



HELSINKI CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY
BANJA LUKA



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1ST
UNTIL DECEMBER 31ST

2004

- Introduction.....
- About us.....
- hCa organizational structure.....
- Program fields:
 - Advocacy for gender equality.....
 - Strengthening the civil society and transformation of the public authority into the service of citizens.....
 - Creation of circumstances for more intense inclusion of youth people into public life.....
- Learn with us.....
- Various.....
- Financing.....
- Publications.....
- hCa Banja Luka staff.....
- Media about us.....

And in the year 2004, Helsinki Citizens Assembly of Banja Luka carried out programs of strengthening civil society and support of marginalized groups, through three program fields: development of civil society, advocacy of gender equality, and the youth support.

Hundreds of new people joined and supported us in various activities, yet we are particularly pleased that we have remained in contact with our friends of both genders, with whom we have cooperated during the previous years. We all have learned, and worked together, socializing with one another through seminars, round tables, trainings, presentations and campaigns. This annual report will give you more information about it, and we invite you to join us in our future work.

I am using this opportunity to thank all of you, who have participated in our activities: all the donors and their supporting partners, journalists of both genders, that have been our faithful allies in this year as well. Besides this, we are also grateful to the City Administration of Banja Luka that provided us with the office space for our activities.

Lelija Zimonović





ABOUT US

Helsinki Citizens' Assembly (hCa) Banja Luka was officially registered on August 16, 1996 as local non governmental organization in Republika Srpska /Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since that period, hCa Banja Luka has actively participated in promotion, strengthening, and linking civil initiatives, working on reconciliation and development of marginalized groups for political activities, both on local and regional level.

Even before the official registration of hCa Banja Luka, a group of intellectuals concerned for improvement of cooperation in war devastated country, made contacts with civil associations within B&H and Europe, which assisted them in their organization and initiation of activities (Forum of Citizens Tuzla, Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Tuzla, Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Sarajevo, hCa International, IKV Netherlands) (1995)

In the end of nineties, the organization focused on development of civilian movements due to talks about the country future, reinforcement of trust between groups of different ethnic, religious and political background, and promotion of freedom of movement.

Such programs contributed to processes of overcoming war traumas, led also by a number of other local and international organizations in that time (1997)

hCa Banja Luka made its first strides towards creation of public movements prepared to strive for the improvement of situation in B&H, through awareness raising, trainings, and conferences about principles of democracy and reorganized its activities accordingly. (1999)

Today, hCa Banja Luka is the organization for advocacy and support, as also the resource center that directs its activities in three program areas: strengthening of civil society and transformation of public authority into the service of citizens, advocacy for gender equality, and creation of conditions for more intense inclusion of the youth people in the public life. (2002)

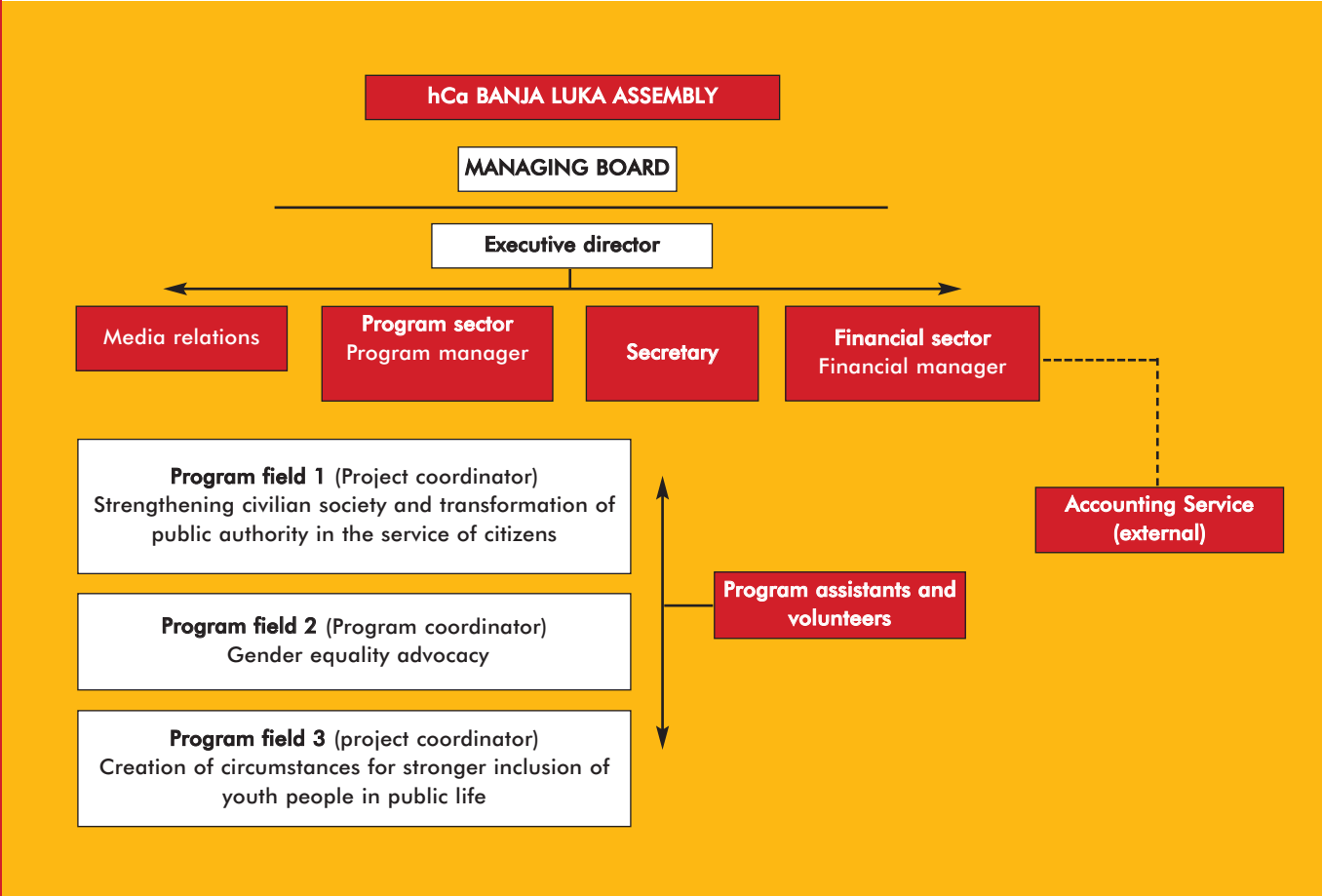
OUR MISSION:

Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka is an organization that supports and stimulates autonomy and freedom of all citizens, involving depressed social groups in democratic processes, particularly women and youth.

OUR VISION:

Society of equal opportunities for all.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF HCA BANJA LUKA



PROGRAM AREA:

ADVOCACY FOR GENDER EQUALITY

General purpose of the program area is to reduce all forms of discrimination against women and to create an environment where women and men have equal chances.

We carry it out through networking and support to initiatives related to gender issues, strengthening of women that are in the moment the largest marginalized group participating in political life, education of women and men in issues of gender equality, training of women in acquiring of variety of skills, campaign, research and analysis of public policies.

In the framework of 2004 Program Area, three projects were carried out: "Women Today", Women in B&H -Be Seen, Be Heard" and "Woman and Law"

The year of 2004 was a year of local elections in B&H, therefore a larger participation of women in public affairs was priority over all other activities having been under way in the projects "Women Today" and "Be Seen, Be Heard".

WOMAN TODAY

The project "Woman Today" has been carried out for eight years by non-governmental organizations "United Women" and Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka with financial support of Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation. The donation was approved by a Swedish International Developing Agency (SIDA).

The principal goals of project "Woman Today" in 2004 were to include as many women as possible in B&H public life, to increase the number of elected women in local government bodies on municipal elections in 2004, to increase the number of educated female politicians and women in local governmental bodies, to bring about a society offering better opportunities for both men and women, and finally, to link women from different local communities in determining of priorities.



ACTIVITIES IN 2004.

The project has been carried out in the area of North West Bosnia and Herzegovina i.e. in Banja Luka, Prijedor, Gradiska, Bosanska Dubica/Kozarska Dubica and Bosanski Novi/Novi Grad by preliminary meetings, public sessions, workshops, radio and TV programs, poster campaign, press conferences, and round tables.

The purpose of **public sessions** was to make the problems of women visible and recognizable, to point out possible solutions to particular problems and to initiate and encourage specific advocacy activities. After every session, we sent conclusions and public appeals to political parties, B&H Election Commission, local government bodies and media.

