem, are there for one thing-to protect our environment and they one of the generations to come.
‘Hiking Njeri’ association is Kosovo’s specialized hiking organization that is formed to explore countless of unexplored hiking trails throughout this new European country. Join us and experience beautiful high altitude nature of Kosovo! ‘Hiking Njeri’ association is an NGO from Kosovo formed in 2008. Its first hiking activities started back in 2005 and since then, more than 240 hiking trails have been recorded, photographed or mapped for future hiking tours. Our organization consists of hiking die-hard enthusiasts who enjoy Kosovo’s beautiful unexplored high altitude nature. Join us for unforgettable experiences throughout mountains of Kosovo. ‘Hiking Njeri’ is a registered NGO aiming at promoting hiking in Kosovo.

Purpose and activities of the organization: promotion of hiking among youth of Kosovo, promotion of outdoor activities in general, international promotion of hiking opportunities in Kosovo, participation in local and international conferences with aim of promoting mountain tourism in Kosovo. Activities: identification, mapping and protection of public pathways for hiking, cartographic services for hiking and mountain tourism, improvement of pathways quality including marking of pathways, organization of hiking events for various groups, organization of outdoor activities for organizations (i.e. team building), protecting right to access public pathways, educational programs on values and protection of Kosovo's environment.
The Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development – KIPRED

The Kosovar Institute for Policy Research and Development (KIPRED) was founded in 2002 as a non-profit, independent, impartial non-governmental organization. KIPRED’s mission is to promote and consolidate democracy and democratic values in Kosovo and the region through independent research, capacity development, and institution building. KIPRED’s objectives are: to conduct and develop independent public policy research in the fields of democratic governance, and regional and international affairs and security; to influence public policy-making processes; to build accountable public institutions; To provide lessons learned in peacekeeping, peace-building, institution-building, post-conflict development and transition; to provide resources for the development of professional research and quality analysis in public policy and social sciences. (by: kipred.org)
Civil society organizations, key players for democratic transformation of Georgia

The biggest historical turmoil – dissolution of the Soviet Union and collapse of the massive political system, brought enormous chaos and unrest in freshly independent societies. Post-collapse turbulences drifted former states of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) apart to different perspectives. Some of whom, chose to stick to European agenda, some preferred to stay under the broken imperial umbrella and keep calm, while others, particularly Georgia, experienced dramatic frenzy of civil war and went through the vertigo of the furious ethnic conflicts. Consequently, post-soviet delirium brought Baltic States to early progress; whiles modernly called Eastern Partnership Countries (EaP) still continue to struggle with Soviet leftovers and suffer from a mentality rigidly rooted in the recent past. Hence, for last two decades, Georgia faced various external security threats and internal challenges, including poor human rights records, political classes and elites, where cronyism and nepotism is a daily practice. Moreover, lack of pluralism, far-reaching reforms, and low, sometimes zero awareness of the society on many of the important aspects of humans’ lives and participation in the decision making process, profoundly delayed country’s democratic transition and development. Accordingly, what has been done, and must be done in the future, to bring real changes on the ground? Assuming, the progress that has been made in the last two decades on the road to Georgia’s transformation for to build a nation-state, that values democracy and human rights, also derives from the long-term involvement and active role of the third sector in country’s political, economic, social or cultural processes. During these years, Civil Society Organizations (CSO) proved to be waterproof, tremendously influential, more effective and efficient than public sector itself. There are approximately 10 000 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Georgia.1 Although, tenth of them function mostly in capital city Tbilisi, whereas regions lack their presence. Still, the number of active CSOs is remarkably high comparing to the number of the country’s population.2 Concluding, the success of the third sector and increasing influence in Georgia may be explained with several main factors: Firstly, there are no legal restrictions or regulations creating any obstacles for establishing or functioning CSOs, moreover, as Transparency International Georgia assesses, in some areas, law is quite progressive.3 Secondly, sector gained lots of trust during the recent years, as the government always failed to follow the needs of its population; becoming the only hope for ordinary citizens to find justice through the assistance of NGOs, advocating and protecting their basic rights and freedoms – state used to but lacked to actually guarantee. Thirdly, major players in the sector managed to remain unbiased, and sustained to avoid autocratic tentacles of the previous leaderships of the country. Particularly, NGOs like Transparency International Georgia, Georgian Young Layer’s Association, and International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy played a key role for Georgia’s democratic transition and societal progressive development. And lastly, they tried to become pro-people, if not people - “NGOs should acknowledge that they not only represent people, but they are the people” – Tamar Gurchiani, lawyer, human rights activist. Thus, there are flaws to be criticized in the Georgian third sector, including government backed organizations, dependence on foreign donors, and regional absence, etc. but clearly, the sector strengthens and gains greater say in policymaking; as well as importantly influences decision making process and contributes to the civil development. Therefore, Georgian society progressively transforms and closely approaches to real means of democratic values. Hence, consequently, it helps country come out from the post-soviet trauma and strive thoroughly to build democratic state, that value human and his rights and freedoms the most.

References

2 4.4 million, the National Statistics Office of Georgia.
People: this subtle and melodiously clear noun contains so much in itself; it reticently carries and extrovertly sends its thoughts to someone far away beyond the depths of wide Black holes above the horizons of the Universe. It sends them to someone close, it spreads them by whisper, by breath, by touch but it resides in all of them with the benevolence of its message. It is a story about human race as the only species so unique and majestically beautiful, so wonderfully satirical and resolute living organisms called Little Princes. This is a story about small people who had lived and have been living and sharing this divinely glorious planet calling it their home. They named themselves PEOPLE. The name was formed from an indestructible energy of a dying star living in the midst of the vortex of nothingness where only darkness and emptiness had resided. This indestructible energy was called LOVE, and this very love breathes life to everyone and anything, even to the one who is standing on the verge of abyss. It gives life in such a manner that it constantly spreads itself, coagulates and travels through channels and wormholes leaving traces, pieces and particles to whatever and whoever she touches. And it is such an honour for those who have been touched by her. This is the way she behaves and exists- she is the only true and benevolent virtue, emotion and a fluid in these small people and their divine planet. On this journey love changes its form, appearance and shape; it adapts and nestles where goodness, her benevolent virtue, emotion and a fluid in these small people finds its purpose. They inhabited mountains and lands with their restless thoughts such beauty, such vastness of the city, of the country, a mountain and a river surrounding their home left them breathless, taken aback and startled. They felt as if they have been chosen in being the strongest and the weakest ones standing in front such an enormous wideness and firmness of their land, their water, their clean and tipsy air. They arrived from nowhere san language, san word, san hypocrisy, san obsessive thoughts, with no greedy breaths, and rotten thoughts. They arrived bringing nothing but a bouquet of impeccably clean and crystal clear dreams. They only wanted to leave a meaningful trace with their presence, their own trace and traces of their fellow travelers, brothers, sisters and dear friends. What makes them so special you may wonder? These small creatures named themselves People. There were many of them-of various heights, shapes and looks. Some had big, curiously honest eyes that immersed and absorbed all the beauty surrounding them, gazing and watching each drop, each sun ray, each landing of the autumn leaf, each snowflake falling on the ground with such care, attention and anticipation that each upcoming vision and epiphany caused them to feel naive and youthful while sharing this joy that was extremely visible in their pupils. Some had long arms with elegant and soft fingers that danced and fondled freely and gently those harnessed and fastened strings of acoustic guitar, harp, caterwauling and wistful violin during an Indian summer accompanied by a light breeze. They were playing and creating the gentlest and the loudest melody followed by the sweet and sorrowful song of a nightingale and the little owl. Some had big heads inhabited by constellations of witty puns, assertive ideas and some frequencies that directed them towards clear and practical manifestation and application. Their brain was a conglomerate spectrum of different vibrations along the galaxy of their thoughts. They were experienced in finding and understanding colors, temperatures, clouds and storms, weather changes and seasons. Natural weather surrounded and dressed the planet into limitless blue sky, thick and dark clouds creating warm tears. They transformed themselves into sad and lonely water reaction called rain drops that were falling from the sky. Dry ground accepted and welcomed these tears, absorbing each and every drop preventing them to vanish into air of some other world. The ground turned the rain into a heard and stiff substance, a crop that grew into the most amazing flower. And the flower became a part of this planet; it became a constituent part and member of the family. It decorated nothingness and empty space and it soon started to spread its authentic and unique smell waking the smiles of those whose noses it touched and their breaths fulfilled. Some had long and strong legs. They stood firmly on the ground and were able to walk along white ground during harsh but protecting winter. The cold whiteness protected that flower and its fellow citizens by putting them into a winter sleep and cover. Their legs could bare and stand the power of winds and storms painting clear and strong Achilles footprints of their own existence. As being so mighty, fragile and wise in their own existence there arrived these small and big travelling species. They created the circumstances in which they lived revealing to one another their abilities and capabilities and their purpose. They inhabited mountains and lands with their looks and innocent and naive gestures teaching each other and learning from each other, discovering many playful and interesting games and talents. They learned to walk straight and to protect the land they learned to love and defend from angry weather changes and disasters. They protected their land by hugging her with smiles, flowers and joint prayers. They were large in number, as in no other galaxy, they were unified in their diversity. They were equal because they cherished and looked after their humane part which they shared unselfishly. They wanted to improve and enhance their home. Therefore, they decided to use their hands and start dancing on their home ground making the rarest dance movements building circles and dropping seeds of that same flower which survived the harsh winter coldness and strong Zeus’s storms. Soon they learned to preserve their land by searching for new and various families of green plants. They realized that the only way to last was if they collaborate with courage, determination and honesty without usurping their turf too much. They were growing up together, becoming intelligent and virtuous creative artists, scientists, sculptors and athletes. Hercules’s strength was their driving force and they decided to improve...
animals entered with no hesitation. They felt exhilarated and happy beyond words once they stepped on the soft green carpet, touching the wooden floors and nestling their tired bodies in armchairs of joy. Some even decided to stay forever in one household. You see my dear reader our little people grew to be great architects who learned to use the very essence of their home, its soil to build monuments and houses to protect them from the snow storms of Zeus’s limitless sky. Some of them continued to explore their environment and familiarize with the animal kingdom they embraced. There was also Time which was measured in days, hours and years; it served them as a reminder of how much light they are left with within a day to do their work once the sun closes its eyes. They spent their time wisely and carefully. They ate breakfast every morning feeding their bright and hungry minds and thoughts because they wanted to grow into strong and good people to eat, drink and breathe as much love as possible. They shared each idea; each thought each joke with each other because they knew and understood that the only way for them to have their wishes and dreams come true was if they did everything in the name of love. They always held hands on their way to school which was this small house inhabited by the more of trees which grew to be great architects. They plant the most delicious meals spiced with the sweetest honey that fed their noble minds. Among bees and humans there were also some other species called ants that helped in building and improving the making of a comfortable and safe living environment for them all. They were able to do unbelievable amount of work in such a short time due to their implacable e organization skills and their rightful division of chores. In fact, little princes’ have comfortably shared their planet with another world, the animal world where only friendship resided. There was no need for a particular leader because they were all united, and did not feel any emotional outcries such as greed in deciding who plays the leading role. This role was rightfully appointed to each and every man in due course. They had the same goal, they shared similar viewpoints and thoughts which were to justify and be proud of their strong name Humans. They trusted each other, they believed in each other guided by unconditional love, respect and devotion. They shared a common heart wrapped into a gigantic vivacious ball called Earth. They breathed through the same lungs, together they inhaled the fresh greenness of trees which grew from that first seed they planted. You are probably wondering where bees and ants have come from? You see dear reader, dear father and mother, dear birthmother, our recipe for presenting new alternative solutions. Our activities will include: Events (conferences, round tables, debates, campaigns, workshops, seminars, trainings), research and policy analysis. The focus of our activities is; human rights, public policy, historical dialogue, media, euro-Atlantic integration, Balkan politics, gender issues, youth empowerment and education, and health and environment. (by: lai.mk)
Programme support unit of Legal Aid Commission