Our pre-election demands were:

- Political parties, in accordance with the Gender Equality Law in B&H should equally distribute men and women in its governing bodies;
- Women and men in political parties should have same status in recommending lists of candidates for pending elections;
- Both women and men should be evenly represented on the candidate lists, in accordance with the Gender Equality Law of B&H;
- Equal representation of both genders in media;
- Active work on encouraging election body, to motivate as many of voters as possible to take part in the elections.

Workshops for women in political parties took place under name "Advocacy, Lobbying and Media Presentation", two in Banja Luka and one in the cities of Gradiska, Prijedor, Novi Grad and Kozarska Dubica.

The workshop participants pointed out that this was the first time in small towns of Western part of Bosnia and Herzegovina to have any seminar and up to that moment they had no chance to discuss problems of their town in such way. It was important to everybody that women of different nationalities and political convictions gathered at same place and were able to work together on the problems of their local community.



Workshop in Kozarska Dubica, June 2004.

Poster Campaign with message "If You Ask Us, Give Your Vote to Woman", was carried out during September. A press conference was announced, and on that very day women fixed up posters in Gradiska, Prijedor, Kozarska Dubica, Novi Grad and Banja Luka. Two thousand posters were printed and 4000 leaflets with campaign slogans were distributed.

The conference "Woman Today, Now and Here" was held in December in Banja Luka. The participants talked about the state of female human rights, analyzed results of municipal elections in local communities included in the project, and they also discussed gender aspect of local elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

They concluded to ask for amendment to the B&H Constitution, the amendment should ensure constitutional rights of both genders in legislative, executive and judicial authority, as well as in all public institutions, state and local administrative bodies, companies steering bodies, political parties and other profit and non-profit organizations in B&H.

Some of the conference recommendations were to demand the change of the B&H Election Law in order to ensure that "every list of candidates includes male and female candidates alternatively distributed on the lists in the ratio of gender distribution in accordance with the last census", and to ask for interpretation of article 15 of the Gender Equality Law in B&H in the part "generally it shall reflect equal representation of genders", and to penalize non-voters by fine or in some other proper way.

The recommendations of this conference were sent to the Republika Srpska and B&H Federation Gender Centers and Gender Equality Agency in B&H.

Radio and TV shows and press conferences followed the project implementation. After every discussion and workshop in local community radio shows were broadcasted on local radio and attendants to workshops took part in it, while TV shows and press conferences informed public on the issue of female political participation, of the Election Law in B&H, negligence to carry out the Gender Equality Law in B&H, and of violation of women's human rights.



News conference in Banjaluka, 8. March, 2004.

Results:

- More than one hundred women in political parties have been trained in advocacy, lobbying and media presentation in five cities in North Western part of B&H
- In five local communities communication between women from different political parties has been established
- The beneficiaries of project have been familiarized with the institutional mechanisms and the Gender Equality Law in B&H, as means of improvement of status of women in B&H.
- We were the first to bring into the public the results of local elections as regards the gender aspect.
- Increased number of elected women in the City Assembly of Banja Luka from 25,8% to 35,5%, and in Prijedor from 19% to 22,6% (a woman was also appointed to the position of City Assembly President)
- Several initiatives have been launched, most important of which is to commence alteration of the B&H Election Law and B&H Constitution.
- A request, demanding consideration of the Gender Equality Law in B&H and assurance of even selection in the process of creation of local administrative bodies, including the selection of indirectly appointed city employees and officials, was filed with all RS municipalities.

PLANS FOR 2005.

United Women and hCa are going to continue with the project in the same cities as in 2004. Concerning the need of additional education, new workshops, sessions, round tables and media presentations will be organized to encourage as many women as possible to step in public.

BE SEEN, BE HEARD

The project "Be Seen, Be Heard" is the continuation of the project "Women in B&H" which implementation began in 1999.

The aim of project "Be Seen, Be Heard" is to engage women in democratic processes and in decision making bodies of local communities and to eliminate patriarchal barriers and stereotypes deeply rooted in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It has been financed by an American organization NED and a Dutch organization IKV.

As a result, of different activities carried out within this project from 2001 until 2003, an informal female network named "Be Seen, Be Heard" was created.

The network was officially created on a conference, held in Banja Luka, in October



2003, and today consists of over 160 female activists in non-governmental organizations, political parties, state institutions, religious and cultural organizations in 16 B&H cities (Banja Luka, Bosansko Grahovo, Bratunac, Drvar, Gacko, Glamoc, Kupres, Livno, Ljubuski, Milici, Mostar, Nevesinje, Sarajevo, Srebrenica, Tomislavgrad, and Visegrad).

The goals of network "Be Seen, Be Heard" are:

- Encouraging women to step in public,
- Developing self-confidence in political engagement in local communities,
- Developing cooperation on basis of solidarity between women in different political parties, non-governmental organizations and other arranged modes of action,
- Building strategy that will be more efficient in increasing percentage of women in public life.

ACTIVITIES IN 2004.

Activities encompassed with this project are public sessions, press conferences, printed bulletins on women's activities, and a variety of publications observing female work and political campaigns of female politicians.

■ Joint pre-election campaign

A joint campaign "Let Us Vote to Change Picture, Shoulder by Shoulder Man and Woman" developed and implemented by the Network members was carried out in 16 cities of B&H.

The goal of campaign was to support female candidates on local elections held in October 2004.

In the towns where the Network operated during the campaign, posters and 4000 leaflets with the names of all female candidates were printed. Public sessions and press conferences were also organized, presenting female candidates from different political parties.



Pasting placards "Let Us Vote to Change Picture, Shoulder by Shoulder Man and Woman", in Livno, August, 2004.

■ Public sessions and press conferences

Throughout the year, we organized public sessions and press conferences in the regions of operation of informal political network "Be Seen, Be Heard" familiarizing citizens with the forms of work and operation of Network, with (non)utilization of the Gender Equality Law in B&H, with the female candidates for October 2004 local elections, and with the results of local elections as regards gender equality.

■ "Be Seen, Be Heard" booklets

"Notes from campaign". By the booklet we wanted to explain the role of female political party members in planning and implementing pre-election campaigns, their level of activity and the sort of barriers they encounter in public and political life.

"We have no woman party leader. This is so and all this makes clear that words are just words and reality is something else. Women have to be encouraged and instigated to step in public - let them rebuke and pass remarks, that is all unimportant if you know what it is you want and why you do this. Women must not become only a voting machine after entering parliament". - Mladenka Petkovic, SDS member of Milici Municipal assembly ("Campaign notes", Banja Luka, March 2004).

"Women in Media" - This booklet presented results of fourteen days monitoring of six electronic and six printed media in Republika Srpska and B&H Federation.

The results of monitoring are shocking and illustrate complete non-balance and unequal appearance of males and females in media - women get less than 20% of B&H media attention. The monitoring also disclosed that in no feature women talked longer than men - in only 20 out of 663 analyzed TV features during monitoring, woman as a competent person that gave statement, commented and analyzed recent political or economical subject appeared ten times less than men - only in 20 features.

"In Action of Advocacy" - In this booklet we brought to public examples of successful advocating campaigns implemented by "Be Seen, Be Heard" network members in their local communities.

Owing to a campaign "Milk Purchase" in Bosansko Grahovo organized by "Grahovo" an association of female citizens, some women opened their bank accounts and received wages for the first time or for the first time after 12 years.



■ The "Network" bulletin

Recent information on activities of members of informal network "Be Seen, Be Heard", and news regarding female actions and female human rights in world and B&H, have been publicized in four issues of The "Network" bulletin.

■ The Conference

The annual conference took place in Mostar, late November 2004. Forty conference members appealed to elected municipal administration officials to take care of the Gender Equality Law in B&H, and ensure equal number of either gender in local administrative bodies in creating other municipal bodies.

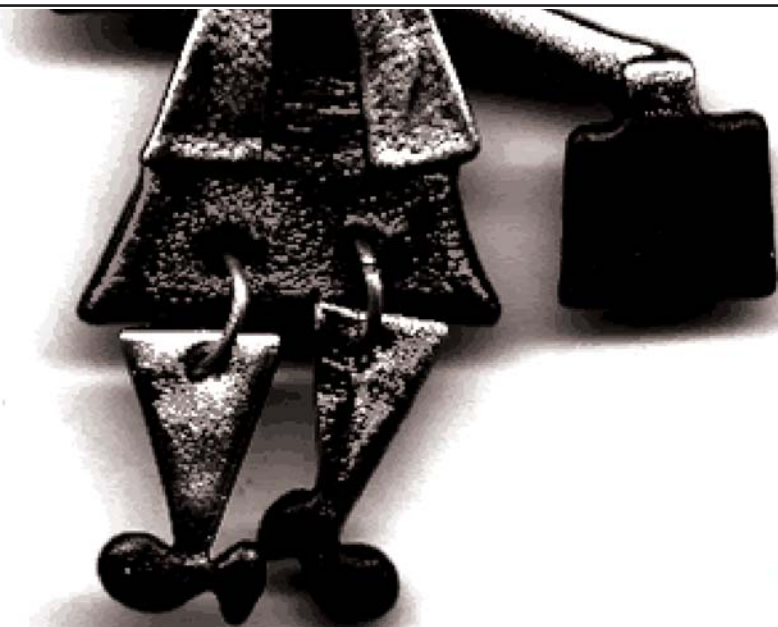


The network conference "Be Seen, Be Heard", in Mostar, November 2004.

RESULTS

- New members, non-governmental activists and female politicians as well as non-governmental organization "BRIDGE" from the town of Visegrad joined the informal political network "Be Seen, Be Heard".
- The Network members have been educated to train independently, direct and organize public discussions
- A result of pre-election Network activities was candidacy of 23 members of informal network "Be Seen, Be Heard", seven of which won mandates, i.e. 30,43%.
- Increased media coverage of the Network activities.

"Only through strong network, can we achieve good results"
Only through the Network can women be important factor in B&H"
- From evaluation of Network members



PLANS FOR 2005.

We plan to continue with education of women in 2005, to print brochures and bulletins, to organize public sessions and workshops aiming at larger female participation in decision making processes at various levels of authority.

WOMAN AND LAW

"Woman and Law" project has been implemented since March 1st 1997, through partnership of United Women, and hCa Banja Luka, with financial support of the Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

The aims of this project are improvement of legal and psychosocial security of women, and promotion of their position in family, public life, elimination of all sorts of sexual discrimination, and achievement of gender equality.

Women and children, victims of domestic violence, may obtain free of charge legal aid and advice in the Center for Free Legal and Psychosocial Assistance "Woman and Law" when drafting any sort of complaint, competent representatives at court and other public institutions (unless they have no means to cover the expenses of the above services), social worker's assistance, and that of the counselor, as well as advices as to how to protect themselves from violence. Seven hundred and thirty six women received legal and psychosocial aid in the period between January 1st and December 31st 2004.

As from the beginning of this project (i.e. March 1997), to this day, 3270 women obtained support through activities of this center.

Through regular meetings of discussion groups, women are given chance to exchange their experiences, talk openly, put forward their problems and learn how to cope with them, but also help other women from their surrounding, that are victims of domestic violence. There are two SOS telephone lines within the center for free legal and psycho social aid, for women and children victims of domestic violence. In the period from January 1st and December 31st 2004, there were 987 SOS calls, as compared to a number of 5097 calls, received from the establishment of the afore mentioned center to this day.

During the realization of this project, we also organized two **workshops for the police employees**, about domestic violence problems.

These workshops gathered 41 male and female police officers from 14 places within Banja Luka region.

Ten radio programs devoted to women's human rights, were broadcast on "UNO" radio station, Banja Luka, while in the end of 2004, came out the second issue of the Guide for Victims of Domestic Violence, titled "A Book of My Female Friend" This guide contains basic



answers concerning abuse of women and children in family environment, but is also applicable to other kinds of violence, women in our environment are exposed to, regardless of their age and social status.

Although the RS Government provided the funds for the purchase of the **Safe House**, designated for accommodation of victims of violence, there is a substantial deficit of money for procurement of furniture, and settlement of operating costs. There is no Safe House in Banja Luka yet, which poses a great obstacle in breaking the enchanted circle of violence. Most of the women and children that suffer from domestic violence, even after the police intervention and that of the court and social worker, have no where else to go but to stay with abuser.

The most severe cases of domestic violence are sent to Modrica, the only town in Republika Srpska with the safe house.



The poster features a large red telephone handset icon with a yellow center. Above it, the letters 'SOS' are displayed in yellow, with a red dot between the two 'S's. Below the handset, the text '051 219-639' and '219-640' is shown in large, bold, black font. To the right of the handset, the text 'TELEFON ZA POMOĆ ŽENAMA ŽRTVAMA PORODIČNOG NASILJA' is written in smaller black font. At the bottom left, the text 'SVAKI DAN' is visible, and at the bottom right, 'OD 17-21' is shown. Small logos and text at the bottom right include 'POKROVITELJ: KVINKA TILL KVINKA SWEDEN' and 'kvinka' logo.

PROGRAM AREA:

STRENGTHENING THE CIVILIAN SOCIETY AND TRANSFORMATION OF PUBLIC AUTHORITY INTO THE SERVICE OF CITIZENS

The objectives of this program area are creation and strengthening of democracy through awareness raising of citizens with respect to democratic principles and processes, and encouraging citizens to launch different initiatives and participate in decision making at all levels of governance.

We are trying to establish the best possible cooperation between the citizens and the governmental institutions, through various activities within the program area.

In the year 2004, we have realized two projects within the program area: "National Minorities: Flat Mates, Not Sub Tenants", and "From Local to Global Dialogue", that was financed by the European Union.

NATIONAL MINORITIES: FLAT MATES NOT SUB TENANTS

Following the constitutional amendments, that provided the constituency of three nations (Serbs, Croats, and Bosnijaks), on the whole territory of B&H, a national key system, was again introduced as one of the chief criteria in decision making on different levels. National minorities, however, have remained marginalized in the B&H Constitution, and consequently in everything it results. The Constitution defines them as others. The goal of the "Flat Mates, Not Sub Tenants" project was to enable inclusion of national minorities in processes of decision making and advance their position in the society. The project was carried out with the Association of Czechs, "Ceska Beseda", Banja Luka, and was financed by the European Union.

ACTIVITIES

- As a base for easier and more successful future work, twelve associations and informal groups of national minorities assembled and registered as the Union of National





Minorities. This enabled the latter to appear and function as a legal person in its demands, and also created conditions for its financial dealings.

■ We organized two round tables: "Relations of Media and National Minorities", and "Law and Protection of National Minority Rights". Conclusions that came up from these round tables show that media should provide more space for national minorities, as also more information as to the other problems they face, not only about their cultural activities. Another round table was organized in the period of passing the Law on Protection



Round table "Relations of Media and National Minorities", January 2004.

of National Minority Rights in Republika Srpska. The appeals were made with the Government to also include representatives of national minorities in that process, and to initiate arrangements for census, in order to facilitate creation of development strategies in B&H, and, among other things, solve the national minority issues.

■ At three public sessions held in Banja Luka, Prijedor and Prnjavor, places with significant national minority population, we discussed relations of the constituent peoples, local institutions of power, and national minorities.

■ About 200 representatives of different associations, political parties, institutions of power, and foreign and international organizations were present at public gatherings and round tables.

■ We attempted to coordinate the work of these organizations, and divide the activities between the Union and associations, through strategic planning workshop.

■ We organized three TV and one radio broadcast as regards the status of national minorities, their association's activities and law- making, news conferences, and other short media shows.

■ The representatives of hCa and the Union had meetings with delegates of European Union, European Council, local authorities, as well as with those from associations of B&H Federation, with view to providing better results.

■ A bimonthly informative bulletin "Word of National Minorities" was printed, containing comments, information on the project status, laws, cultural activities of the association, news pertaining to associations in other municipalities etc.

RESULTS:

- Associations of national minorities gained a unique Union that represents them in negotiations with authorities, in legislative matters, and also appears as a third party in financial grants towards associations of national minorities.
- The members of national minority associations are trained with skills of advocating and media representation, so that they successfully carry out campaigns and appear in media.
- Arranged regular time space for broadcasts dedicated to national minorities, on the state owned radio and TV stations (Radio television of RS).
- Increased representation of national minority related issues in media reports
- Associations compiled strategic plan for the following three years
- Contacts between the law making authorities, and the Union of National Minorities had the impact on adoption of the Law on Protection of National Minorities in Republika Srpska
- Contacts of national minorities living in Republika Srpska and embassies of their countries of origin have been improved
- Project also supported the initiative of the national minorities' associations for the allocation of premises for their activities without charge. After decision of Banja Luka city authorities in April 2004, they opened the Club of National Minorities in Republika Srpska, first of its kind in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Ministry of Education and Culture granted the funds for cultural activities of the association that were distributed by the Union of National Minorities, while certain funds were donated from Banja Luka city budget to cover the registration fees and running costs of the association.
- Apart from the above results, the staff engaged in the project also participated in numerous sessions and made contribution to creation of strategy reforms in sense of policy toward national minorities with regard to education, elections and other fields.



Ceremonial opening of the Club of National Minorities, in Cara Lazara Street Nr 20, Banja Luka

"Helsinki Citizens' Assembly of Banja Luka and this project helped us organize ourselves in a better manner, register and stand on our own feet. They had a lot of understanding for the needs and problems of national minorities. Their share in what we have done this year is of great importance." Vladimir Blaha, president of the Union of National Minorities

PLANS FOR THE YEAR 2005.