Janakan
MUTHUKUMAR (Sri Lanka)
jananan.lac.psu@gmail.com

Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), an International Nongovernment Organisation had been the implement partner of Legal Aid Commission since 2006 until the exit in 2013. Legal Aid Commission (LAC) is an independent autonomous statutory body formed under the Legal Aid Act No 27 of 1978 of Sri Lanka. It has the vision for contributing to the promotion of civil and political rights of IDPs and returnees. In September 2010, based on the agreement of NRC and LAC, NRC formed Program Support Unit under the leadership of Information Counseling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) Programme of NRC. Programme Support Unit promotes economic and social justice. To achieve the vision the IDPs, IDP returnees and host communities have been empowered through improved access to legal aid to resolve their legal and documentation needs, and through awareness sessions on political, economic, social and cultural rights. Currently, European Union has been the main donor for project implementation in North part of Sri Lanka and Embassy of Switzerland has granted for East. UNHCR have granted for thematic projects, currently working on projects related to land. PSU destine its operation through legal aid – free legal representation for the cases to the beneficiaries. Further beneficiaries are raised awareness of various legal prospective by outreaching sessions, victim support and mobile clinics. Further CBOs and NGO partners are given trainings and capacity building programmes in legal prospective. Programme Support Unit’s activities aim to enable beneficiaries in forced displacement contexts to access relevant mechanisms to claim and exercise their rights as necessary to prevent primary or secondary evacuation, claim and exercise the rights to which they are entitled during situations and reach durable solutions. It works closely with other INGOs, NGOs, Government Authorities and other institutions, and trained staffs are encouraged to participate as the external resource person to the training conducts by the partners. Referral mechanism has been in place among all organizations and staffs participate in cluster and district coordination meetings. PSU dedicates on advocacy by having good coordination, conciliation and by emerging the authorities accountable in resolving issues related to justice. Regarding the implementation of project, the activities support beneficiaries in claiming and exercising their rights through the provision of information, counseling, legal assistance, collaborative dispute resolution, capacity building, and advocacy activities. The approach is to observe legal, cultural and social norms existing in the country. This includes the use of judicial or administrative remedies, customary or religious mechanisms, collaborative dispute resolution methodologies, and transitional justice mechanisms. Further PSU identifies protection concerns and legal obstacles to durable solutions, and to advocate for their resolution with duty bearers and other stakeholders at local, national, and international level. Approach further cover by entering into partnerships where necessary and appropriate with other organizations for service delivery or advocacy purposes. Special approach in counseling activities, the individuals or groups shall be provided with explanation and advice on relevant rules and procedures embedded in the formal, customary, or religious mechanisms of the country. Counseling entails a degree of analysis of the problems faced by the beneficiary and provides advice on what is the best possible course of action to solve a particular problem. It enables beneficiaries to claim and exercise their rights by themselves. Regarding legal representation Programme Support Unit provides legal representation and collaborative dispute resolution services to individuals or groups who cannot effectively claim and exercise their rights independently. The provision of legal representation shall be subject to Programme Support Unit, Legal Aid Commission’s capacity to bring cases to closure or hand them over to other relevant organizations. Beneficiaries also been supported to access and exhaust all relevant avenues depending on the strength of their case and a cost or benefit analysis. Activities initiate to support public interest and other prominent cases in ground, as well as in policy level. Thematic reports and publications also made by PSU to enhance the idea of justice and equality.

Combating hate speech online, a workshop by CDI & LAI

The Center for Intercultural Dialogue – CDI is actively working on local and national level to raise awareness about human rights online, especially by motivating young people to react against hate speech online. Within the MultiKulti youth center we held a workshop on digital media and recognizing hate speech online for young people from Kumanovo. The workshop was part of a larger project which is coordinated by the Liberal Alternatives Institute – LAI. The two-day training was held on September 28–21 in the MultiKulti the youth center. It gathered students from high schools in Kumanovo. The workshop was run by Magdalena Manevska and Deniz Memedi.
The English language is one of the most popular languages in the world. Because of its popularity, English is now regarded as a “global” language, as a “world” language and as a “lingua franca” of the modern languages. Most of the employers these days need employees that speak English and as a result of that, many people in Macedonia speak English at least on a basic level. The people that live in Macedonia know that speaking different languages can get them a better pay check, but do they know that communicating with people from different ethnic backgrounds can help them become even richer personally and professionally as well? As a Macedonian language professor and an English language professor, I want all of my students, who come from various ethnic backgrounds, to have equal opportunities of studying English and I want them to communicate with each other, study and learn together in order for them to get to know each other and have a more successful future. But is that what is happening in practice? Unfortunately, my answer is a big NO! English language is an obligatory subject at the elementary schools and high schools in Macedonia and it is a great part of our educational system. The majority of parents understand just how important is the English language knowledge for their children’s future and they often enroll their children in additional private English language lessons. As we are all aware, these private classes are expensive and unfortunately, not all of the parents can afford them. Macedonia is a multiethnic country and students in Macedonia have the chance to study in Macedonian language, Turkish language and Albanian language. However, how much time do children living in Macedonia spend with other children from different ethnic origins? My opinion is that they do not spend enough time together and that fact causes many problems in our society. These facts were my main motivations to join the Free English Classes for Disadvantaged Kids Project lead by Soroptimist Macedonia- Single Club-Struga, a non-governmental organization. As a result of this project, about 30 students in second grade from Struga are being taught English free of charge. The students are Macedonian and Albanian. These classes are being held regularly since October every Wednesday at ‘Poraka Nova’ which is a centre for improvement of the quality of life of the persons with disabilities in Struga. I teach the children assisted by Jessica Davidson and Alexander Dunn, 2 amazing Peace Corps Volunteers and by Gordana Grceska and Ami Isa, 2 lovely Poraka Nova employees. The children are divided into 2 multiethnic groups. The first group’s classes are being held at 6 p.m. and the second group’s classes are being held at 7 p.m. Our aim is to give the students a joyful non-formal education. The children are being taught to look beyond their differences and to embrace diversity. Prejudices and bad feelings are forbidden in our classes. It is a huge responsibility and an honor to have the chance to be not only teachers to these students but windows to the world as well. Our society needs respectful adults who are open-minded, loving and who do not hurt, scar, judge...
Role of NGOs in natural disaster management in Sri Lanka

Saruka SELVARAJAH (Bangladesh)
saruka.selvara.jah@auw.edu.bd

Sri Lanka, one of the countries in South Asia, often gets affected by natural disasters due to its geological location in the Indian subcontinent, surrounded by the Indian Ocean, and by an newly formed tectonic boundary below Sri Lanka. In past decades, Tsunami was the disaster hit Sri Lanka what caused a huge loss of lives and asserts. Therefore, currently in Sri Lanka, disaster management is a developing sector which directly affects the GDP since the annual budget allocation is significant for disaster management. A report (2006) by International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies on legal issues from the international response to the tsunami in Sri Lanka points out that, after tsunami, about 2,000 national and international NGOs have been registered in various scale for humanitarian services and activities since NGOs function as the mediators between the key players, the state and the society, where society is the basic element that respond first to any natural disasters. While NGOs operate independently, they also manage to collaborate with government in need. Hence, they could effectively regulate the national programs for disaster management while building an effective bridge between the policy makers and public. Further, NGOs ensure the immediate aid after the disaster since they are innovative in terms of approaching the victims and utilizing the resources, technology, organizational capacity, and participatory management. Moreover, in Ethnic conflict, the state and the tsunami disaster in Sri Lanka, Jeyadeva Uyangoda states that tsunami (2004) was one of the major reasons that broke the peace agreement (2002) between Sri Lankan Government and Liberation of Tamil Tigers Tamil Ezham (LTTE), however, interference of foreign NGOs had managed to provide the relief to both the communities which indicates the importance of national or international NGO functioning in a war affected country. However, since then the focus is terminated into pre-disaster management to make people understand the response to the disasters and post disaster management to cope up with the situation and rebuild their lives by building upon the prior disaster management strategies which are already implemented to reduce and rescue the challenges of natural disaster. Moreover, according to A.K.W. Jeyawardane in Disaster mitigation initiatives in Sri Lanka, mainly the coastal areas, higher lands, lower lands and dry lands are highly exposed to natural disasters such as flood, cyclones, landslides, coastal erosion and draught where mostly NGOs’ awareness programs such as drills and related activities are being practiced. Furthermore, during and post disaster management, firstly, NGOs ensure the immediate security by displacing the victimized population to safe habitats such as temporary shelters and provide them with basic material relieves (such as canned food and clothing). Thirdly, Hazardous and vulnerability identification of the environment will be proceeded by NGOs to understand and estimate the contamination of the natural resources in affected environment to reduce the harm after the disaster. Consequently, calculation and estimation of loss of lives and asserts will be facilitated along with identifying the vulnerability of fragileness for the consequences of disasters to keep a data base to regulate the aid distribution, rehabilitation and reconstructing the infrastructure. On the other hand, NGOs also take responsibility to rebuild a united community beyond gender, race, cast, religious, and age boundaries to reduce the cultural conflict within the affected community and lead them to cope up with the moment by providing psychological support by experts. Moreover, often natural disaster challenges NGOs in providing essential relief such as providing drinking water, secure food, clothing and shelters with transparency among people. Elaborating on that, often disasters result in drinking water contamination as natural water bodies could easily contaminate during natural disasters where food security is also questioned along with speeding up of water born contagious disease along with hygienic challenges. On the other hand, loss of shelter brings a greater number of people in one roof which is one of the major challenges cause cultural violence such as rapes, robbery, dishonest and related threats. Fund raising and regulating the available sources are also the challenges where most of the NGOs are non-profitable organizations and yet are expected to reimburse the victims. Also, the implementation of advance technology in vulnerable area is another challenge where advanced technical knowledge as well as the government’s approval are expected to handle the equipments for far researching centers. On the other hand, while targeting different age groups for various disaster management training programs, the vulnerable groups such as disable, children, infants, elders and psychological victims are being neglected that challenges NGOs to rescue them. Also to provide temporary shelters or to allocate land, the availability in secure areas is a challenge which might not support the long term rehabilitation since a certain land ownership is private. Also, the transparency during the aid distribution challenges NGOs since the accuracy of loss cannot be evaluated and the measure of loss also differs man to man. Adding to that, due to the limiting fund, none of the NGOs would continue to help the victims, but expected to provide the victims a technical knowledge or advise that could help them to develop and rebuild their lives. Also, if the natural environmental cycle is disturbed by the disaster, agricultural activities also be distracted since the majority of vulnerable population is based on agriculture or fishing where, NGOs are challenged to provide them a source of income. Although, NGOs are challenged with various factors mentioned above, after every natural disaster in Sri Lanka NGOs contribution is remarkable in rebuilding the victimized societies (UNDAC, 2011) that reports evidences in last decades, especially after Tsunami 2004 to rebuild and enhance the livelihood of the affected people.
Local organizations welcome new Peace Corps volunteer

The Tetovo Youth Alliance

The Tetovo Youth Alliance is a local NGO that focuses on the strengthening of democracy and civil society, overcoming ethnic divisions among youth, and building a cohesive, vibrant, and interactive environment for youth within a democratic society. Their projects emphasize the rule of law, transparency in government, the respect of human rights, and the importance of the role of youth in today's society. David will be assisting Youth Alliance with organizational planning, regional networking, and internal capacity building in addition to helping with organizational management. He will further help them with their joint projects that they want to implement in cooperation with the Macedonian–Croatian Society.