Helsinki Citizens Assembly Banja Luka and the Union of National Minorities of Republika Srpska shall continue with their activities of strengthening the association, in 2005, through a project called "Flat Mates", financed by the European Union. The project includes training of B&H associations' representatives on subjects of citizens' association's management, and media presentation, seminar for journalists about reports on minorities, monitoring of implementation of the Law on Protection of National Minority Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, creation of data base for associations, and similar activities.

FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL DIALOGUE

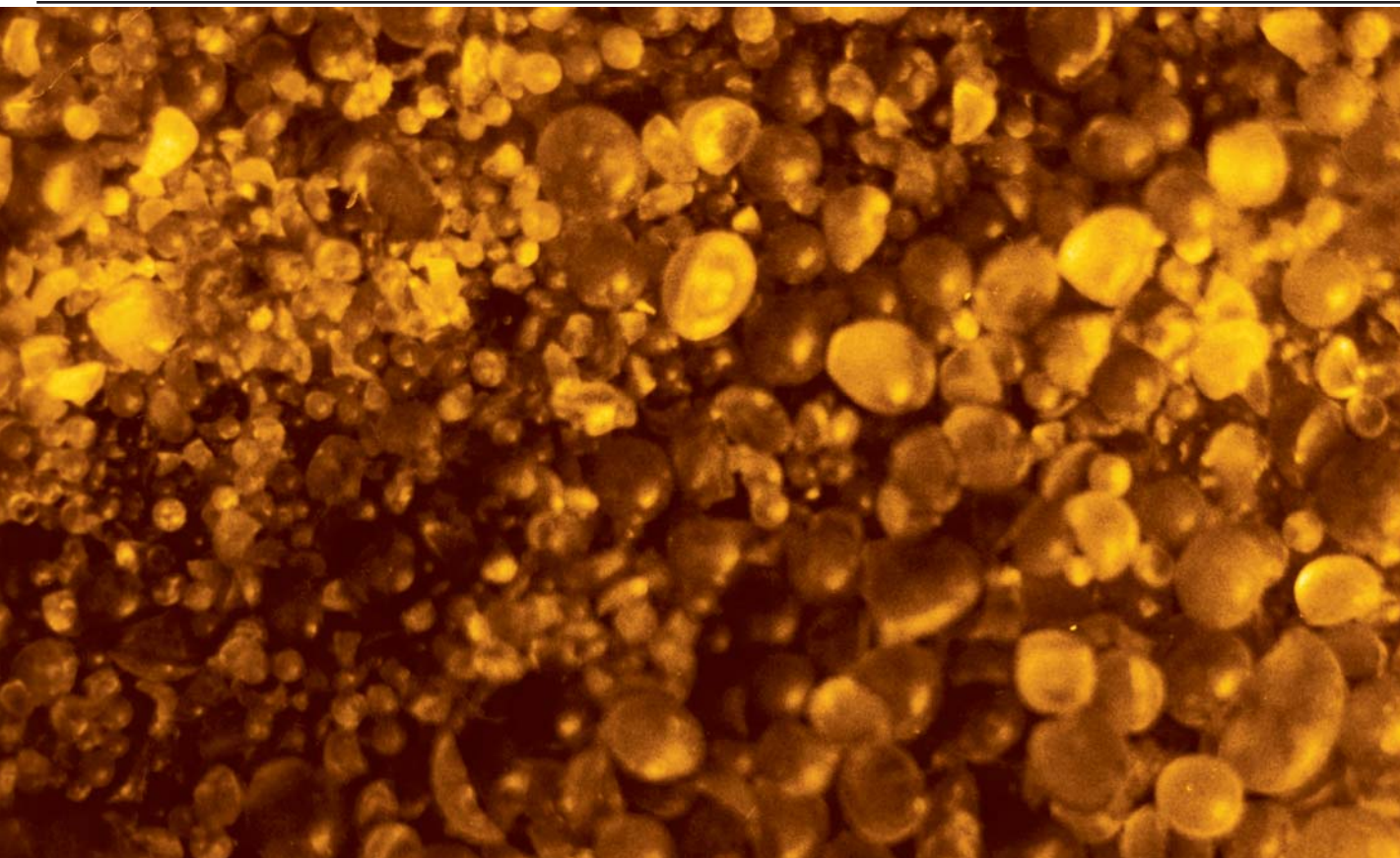
Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka during the year 2004 realized the project "From Local to Global Dialogue", on the territory of Banja Luka city, in cooperation with Banja Luka city authorities, and financial aid of European Union.

The aims of this project were as follows:

- Informing the citizens with competencies and structure of municipal institutions
- Establishment and improvement of communication between local authorities and citizens
- Strengthening of confidence between citizens and municipal officials
- Support to citizens' initiatives

ACTIVITIES

Citizens were regularly informed about decisions and conclusions of City Assembly sessions as also of other activities of Mayor and City Administration, during realization of project "From Local to Global Dialogue", through following:



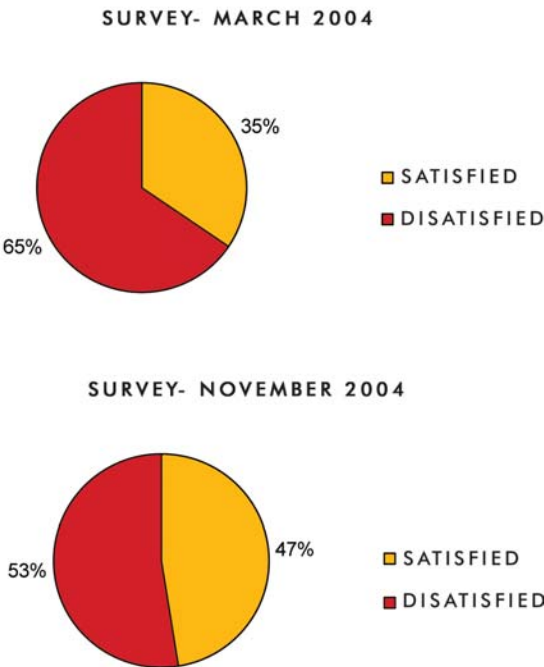
Pamphlets for citizens:

Six pamphlets were printed for citizens, with answers to the current matters and problems they face when contacting City Administration employees, as also the views and propositions of citizens for improvement of work of City Administration.

Pamphlets were published twice a month, being mailed to citizens, and distributed at information counters of City Administration free of charge.

During the month of March 2004, we conducted a public opinion survey as to the satisfaction of citizens with City Administration services.

Out of 428 persons, even 65 % of them answered to be dissatisfied with services of City Administration. The same survey conducted in November 2004, resulted in significantly smaller number of those dissatisfied. Namely, out of 443 polled persons, 47% of them stated as being satisfied with the work of City Administration.



Banja Luka city bulletin

During the year 2004., twelve issues of "Banja Luka City Bulletins" were printed, containing most important information about the City Administration activities. They were mailed and distributed to citizens without charge, at information counters in the offices of City Administration.

Public sessions

During the course of six public sessions citizens had chance to speak directly with city authority officials, and obtain answers to various questions and put forward their views, proposals, and complaints against the work of local administration. These public sessions were concerned with the actual city related issues such as car parking problems, efficiency of municipal employees, City Administration policy towards specific aimed groups, etc.



Public session " Organization and structure of City Administration", January 2004.



Different proposals and suggestions arose from these meetings like the ones about proclaiming Banja Luka capital of Republika Srpska, introduction of electronic mail communications system into City Administration, establishment of the Youth Club, and better exchange of students, as well as proposition that at least 35% of all public revenues collected on the territory of Banja Luka city should be returned to the city budget. Proposals, suggestions and conclusions of these sessions were forwarded to different institutions of authority in Republika Srpska.

■ TV programs:

All the public sessions were broadcast live on the channel of "Alternativna Televizija", Banja Luka, so that citizens were given the chance of asking direct questions to the guests from City Administration, pass their suggestions and gain answers to their queries.



Presenting the project: "From Local to Global" at the news conference, Banja Luka, March 2004.

PROJECT RESULTS

- Activities within the project allowed a two way communication between citizens and City Administration, and creation of continued flow of information about activities inside the city administration.
- On several occasions we enabled citizens to arrange meetings with authority officials, who had been unavailable before. One example are the small bus owners, who were dissatisfied with new organization of the city traffic, they were not included in. Thanks to one of public sessions "From Local to Global Dialogue", they managed to bring out their problem before the city authority that had paid no attention to their previous demands. After this session small bus owners arranged meetings with officials of the City Administration.
- Citizens were familiarized with their rights and gained answers to their queries from competent officials of City Administration through printed leaflets.
- Banja Luka City Administration decided to continue with activities-as part of their standard practice- that were realized within the project "From Local to Global Dialogue", by making citizens acquainted with the work and activities of City Administration through bulletins and brochures.
- City administration also expressed their readiness to pass gained experiences to other municipalities in Republika Srpska.