Tetovo Youth Alliance and the Macedonian-Croatian Society of Tetovo are pleased to announce the arrival of David Nash-Mendez, a newly sworn-in US Peace Corps Volunteer, to their organizations. A native of Seattle, David will be serving as a Community Development volunteer in Tetovo, Macedonia for the next two years. He will work with the NGOs on building organizational capacity as well as in planning and implementing various civil society projects. David arrived in the Republic of Macedonia in September and spent his first 2 months living and training in a village outside of Kumanovo. He and the other trainees from the United States intensively studied both the Macedonian and Albanian languages, in addition to undergoing specific training for the Macedonian and Albanian languages, outside tutor sessions, handball leagues, and various cultural events spread across the calendar. David will be helping them build membership, expand program offerings, and find opportunities for increased volunteerism. A volunteer with the Peace Corps Masters International Program, David’s work with the two organizations will be the basis for his Master’s Thesis for his Masters of Public Administration at the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. In addition to studying non-profit management and organizational development, he studied and researched intensively the role of Civil Society within the European Union for his undergraduate degree in International Studies, also undertaken at the University of Washington in Seattle. In addition to his studies, David has been interning at the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, a non-profit law firm that provides immigration related legal services to low-income immigrants and refugees in Washington State. He is very eager to bring his skills and experiences to the people of Macedonia through the US Peace Corps.

As a member of the 18th group of Peace Corps Volunteers invited to serve by the Republic of Macedonia, David and his colleagues have been preceded by over 500 volunteers who have lived and served there. They join the ranks of over 215,000 Americans who have served in 139 different countries since President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps in 1961 as a way of fostering a better understanding among Americans and the people of other countries. Peace Corps Volunteers worldwide work at the grassroots level with local governments, schools, communities, small businesses and entrepreneurs to develop sustainable solutions that address challenges in education, health, economic developments, agriculture, environment, and youth development. Peace Corps Volunteers in Macedonia either serve in local NGOs or Municipalities as Community Development volunteers or in the local public schools as English Teachers.

David Nash-Mendez (USA/Macedonia) dnashmendez.pcv@gmail.com

Tetovo Youth Alliance and the Macedonian-Croatian Society of Tetovo are pleased to announce the arrival of David Nash-Mendez, a newly sworn-in US Peace Corps Volunteer, to their organizations. A native of Seattle, David will be serving as a Community Development volunteer in Tetovo, Macedonia for the next two years. He will work with the NGOs on building organizational capacity as well as in planning and implementing various civil society projects. David arrived in the Republic of Macedonia in September and spent his first 2 months living and training in a village outside of Kumanovo. He and the other trainees from the United States intensively studied both the Macedonian and Albanian languages, in addition to undergoing specific training for the Macedonian and Albanian languages, outside tutor sessions, handball leagues, and various cultural events spread across the calendar. David will be helping them build membership, expand program offerings, and find opportunities for increased volunteerism. A volunteer with the Peace Corps Masters International Program, David’s work with the two organizations will be the basis for his Master’s Thesis for his Masters of Public Administration at the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington. In addition to studying non-profit management and organizational development, he studied and researched intensively the role of Civil Society within the European Union for his undergraduate degree in International Studies, also undertaken at the University of Washington in Seattle. In addition to his studies, David has been interning at the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, a non-profit law firm that provides immigration related legal services to low-income immigrants and refugees in Washington State. He is very eager to bring his skills and experiences to the people of Macedonia through the US Peace Corps. As a member of the 18th group of Peace Corps Volunteers invited to serve by the Republic of Macedonia, David and his colleagues have been preceded by over 500 volunteers who have lived and served there. They join the ranks of over 215,000 Americans who have served in 139 different countries since President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps in 1961 as a way of fostering a better understanding among Americans and the people of other countries. Peace Corps Volunteers worldwide work at the grassroots level with local governments, schools, communities, small businesses and entrepreneurs to develop sustainable solutions that address challenges in education, health, economic developments, agriculture, environment, and youth development. Peace Corps Volunteers in Macedonia either serve in local NGOs or Municipalities as Community Development volunteers or in the local public schools as English Teachers.

Institute for International Education – IIE

IIE’s mission is to advance international education and access to education worldwide. We accomplish this by: managing scholarships, training, exchange and leadership programs; conducting research and facilitating policy dialogue on global higher education; protecting scholarship around the world. Vision: educational, cultural and professional opportunities transcend borders to foster a peaceful and interconnected world (by: iie.org)
To stop exclusion, together to worry!