PLANS FOR 2005/06.

In the oncoming period a model of successful cooperation achieved between Helsinki Citizens' Assembly and City Assembly of Banja Luka will be transferred to citizens and colleagues in municipalities of Modrica and Teslic.

PROGRAM AREA:

CREATION OF CONDITIONS FOR MORE INTENSE INVOLVEMENT OF YOUTH PEOPLE IN PUBLIC LIFE

Aims of this program area

- Creation of circumstances for more intense inclusion of youths in the public life
- Strengthening and linking of youths as per the spheres of interest for their more active involvement in the public life
- Increase participation of youths in the political life

Two projects, out this program area, were realized in 2004: "YOUth MOVE ", and "Youths be Seen".

The goal of the "YOUth MOVE" project is to engage young activists of political parties and create a new generation of politicians ready to work on improvement of living conditions in their local communities. Young politicians awaken to human rights, and importance of gender equality, shall emphasize those principles in the course of their work. Partner in this project is the Youth Informative Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, while the project is financed by Olof Palme International Center from Sweden.

Zvornik, Mostar, and B&H were the cities in which majority of the project activities took place. Young people across the B&H were trained in skills of advocacy, communication, media presentation and negotiation, through the project "Youths be Seen", with view to including as many young people as possible in the election campaign, on the eve of local elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This project was financially supported by the Westminster Foundation for Democracy from Great Britain.

ACTIVITIES IN 2004

- We conducted a research in three B&H cities -Zvornik, Mostar, and B&H, with participation of more than 1500 potential voters, into readiness of people to vote for young politicians during local elections.





- We issued a pamphlet titled " My Vote is the Original", which contained results of this research showing that 74 % of out of 1941 persons agreed that more young people should enter politics. A question: Do you think that young members of political parties appear in media often enough? was answered in the negative by 89% of the polled, which demonstrates the entire domination of elderly politicians in the B&H media. Majority of the polled, i.e. 68% of them deem that the young politicians are "clever and ambitious people" and "fighters for interests of young people", but also remark that the young politicians are exploited by their elderly party colleagues. In the pamphlet titled "My Vote is the Original", we also presented all young candidates for the seats in Zvornik, Mostar and B&H, in order to get them as close as possible to voters.
- We organized a series of local meetings that gathered young politicians of both sexes, potential city council members, during which some of joint strategies for youths were defined, as well as ways of increasing number of youths in local authority bodies.
- In Mostar, we organized a one day workshop in partnership with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, for young politicians that were related to media presentation of young candidates, and methods of communication with potential voters.
- We organized three large local campaigns in Mostar, Zvornik and Bihać, by means of which we wanted to provide visibility of youths before local elections in their region, and further. Campaigns had directly influenced the young population in B&H as well, rousing them to vote and get included into decision making processes and through their engagement in political party or an non governmental organization make their contribution and become the integral part of the public institution organs.
- We also held a "Winter School" for fifty young aldermen, in the course of which they were prepared for responsibilities and opportunities they gained after the local elections held in October 2004.
- We organized and supported more than 10 campaigns of local young politicians, members of different political parties, who represented themselves to their voters by solving significant local problems.



Campaign "My vote is original", Bihać, September 2004.



"Youths Bee Seen", -action of collecting the books for the library in Tekućica, Doboј, September 2004.

RESULTS:

- Sixty young politicians received training in communication skills, advocacy, negotiation and media. During these workshops, they had an opportunity to learn how to practically apply their actions and influence the changes in society, how to gather allies for their activities and how to overcome obstacles in their work. They were trained as to how to present themselves in the best way, as well as their activities, aims and their political party in media and in public.
- Through meetings in Zvornik, Bihac and Mostar, they created a network of youths at local level that will strive for solving problems of youths.
Three hundred and ninety one aldermen of both sexes were elected, which makes 12.43 % of the whole number of municipal council members in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- More than two thousand young people participated in local campaigns concerning local elections and the youths in B&H.
- Establishment of cooperation with international and local organizations that work with young politicians, with view to improving position of youth people and effective joint work and strategies for youth people in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Over thirty media shows (radio and TV broadcasts, newspaper articles...) related to activities we carried out in 2004.
- We hosted trainees of YPS program(Youth Policy School), conducted by OIA B&H from Sarajevo and Banja Luka, who volunteered in youth activities of Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka.
- The youth program of hCa Banja Luka was a host to many national and foreign students that made studies at their universities about position of youth people in B&H, political engagement and youth policy in B&H.
- Two female students of the School for Human Rights, organized by Olof Palme Center from Sweden, wrote a report on a role of youths in political life of B&H, respect of rights of children, women and national minorities, as well as those of homosexuals, and situation regarding HIV in B&H.



YOUTH MOVE team:
Zoran, Emilija, Samir, Marinela, Jelena, Danijel,
Tea and Bojana.

PLANS FOR 2005

- Continue to work on strengthening of youths, and their visibility by the general elections in 2006. through training arrangement in the field of advocacy, negotiation, strategic planning, gender issues, and other topics important for a man/ woman politician.
- Conduct a research in Bosnia and Herzegovina regarding issues of involvement of young politicians in media, media monitoring and work with journalists for the purpose of improving media presentation of youths in B&H.
- Strengthen the youth strategies and cooperation at local level between members of non governmental organizations, students' associations, political organizations, and their counterparts from local authorities in Zvornik, Mostar, and Bihac, through organizing strategic planning workshops and joint mini projects.
- Special attention shall be paid toward inclusion and strengthening of young female politicians, through various workshops dedicated to their reinforcement and conferences aimed at their promotion.
- Continue with realization of the winter school "YOUth MOVE", in 2005, which will be directed towards media and youth people.



LEARN WITH US

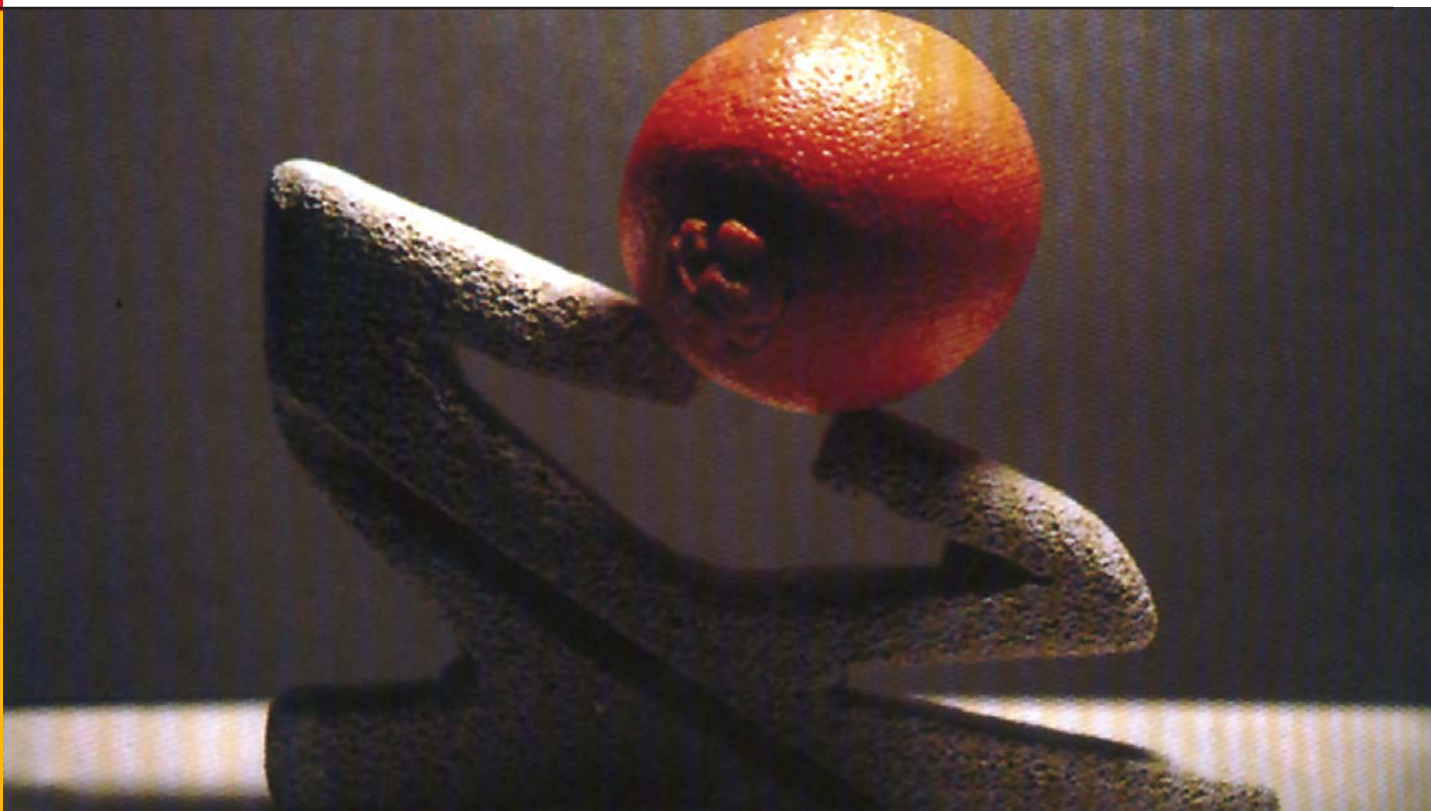
Helsinki Citizens Assembly (hCa) Banja Luka, in six years, has organized and conducted various types of trainings-seminars, attended by more than 1000 trainees.

Training courses are directed by the skilled trainers- teachers with post secondary school education and university degree that have passed specialist trainings at the local and foreign non governmental organizations, institutions and media.

HCA ORGANIZES AND GUIDES THE FOLLOWING TRAININGS:

- **NGO Management and Providing the Means for its Work-** you have gathered a group of people that wish to change the current situation? You need to bring some order, and if you wish to bring out your views publicly or raise the funds for your activities, you should register your association. Managers of the non governmental sector in B&H may pass their experiences in this field of work and help you avoid mistakes and bypass obstacles in launching an NGO's.
- **Developing a Strategic Plan-** You have got an idea and wish to realize it, yet you don't know how to do it, and what to take into account. Your team is interested in a making a change, or achieving a goal? Training about a strategic plan creation shall help you turn your vision into a real plan. With the assistance of our trainers you will get the clear picture about the possibilities, limitations and your potential allies and adversaries. You will set yourself real goals and deadline for their realization.
- **Developing Project Proposals -** You wish to raise funds for your project and convince others in importance of your action? A reasonable, convincing idea with valid arguments poured into written form of a project proposal shall bring you a step closer towards provision of financial means required for the achievement of your activities.

"During training as also in consultations with trainers thereafter, we developed actual project proposals which are important for the youths in my town. Satisfaction is greater still, because the donors approved the funds for these projects." A Project Composition workshop participant -Telic, Maglaj 2002.



- **Public Advocacy with Skills of Campaign Handling, Lobbying** - You would like to have a playground in your town, where the kids could play safely? You don't want the dumping ground near your doorway? You are not satisfied with the law as you consider that it violates your human rights, but you think you cannot change anything? After this seminar you shall change your opinion, and will become more aware of your strength and your possibilities, and will fling yourself into action with more self-assurance.

"Trainings have helped me a lot. Something has grown stronger inside me, something I was unaware of. I had sought after the self strength for years, so as to lead me in my future activities, make me be more useful in my own environment, and able to change the present situation." A Public Advocacy training participant, Bijeljina 2003.

- **Public Relations and Media Presentations** - There is a saying that whatever is not published in media, has not happened at all. This seminar will teach you how to fight for your own space in media and to find a way to have exactly the information about your work published in the competition of thousand other news that pile up in editorial offices.

"I have developed self confidence, and gained extra freedom when appearing in public.

What I learned in media presentation workshop, I applied right upon the return in my town. I prepared the news conference, and had a successful appearance on TV and radio." A Media Presentation training participant, Banja Luka 2002.

- **Public Speech and Presentation** -You are at the podium and, but your voice is trembling because of stage fright. You don't know where to put your hands and who to look at? Public speech training will help you build self confidence and make your words and body pose give out an impression of a convincing, strong and competent person.

- **Conflict Resolution - Non Violent Communication** - Conflicts within your company make your work harder? Disagreements with your friends or family members lead you in despair? A dispute itself is nothing awful. It only means that there is the time for a change. It depends on you whether the conflict will end up with agreement or confrontation. This training will help you settle the matters.

"I could have applied the skills gained at the training, at work in a humanitarian organization, during the protest of refugees, and thanks to the skills of mediation and facilitation, I managed to calm down the situation". A participant of the Conflict Resolution/Transformation training, Banja Luka 2001.

- **Negotiation**- You wish something, but whether you will get it or not, doesn't depend merely on you, e.g. the job is pending since you cannot reach an agreement about the key issues. You have to sit at the table along with other party, but are afraid of yielding or being too rigorous again and spoil your relations for good. This training shall help you gain the skills of principled negotiation in order to reach an agreement to the mutual satisfaction.





- **Meeting Organizing - Decision Making Within a Group** - You are sitting at a meeting for hours, without seeing an end of it? Just when you think that it has come to a conclusion, someone else puts forward a new proposition? This training will teach you skills which enable you manage meetings efficiently and help you turn trying discussions into satisfaction, whilst respecting the views of all the others.

"Facilitation skills helped me organize a meeting in the social welfare center, a place I work at. Namely, there came to a conflict amongst the steering board members, while making a decision about a research, because of analysis contents and fees that were to be paid. I was entrusted with the task of organizing a meeting, and I can say that the skills of mediation and negotiation helped me resolve the conflict and transform it into a joint agreement." A training participant, Banja Luka 2001.

- **Inter Gender Relations-Gender Equality** -Have you ever been in a situation to get disqualified at a job interview just for being a woman? Have you ever done a job, you would have otherwise rather avoided, but had to do it because you were a man?
The aim of this training, which is based on principles of gender equality, is to shed the light on cultural and social relations and gender identities. Sexuality and inter gender relations, in the open and safe atmosphere of training cease to be taboos.

"Conversation in the good atmosphere and in circle of the people whom I trust regarding issues of equality, in its all segments- my rights, growing up, socialization, sexuality -shifted the boundaries of my comprehension, altered my opinion about myself and other people ." A participant in Gender equality training, Slatina 2001.

- **Training for Trainers** - You would like to lead one of the above mentioned seminars, or to prepare a one on your own, with a new subject? You have got the knowledge, but not the skills to pass it to the other people? Attending this course will teach you how to share your knowledge with others.

HCA Banja Luka cooperates with school and university professors across the B&H, and experts in other trades, who, depending on training demands, pass their skills and experience to those concerned.

We link those that are interested with other organizations which offer training services within the country and abroad.

Helsinki Citizens Assembly Banja Luka organized six trainings relating to the area of public advocacy and media presentation for the activists of political parties and representatives of national minority associations, and a strategic planning workshop for the Union of National Minorities of RS. The training was guided by the trainers of hCa Banja Luka and organization "United Women", as part of project called "Woman Today", and "National Minorities: Flat mates not sub tenants."

hCa Banja Luka trainers guided three trainings regarding the public relations and media presentation upon the request of International Orthodox Christian Charity (IOCC) and a "Vermont" association from Brcko. Those workshops were attended by about 50 members of various NGOs from B&H, mostly young male and female activists.



hCa Banja Luka organizes trainings upon request of organizations, groups or individuals. A minimum number of trainees are twelve. Trainings last from 24 to 40 hours (for three to five working days), depending on subject. Training period is determined according to arrangement, and can be organized in extent of a few consecutive days (up to eight working hours per day) or in the form of courses (three hours a week, for the period of two months).

hCa provides training manuals, technical equipment, and additional material for trainees.

Apart from the trainings organized and conducted by the HCA Banja Luka, we also did trainings upon request of the following organizations:

United Nations Development Program, DIFD, OSCE, " Peace Studies Center"- Zagreb, "Citizens Forum of Tuzla", Helsinki Citizens Assembly Tuzla", "Danish Youth Council", NGO " Buducnost"- Modrica, "Ungdmsringen" - Denmark, " Center for Citizens Cooperation"-Odzak, a group of NGOs and women's associations from the town of Sipovo, "Women to Women"-Sarajevo, IOCC, "Vermont"-Brcko.

If you are interested in attending any of the above mentioned courses, you may contact us by phone: ++387 51 432 750, ++387 65 615 535, fax: ++387 51 432 752, or e-mail at: hCabl@blic.net.



PARTICIPATION IN WORKING GROUPS AND COALITIONS

Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka, is the member of the B&H NGO coalition called "Work and Succeed Together", within which it participated in creation of following documents: "Agreement on Cooperation Between the B&H Council of Ministers and the Non governmental Sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina", "Strategy of Development of the Non governmental Sector in B&H", "Policy of Non Governmental sector in B&H", and " Quality Standards of Services Between the B&H Council of Ministers and Non Governmental Sector in B&H".