Elizabeta
NASTESKA (Macedonia)
elizabeta_07@yahoo.com

Humanity is an area that must be given due attention at any price must not be neglected. That we see humanity as a bridge element for rapprochement and cooperation between different nations and ethnic groups living in the region, because it is through it they will perceive their common needs and values for which we have a real human need. NGOs are one of the most important segments of our existence and civilization, as well as in developing projections for our future. Humanism right here is very important in terms of cohesion and mutual understanding between individuals and communities, which is why some have such a need that is guaranteed the right to receive any help to further create their own future. The NGOs have an important role in the system, especially regarding the availability of information to people with disabilities and social risk factors. It includes education, awareness, establishing legal framework and the involvement of institutions to inform people about the decisions that will enable greater long-term benefit. A possible reduction of mortality by strengthening and implementation of an early warning system, strengthen volunteerism, and implementation of preventive action plans and strategies for identifying vulnerable subgroups, health monitoring, advising the population, and explanations that inaction is actually the most expensive. As a result of various conditions associated with disruption of the normal structure and function of the brain, i.e. various diseases of the body, but as a result of other so-called social reasons appear different problems in adapting to the everyday person. Living in conditions of low social and economic level as well as low parental education, mental illness of one or both parents, child maltreatment may lead to inadequate development of psychological functions such as attention, language, memory, emotion etc. People are creatures of habit. As a parent each developed certain habits and ways in which it relates to their children for their beautiful and successful life. But time and consciously alter such habits if you notice negative changes. Unfortunately, even life itself poses problems whether effective steps are taken or not. Albert Einstein said “we are doing the same thing over and over again, and on the other hand, we expect better results”. So there are a few simple but powerful steps if timely taken, the more effective way would come up with the idea to have equal rights for all children. Today when the world around us go forward with a quick step, when there is too much information from all walks of life, is very difficult person more or less carries the weight of his mental or physical weakness, to adapt to it. They lag more and more behind the rest and it makes things more difficult. Very easy to lose the mood, desire to work, they lose the ability to think or do exactly that but too slow and irregular. All that separates them from the world around them, closing in themselves and try to fight alone with yourself, shun friends who after a while and lose. Some cannot learn normally and lag behind others as more bothered. They are constantly moving in a closed circuit and do not allow any side to go inside and help. In other cases try to blame their situation to impart to others and become aggressive and can even hurt someone. The final resort after themselves and may even hurt. Seeing those things around us we should not stand idly by or with our behavior can make these conditions worse, and in extreme cases people with such problems to feel completely disconnected from everyday life, i.e. work, education, contacts with people. First you should start to accept things as they are and try to understand that it bears this burden. To show understanding that we want to help you i.e. of us can ask for help. Any how you can help and where you can do it. The school can accept as equal to everyone, maybe sometimes to devote more time to the work, talks, to aid in learning to not lag behind in many others. After the society move forward when all go forward, even with a different pace, some slower and some faster. To talk openly with all of these conditions together because we cannot help, though you may have someone who does not understand these people and completely escapes them. All tend to the family, the school, in terms of them being really the place that will not try to blame their situation to impart to others and behind others as more bothered. They are and lose. Some cannot learn normally and lag around them, closing in themselves and try to fight irregular. All that separates them from the one's ability to think or do exactly that but too slow and rest and it makes things more difficult. Very easy adapt to it. They lag more and more behind the pace, some slower and some faster. To talk openly with all of these conditions together because we cannot help, though you may have someone who does not understand these people and completely escapes them. All tend to the family, the school, in terms of them being really the place that will not allow these people to lose pace of life and excluded. Yes, we should help them!

KONTEXT AU PAIR AND STUDENT LTD. – SKOPJE

Kontext Au Pair and Student Ltd. is an organization that was originally established in 2007 in Skopje, Macedonia when the owner and Managing Director, Mrs. Aleksandra Bozhinovska, decided to transfer what used to be her passion as a young adult and a freelancing job as a emerging professional, in a career and a lifestyle. The benefits young people get from spending time abroad participating in cultural exchange programs are the driving force of Kontext and we are proud to say that currently, there is an increasing number of young adults relying on us to guide them through an experience of a lifetime. Offering programs such as Au pair in USA, Europe and Canada, Language lessons abroad taking place all over the world, official language exams preparation, Work and Travel programs, Work and Study and Volunteering programs, High school and University education abroad, Kontext is a synonym of quality in the cultural exchange and education branch in Macedonia.
To live in a healthy and clean environment and breathe safe air is a right of every citizen in Macedonia. At this moment the Macedonian citizens do not really enjoy clean air and the above mentioned right is brought at issue by the act of some negligent inhabitants and organizations. It is time to do something together and improve the quality of the environment and stop the air pollution in Macedonia.” This is quote is taken from the website of Macedonia’s environmental NGO Eco Logic, an organization started in March 2011, which is working on a programme for reduction of air pollution in the country. Due to ever-increasing air pollution in Macedonia, the programme has been officially launched in July 2013 by a group of citizens concerned for the health of the population. In order to address this issue, the programme deploys a set of activities aimed at solving the current situation with massive air pollution in Macedonia.

Due to ever-increasing air pollution in Macedonia, the programme has been officially launched in July 2013 by a group of citizens concerned for the health of the population. In order to address this issue, the programme deploys a set of activities aimed at solving the current situation with massive air pollution in Macedonia.

Because the capital, the city of Skopje, has one of the highest rate of urban air pollution in the country, as a startup, an emphasis of the activities is given in this city. As years pass by, the experiences gained from running the programme will be transferred to other cities in Macedonia as well. The planned activities and its diverse set of inter-related projects aim to achieve significant decrease in air pollution, promote increase in environmentally friendly transport and create environmentally aware future generations, capable in meeting all modern day, environmentally related challenges. We want to see a change of mindset in human behavior and attitudes towards human “green” rights. To be more specific, we want to see a change in the way people think, act and care for the environment they live in. We, as an organization working in the environmental sector, would like to see the city of Skopje as an environmentally friendly city, with normal (average) usage of motorized transport, high usage of sustainable transport, and as a city in which the air is clean and presents no harm upon people’s life and health.

In order to achieve this transition, we contemplate a set of daily and monthly activities in the programme for reducing air pollution in Macedonia: Raising awareness through the social media (internet articles, Facebook, Twitter, paper news and articles, TV news and media coverage, stickers, posters, flash mobs); Education and work with children, youth and elderly people. Campaigns: Walk to school/work; Cycle to school/work; Plant-a-tree monthly. If the readers are interested, they can find out more and join these activities, if they visit Eco Logic’s website ecologic.mk or our Facebook page facebook.com/ecologic.mk. In addition, the organization has been continuously building a network with environmentally concerned organizations from Macedonia, like OXO and Greenbox, countries from the region - GO2 Albania, and other European countries - Living Streets (UK), SEED (Switzerland), JNM Brugge (Belgium), and Youth and Environment (EU). More info about friends of Eco Logic can be found on the website.
NGO ‘Lifestart’, educating parent, developing children

NGO LIFESTART - Bitola is organization founded in 1998. Since its beginnings all the efforts of the NGO are oriented toward projects interested with education of children and parents, preschool children and school aged children. In the past period were realized the following projects: “Growing and learning together”, “Early Children Development”, “Babylon”, “Grown-ups Literacy”, “Social development of the community”. Evaluation has shown that these projects have significantly improved preschool children to gain the adequate pre-knowledge as they would be ready to attend school successfully. Parents became aware of children development and are getting informed about the ways of putting up with those changes and leave positive affection on others. During our NGO occupation and activity, we have worked on the following project: Growing and learning together, 1999-2001; ECCD, 2000-2002; Assessments of needs and resources for ECCd and youth in FYROM UNICEF and World Bank, 2002; Growing and learning together in Macedonian and Roma communities, 2002; Literacy for women in vulnerable communities, 2002; Growing and learning together in Macedonian and Roma communities, 2003; Literacy for women in vulnerable communities, 2003; Better parenting initiative ECCD Canadian International Development Agency, 2003; Better parenting and health education in Roma and rural disadvantaged communities, 2004; Literacy for girls and women in Roma communities, 2004; Supporting the UNICEF centers for mothers and their children in municipality of Dobrusevo, 2004; Area based social development, 2005; Area based social development, 2006; Development of children and youth Agency for sport and youth od Macedonia, 2006; Area based social development, 2007; Area based social development, 2008; National immunization week WHO, 2008; Area based social development, 2009; Mini preschool center in Novaci, 2009; Strengthening the pre-service teacher training system in a multi-ethnic society, 2010; Area based social development, 2010 - 2012. Traditional kindergartens, as most common type of preschool education and care services available in municipality Bitola, are too expensive for families with low socioeconomic background or socially excluded families. The public kindergartens are not easily accessible for poor and socially vulnerable children and they mainly stay at home without any exposure to early stimulation and education. They lack playing and learning materials at home. Many preschool children do not have access to early childhood services because their families cannot afford to pay for preschool fee. Due to their low living standard, high poverty rate, non existing suitable preschool services with flexible programmes in rural and remote areas over 70% of the pre-school age children in rural areas are not attending neither having any preschool services. Moreover, families from rural and remote areas have to send their little to kindergarten which face not only financial difficulties but also children become homesick easily by staying for a long time out of the proximity of their home environment. With that reasons those families could not send their children or enroll to public kindergartens. Comparing to the enrolment rate in municipality public kindergartens, at present Lifestart Centers cover almost 50% of the eligible preschool children from remote and rural areas with their services. Recent evaluation (UNICEF, 2010) showed that they have a strong potential to enhance child development and to support parents. Even though, the interest of the rural families to enroll children to these centers is increasing recently, the Lifestart NGO is lacking of resources to meet the needs of all interested families. The Centers aimed especially at reaching out for disadvantaged and poor communities, where children not only have very limited access to formal kindergarten, but where conditions for rearing children in the home environment are equally worrisome. As a consequence, the repertoire of activities of the Center is broader than the one of the formal kindergarten. The following list of five core functions is based on UNICEF recent report (2010/1): Support the local community to identify vulnerable groups of children; Organize activities focused on providing support to young children and their parents in the community (intensive cooperation with parents); Assist and support the parents to improve access to basic social services for their young children; Use Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) to enhance early stimulation and child development, for better preparation for formal education and life; Raise the awareness of the importance of ECD in the local community. Project objectives: The main objective of the project is to enhance resources of local civil society organization LIFESTART for delivering alternative early childhood education services for the most marginalized preschool children from rural and remote areas. The project suggests strategies to ensure inclusion of marginalized children into quality preschool education as their best start to development, civic education and democratization. The objective of the “Mobile ECD Center” Project is to assist and guide parents of the rural and socially vulnerable families to raise and educate their children in child friendly manner and help children to become successful pupils in future.

The International Visegrad Fund is an international organization established and funded by the governments of the Czech Rep., Hungary, Poland and Slowakia. The fund promotes closer cooperation in the region through several grant and mobility programs. The purpose of the Fund is to facilitate and promote the development of closer cooperation among V4 countries (and of V4 countries with other countries, especially but not exclusively non-EU member states in Eastern Europe, the Western Balkans and the South Caucasus) through grant support of common cultural, scientific and educational projects, youth exchanges, cross-border projects and tourism promotion, and through individual mobility programs (scholarships, residencies). The fund is an international donor organization founded and funded by the governments of the Visegrad Group (V4) countries—the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slowakia. The Fund’s seat is in Bratislava, Slowakia. The annual budget is €7 million. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), municipalities and local or regional governments, schools and universities, but also private companies or individuals are eligible for grant support, provided that their projects deal with the region and further develop cooperation among project partners based in the region. (visegradfund.org)
Impact of non-formal learning at school