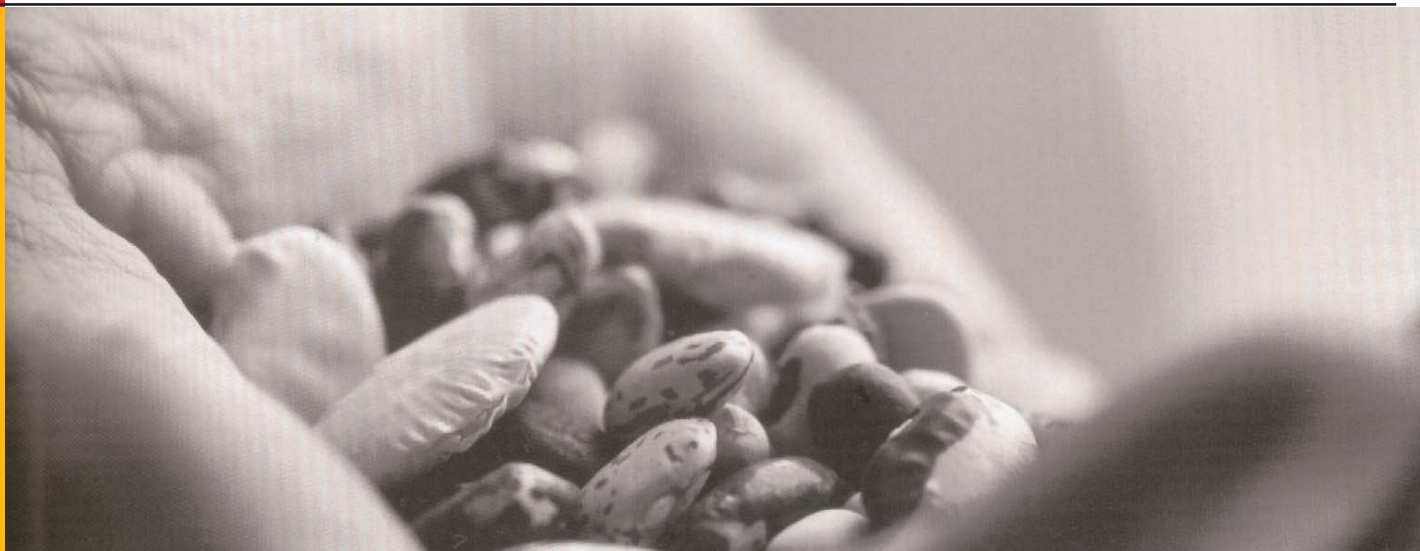
hCa Banja Luka is the part of regional research project "Support of Women's Human Rights in the Western Balkans", with emphasis on domestic violence, and application of international norms in this field.

hCa Banja Luka became a coordinating organization of the world youth employment network YES (Youth Employment Summit) for B&H.

hCa Banja Luka was one of organizations that participated in a research called "Legal and Institutional Analysis of the Youth Policy", financed by the World Bank. The purpose of this research was to gain the insight into the work of institutions and a legal framework concerning the youth policy.

A representative of hCa Banja Luka is also a member of Commission for Selection of Most Favorable NGO Projects, within the City Administration of Banja Luka. The task of this commission is to set criteria, methods of applying, and to make selection of most appropriate projects.

hCa Banja Luka participated in composing recommendations for application of the Gender Equality Law of B&H in media, drafted by the B&H Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, Gender centers in RS and Federation of B&H, and UNDP.



PARTICIPATION AT CONFERENCES

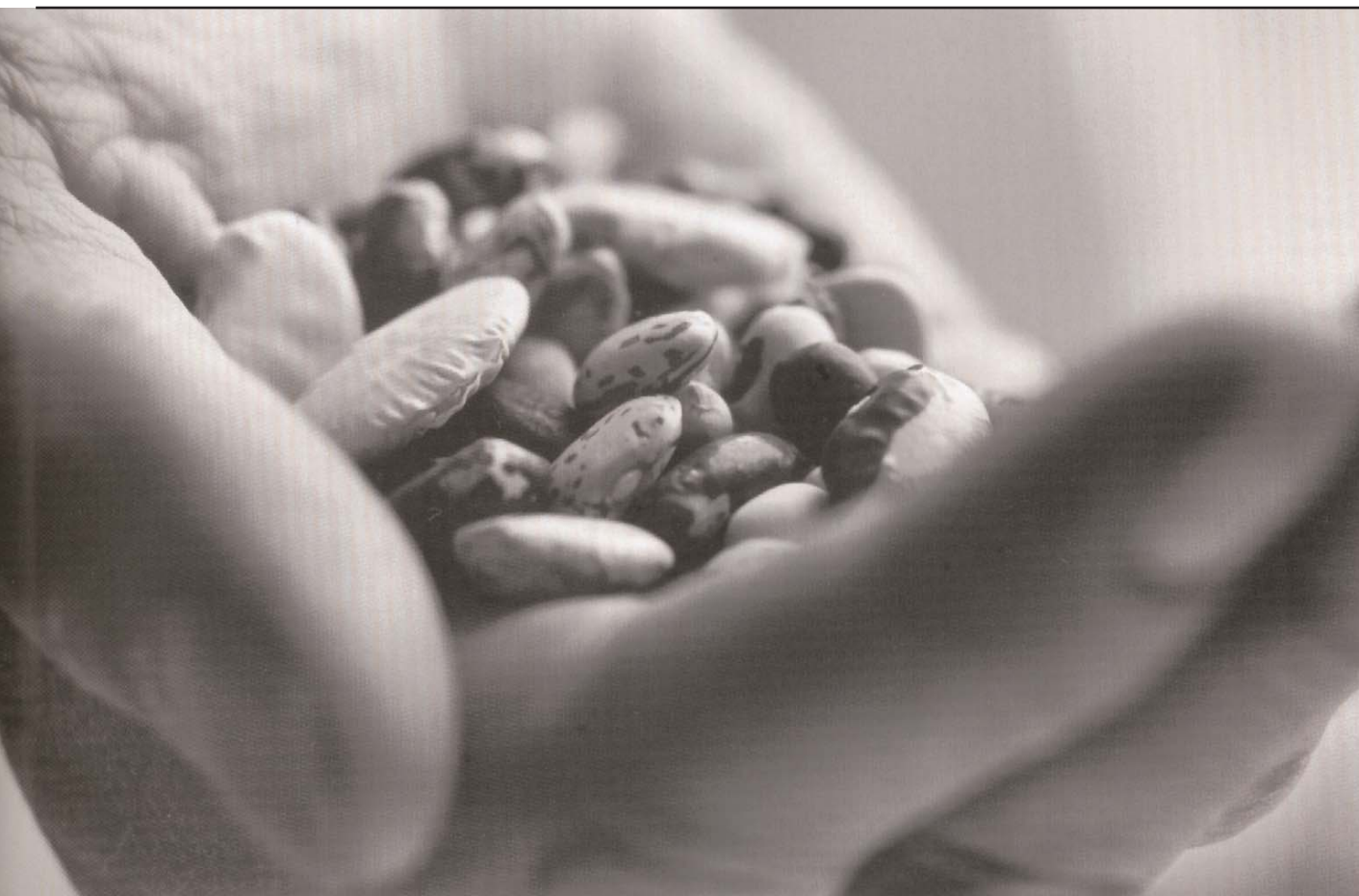
Men and women activists of hCa Banja Luka took part in more than thirty gatherings and conferences related to the field of peace work, development of civilian society, political engagement and human rights, including the ones of women and youths, both, in the country and abroad.

Some are listed below:

- Platform for Action of NGO Sector in B&H for implementation of Gender Equality Law, organized by "Woman and Society", "United Women", and Union "ZAR" - Zenica, February 2004.
- State Conference on Prevention of Conflicts and Peace Building, arranged by Nansen Dialogue Network, in Mostar, April 2004.
- European Youth Peace Summit, Sarajevo, May 2004.
- Conference "Female Civil Stage in B&H, organized by the Center for Policy Research and Advocacy "Woman and Society", Sarajevo, July 2004.
- Conference "Security Council of Women", presentation of the UN Resolution -Women, Peace, and Security, organized by "Women to Women" and UNIFEM, Sarajevo, July 2004.
- The Future of the South East Europe-B&H, Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia, and Prospects of EU Integrations, organized by the Center for Regionalism, Novi Sad, Belgrade, July 2004.
- Summit of the World Youth Network about Employment "YES" (Youth Employment Summit), Boca del Rio, Mexico, October 2004.
- Challenges of Temporary Paradigm of Development - Economic Progress and Responsible Government in South East Europe, organized by UNDP, BFPE, -Belgrade, November 2004.



Mexico,
October 2004.