Mukhran GULIASHVILI (Georgia)
mukhranguliashvili@yahoo.com

“We need to reinvent not to reform education”- Tony Wagner Harvard professor. “We need a revolution not evolution” - Ser Ken Robinson. More and more of the world known educational experts are arguing that school system is out of date and does not respond to the demands of 21st century. The same situation exists in public schools of Georgia. The poor quality of education at public schools of Georgia was clearly shown by PIZA 2011 International Student Assessment Test. According to the test, literacy and numeracy of Georgian school students is below the average. There are some attempts by government of Georgia to improve quality of learning. I can bring here the fact that every 1st form student in Georgia gets special laptop equipped with special programs, which allows them to learn along with playing games. As it was mentioned above, we need revolution not an evolution in education; we need to reinvent system of education. There is not any specific solution to solve these issues. Within this article, I would like to bring out an example of learning as to how well the children are able to study, which I faced weeks ago in one of the public schools of Tbilisi. I worked at that school during a month. General school-day for students that I saw was much too boring: Almost in an every single minute I have been noticing, that the school pupils were not involved through the teaching processes, which says the role of disengagement. E.g. some of them were either sleeping or were not listening to the teacher. On 23rd of November of this year, it was festival in Georgia (St. George’s Day). After the school day was finished at 3 o’clock, the school students invited all schoolteachers, other pupils along with their parents of the same school, director and all of the employees of the school on an event in a small hall. So what was the event like? As it was the St. Georges day, school students made a presentation (for presentation Youtube, Power Point, laptop, etc. were used) of St. George’s biography, in front of invited society. Afterwards some students presented different kinds of dances, some of them read a long poetry without any mistakes - like professional artists, some of them sang Georgian and international songs. Everything was done by different ages of students with huge enthusiasm. They were working together, were giving instructions to each other, sharing the roles without any adults’ interference. They were using modern technical equipment, like laptops, projectors, etc. All these things were brought from home. I have found out later, that they independently designed the room where the event took place and it was like restaurant with candles on the tables. During the event all the other students were actively involved in these processes and among them I saw many students who often disrupting the classes during the normal school hours. Even invited students were watching their peers very attentively. As I have found out later, the idea of the event emerges from one of the teachers, who were actively supported students to organize this event. She also invited professional singer from local districts who performed several songs at the event. The event lasted for one hour and at the end of the event when people were going out of the hall, I have heard a retort from one of the school students attending the event as a guest “It was the most interesting classes I have ever attended”. Why was this most interesting class ever? Or more interesting than typical classes at school? The first reason: the above-mentioned environment, where the interesting classes took place was designed by school students. The second reason: as I mentioned above the modern technical facilities like laptop, etc. were actively used during the presentation. With the help of the modern technique the presentation became much more interesting and the general classes absolutely ignore the achievements of last century, even use of some of the electronic gadgets can be punishable during classes. The third reason: the stage of the event was devoted only for students. They were dancing, talking, doing and expressing themselves unlike typical classes where only teacher tends to talk and where he/she solely knows the correct answers on every question. The forth reason: this event was not based on any curriculum made by ministry of education, therefore students where free of doing whatever they wanted, whatever they like according to their natural talents. That’s why it was enjoyable unlike the typical everyday classes, where students are obliged to listen and learn the subject they are not interested in. The fifths reason: during the typical classes the students are evaluated by marks of 5 or 8 or 10 that does not really increase their intrinsic motivation and at this event their performance was evaluated by applause. The sixth reason: Their time was not limited to 45 minutes. Can anybody imagine what could happen if anyone should interrupt such an interesting event. The role of a teacher at these interesting classes: As I mentioned above the teacher gave the idea to the students about this event and later she helped them organizing the event. Here it is clearly shown the role of a teacher of “a set of example”. Parents’ involvement: I often hear from schoolteachers and administrators that parents are not involved at school processes and they do not pay attention to their children enough attention. As I have mentioned above, parents came especially for the event and they were actively involved watching their children performing on the stage, taking photos, videos, etc. I also mentioned above the professional singer, who performed several songs. I believe students have also learnt something from that singer and it was a good example of community involvement in a school life. On typical classes at school, students mostly are focused on memorizing the numbers, dates, figures, statistics, which can be forgotten after several years but the skills got from this event (team working, problem salvation, etc.) Will last forever. I would like to finish this essay with the open question, as to why it’s not possible to transform every class from boring into interesting one?
The role of NGOs in tackling environmental issues

The environment is nowadays a ubiquitous topic. Companies, politicians, international organizations communicate heavily on sustainable development. Indeed there has been a real environmental awareness, relayed by powerful media coverage. Deforestation, global warming, rising water, pollution ... these are all topics that seem concerned public opinion. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have a role in this rise. In fact, the “Non-Governmental” organization’s concept, better known as “nonprofit” is generally used to refer to all the organizations that are fighting to build civil society. Different depending on their size, their status, so they can have records of different actions according to their history. The first environmental NGO’s appear at the end of the 19th century, early 20th century. Known as Conservationists, they are from an Anglo -Saxon tradition of protecting nature, and support policies to preserve nature to all human activities. This is the case of World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and IUCN (Union World Conservation Union). A second wave of mobilization takes place in the 60s, 70, with new social movements with a more protesting actions such as Green Peace or Friends of the Earth. Facing major’s environmental problems such as water scarcity and contamination due to pollutants industrial slums effects, the air pollution and deforestation problems related to the regions overgrazing and population pressure, these organizations act through lobbying in order to bring changes in both national and international legislation. One of the better known is generally public demonstrations of support or indignation.

To underline that fact we could bring up the important role of Green Peace concerning environmental issues in Switzerland which end up by the signature of an agreement with industries having dumped between 1961 and 1976 more than 114,000 tons of toxic industrial waste in the former clay pit of Bonfol, whereby they undertook to start the cleaning process in 2001. Furthermore these industries have also agreed to involve unrestricted local and environmental organizations in the process of cleaning communities and inform communities of the degree of pollution of groundwater and drinking water resulting from the storage of waste toxic. The long-term education is another way of acting

Considering that our everyday’s actions have an impact on our planet, apart from collective associations and foundations, as human being we must get involved to preserve our environment...

NGOs. Faced with what some consider a wealth of voices other than those of politicians and parliaments express themselves and seek to influence international decisions. Dictatorial regimes simply do not support the existence of NGOs. Faced with what some consider a wealth of democratic debate, other governments and politicians claim to be the sole authority to speak on behalf of citizens, they were democratically elected. According to them, "NGO" is not synonymous with "society" NGOs do not necessarily advocate general interest and represent only a segment of society, and the term "civil society" is vague ("civil society" n is also not a synonym of "NGOs"). Further, the ignorance of some specific environments is a major disability for their actions and strategies which sometimes can pose problem. So, certain practices considered as way to fight again environmental damage could produce adverse effects. For example by conducting a campaign to collect garbage of urban neighborhoods on one side participate to the cleanliness and hygiene of space and, but on the other, cause a pollution problem air greenhouse when these garbage are burned because containing plastic and other toxic chemicals. Considering that our everyday’s actions have an impact on our planet, apart from collective associations and foundations, as human being we must get involved to preserve our environment for years to come.