- Experiences of Local Peace Activists from the Region of Former Yugoslavia, organized by the Center for Antiwar Action from Belgrade, Jahorina, December 2004.
- Ten Years of Mediation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, organized by the German Foundation "Konrad Adenauer", and the Office of the International Mediator in B&H, Sarajevo, December 2004.
- Conference of B&H non governmental organizations named "Work and Succeed Together", organized by the same named organization, Sarajevo 2004.

SPECIALIZATION

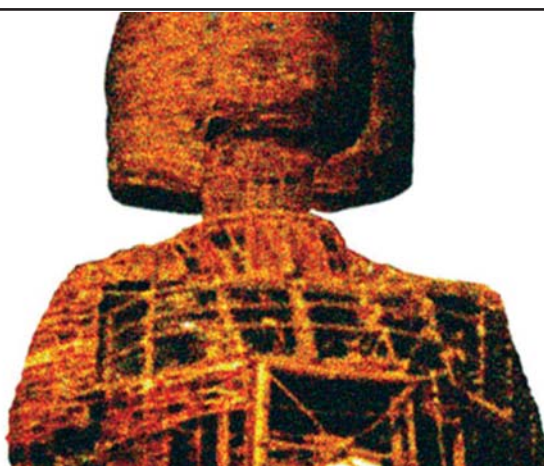
The staff of hCa Banja Luka continuously specialize in fields of work of the organization. During 2004 they attended six trainings and courses:

- "Public Advocacy, prepared by IRIS from Bulgaria, Sarajevo, June 2004.
- "Do You Gender", educational program prepared by Bosphorus organization, from Bulgaria, July 2004.
- "Creative Conflict Management", organized by AVP-PAN and the Youth communication center from Banja Luka, Banja Luka, September 2004.
- Research and Analysis as Practical skills of Influencing Political Processes at State and Regional level, organized by Freedom House, Opatija, September 2004.
- "Gender and Media", prepared by the Gender Center of Republika Srpska, Banja Luka, September 2004.
- Regional educational project of networking civilian initiatives and media for promotion and improvement of activist journalism, which was arranged by ZAmirNET, from Zagreb, Faculty of Political Sciences from Zagreb and Split news agency, continued in 2004.

EXHIBITION OF POLITICAL CARICATURE

hCa Banja Luka organized an exhibition called "Political Caricature - Selection of Caricatures from the Former Yugoslavia, and a public session "True About Past - Foundation of Future" in their office space, in cooperation with association HOMO Pula and Igman Initiative.

The exhibition lasted for a week, and was visited by more than hundred people, who could see selected political caricatures of the following artists: Borivoj Dovnikovic-Bordo, Bozo Stefanovic, Predrag Koraksic-Corax, Hasan Fazlic, Efendic&Senjanovic, and Marinkovic & Viva Ludezi.



NGO FAIR

hCa Banja Luka presented its work at the Fair of International, Nongovernmental, Student, Political and Non political Youth Organizations, that operates on the territory of B&H. The fair was held in Banja Luka, in the period between 27th and 29th of April 2004. with a slogan: "Let the Friendship Win". It was organized by the Association of Postgraduates from the Faculty of Economics, Banja Luka, under the sponsorship of RS Government.

ROUND TABLE "OPEN QUESTIONS OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURAL IDENTITIES IN B&H

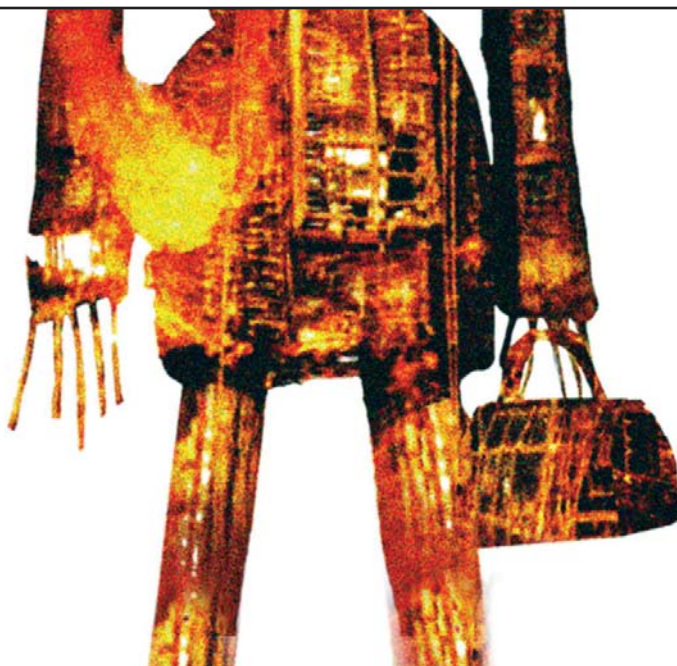
A round table "Open Questions of Languages and Cultural Identities in B&H", held on 2nd of November 2004. was organized by hCa Banja Luka and our counterparts from Tuzla.

In the introduction and during the whole discussion dominated a thesis that question of identity, and that of cultural identities is of extreme importance, especially in societies as ours, which lived to see destruction of its own social and spiritual foundation. More than forty experts in this field gathered at the above meeting.



GATHERING BOOKS FOR LIBRARY IN BOSANSKO GRAHOVO

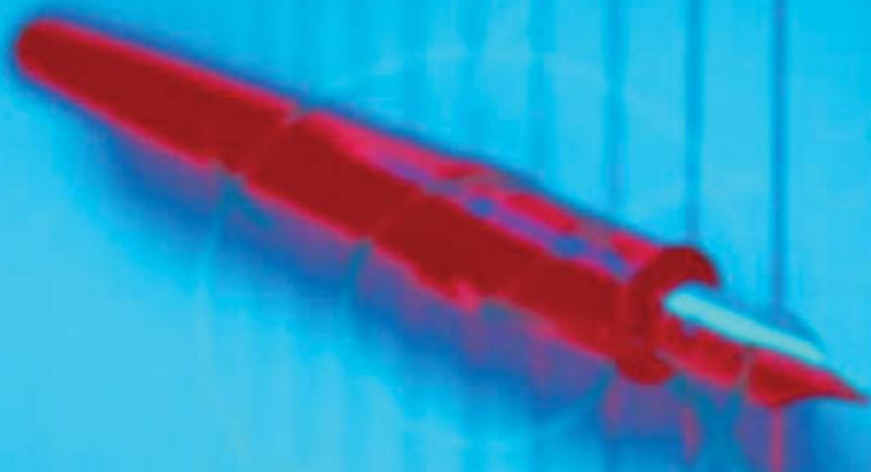
Following the appeals from members of association of women "Grahovo", hCa Banja Luka began the action of collecting books for library in Bosansko Grahovo. The books were donated by pupils of primary school "Borislav Stankovic", through young activists of this school's Red Cross, National Library of RS, individuals, members of our and other non governmental organizations. More than five hundred books, gathered during December 2004. were sent to library in Bosansko Grahovo.



TRANSFER FROM 2003. IN BAM	172.070,77
-----------------------------------	-------------------

INPUT IN 2004.	u KM
Funds from donations	354.323,00
Trainings	3.219,70
Donations of members	2.274,63
Donations of corporate bodies	3.555,00
Interest rates	609,33
TOTAL	363.981,66
GRAND TOTAL IN 2004.	536.052,43

EXPENDITURES IN 2004.	
Salaries (net)	79.628,24
Dues and salary contributions	41.406,54
Equipment purchase and office running costs	40.437,73
Activity costs	339.300,64
TOTAL	500.773,15
REMAINING SUM	35.279,28





PUBLICATION

HCA BANJA LUKA STAFF

President of Assembly:

Rade Dujaković

Managing Board:

Nada Golubović

Damir Miljević - President

Vehid Šehić

hCa Banja Luka staff:

Lidija Živanović

Aida Arsović

Sanela Pašić-Deliahmetović

Bojana Mijić

Aleksandar Živanović

Dragana Dardić

Aleksandar Žolja

Jelena Protić

Bojan Kovačević

Željka Žolja

Our work in the past period has been supported by...

European Union

Kvinna till Kvina Foundation-Sweden

Olof Palme International Center -Sweden

Interchurch peace Council-Netherlands

HIVOS-Netherlands

Westminster Foundation for Democracy -Great Britain

USAID-USA

USIS-USA

CORDAID-Netherlands

National Endowment for Democracy (NED), USA

Open Society Fund -Soros Foundation

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung -Germany

Heinrich Boell-Germany

Franciscan sisters-Netherlands

Haella Stichtung -Netherlands

Press Now-Netherlands

Embassy of Netherlands, Sarajevo

European Communities, Phare

Council of Europe Youth Directorate



