

# P PARTNERS

## NEWSLETTER

PARTNERS BULGARIA FOUNDATION

Fall, 2009 (October - December)

[www.partnersbg.org](http://www.partnersbg.org)

### PARTNERS FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE (PARTNERS) CELEBRATED ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY IN WASHINGTON



Partners for Democratic Change has celebrated its 20th Anniversary through a whole week of events and Innovations for Tomorrow conference. The week starting from 9 November 2009 convened practitioners and academics from the field for an in-depth series of seminar-style workshops. On Monday, Tuesday and Thursday (November 9, 10 and 12), Partners co-hosted 3 workshops each morning and afternoon (18 altogether) with major development organizations and policy institutions.



Leading practitioners from around the world presented innovations, best practices and sage expertise in a number of diverse and important sectors.



#### Minorities and Marginalized Communities in Central and Eastern Europe

The organizers of the seminar - Partners for Democratic Change and the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) - focused on effective interventions to improve the treatment of minorities and marginalized people - particularly the Roma in Eastern and Central Europe - and efforts to integrate them more fully into their respective communities.

Dr. Daniela Kolarova, Partners Bulgaria Foundation Director has presented success factors and challenges of integration of ethnic minorities in Bulgaria. The long term USAID supported program of ethnic cooperation in Bulgaria has been described as an important tool for managing ethnic tensions and for peaceful development of 13 ethnic communities in Bulgaria.

(More information on: <http://www.partnersglobal.org/20th-anniversary-1/innovations-minorities>)

#### Peacebuilding, Development and Networks

Partners for Democratic Change and USAID's Conflict Management and Mitigation Office organized a seminar to discuss the application of unique tools and organizational approaches to identify, analyze, prevent, and mitigate the causes and consequences of violence, instability and extremism.

Dr. Daniela Kolarova, Director of Partners Bulgaria and PDCI, presented different models of consensus building applicable in peacebuilding and developing work in post-conflict countries. She described a case study from Georgia where PDCI works with ethnic minorities at the region of Javakheti.

Other participants in this session have been Neil Levine, Director, Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation, USAID and Nadwa Al-Dawsari, Director, Partners-Yemen. The session has been moderated by Ambassador Samuel Lewis, Former Ambassador to Israel, Former Director of State Department Policy Planning Staff, and past President and CEO of the United States Institute of Peace.

(More information on: <http://www.partnersglobal.org/20th-anniversary-1/innovations-peace-building-development-networks>)

## Discussions on the Issues of Children at Risk in Samokov and Dupnitsa

*Program for support of emotionally and behaviourally challenged children, funded by OAK Foundation and supported by organizations such as Tulip Foundation and Save the Children, Sweden*

*The program is implemented in collaboration with the State Agency for Child Protection, The Ministry of Education, The Ministry of Health, Social Assistance NGOs and governmental institutions from the two cities.*

the committee, which elaborates the Municipal Program for the Child.



**Samokov Municipality,  
1.10.2009**



**Dupnitsa Municipality,  
25.11.2009**

On November 25th, 2009 a roundtable discussion on the topic of “Support of emotionally and behaviorally challenged children – available practices and new perspectives in DUPNITSA Municipality” was held on initiative of Partners Bulgaria Foundation in the Centre for work with children in the Youth House.

The discussion was focused on setting specific indicators for identification of emotionally and behaviorally challenged children, as well as the main challenges and methods to work with them. Based on this, guidelines for changes in quality of services for children can be set through the shared views and practices of the participants.



The ultimate goal is to integrate the concept of emotionally and behaviorally challenged children in the municipal programs and strategies for the child and to outline models to work with them.

### Brief information on the project:

*One of the current programs carried out by Partners Bulgaria Foundation is “Support for emotionally and behaviorally challenged children”. The focus of activity are children from 3 to 12 years of age, whose emotional and behavioral difficulties can be identified as considerable and threatening to their good mental, physical and intellectual development. The program is designed for parents and professionals in schools, health and social services and NGOs providing services for children. Part of the project activities are aimed at work within the community, focused on early intervention and support. The project idea is to provide training to the adults related to these children in order to recognize their needs and to respond adequately to their behavior to the best interests of the child. The long term objective is to assist in establishing and improving policies to support emotionally and behaviorally challenged children.*

*The project consists of two basic modules: Positive practices and approaches and Physical Interven-*

October 10th, 2009 a roundtable discussion on the topic of “Support of emotionally and behaviorally challenged children – available practices and new perspectives in SAMOKOV Municipality” was held on initiative of Partners Bulgaria Foundation. Participants in the event include the foundation’s team, working on the project, as well as representatives from the relevant institutions and departments in the municipality, which provide social services for children in the municipality of Samokov - including the Deputy Mayor on Education in Samokov municipality, department heads, directors of schools and kindergartens, educational counselors, child psychologists, teachers, social workers.

PBF presented its activities on the project and gave specific motions for partnership with local authorities to improve the quality of services for children. During the discussion key recommendations and guidelines for changes in the municipal policy and strategy for children were identified. PBF representatives were invited in

Invited in the discussion were representatives from the local departments working with children, school principals, social workers, etc. Representatives from the CPUs,

Local commission for prevention of juvenile delinquency, school counselors, public educators, child psychologists, teachers and social workers. Participants shared the opinion that the

increasing number of emotionally and behaviorally challenged children leads to the need of a policy for establishing concrete measures to work with this group of children.

## Children at Risk and Experts Discussed the Topics of Children Rights and Safe Migration

*Child Trafficking Response Program (CTRP), Phase III, funded by Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) and the OAK Foundation*

*dren and support to policy, advocacy and legislative reform for protection of the rights of trafficked children and children at risk.*

topic of safe migration was introduced indirectly.



### The European Anti-trafficking Day was Marked by Partners Bulgaria Foundation



#### Brief information on the project:

*Child Trafficking Response Program, Phase III is managed by a regional team based at Save the Children, Albania. Seven countries in South East Europe participate in this initiative: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia. In Bulgaria, the program is implemented by Partners Bulgaria Foundation (PBF) and Animus Association Foundation (AAF) in collaboration with local actors.*

*PBF's activities are implemented in a Resource Center in Kjustendil and are focused on prevention of children at risk and support in filling the existing institutional gaps in order to improve the Child Protection policy. PBF is engaged in a wide range of activities within CTRP such as direct support to children at risk, capacity building for professionals directly working with children, peer to peer sessions, monitoring and documentation of changes in the lives of targeted chil-*

On October 18th 2009 Partners Bulgaria Foundation carried out a workshop on the topic of “Children Rights, Independent Living and Safe Migration” with 15 children in its Resource Center in Kjustendil. The workshop was dedicated on the European Anti-trafficking Day. The aim was to introduce to participants the issues on children rights based on their skills and views and to focus their attention on the problem of the unsafe migration as a phenomenon which can lead to trafficking.

The workshop was organized in group work and simulations aimed at giving children the opportunity to share their own view about rights and responsibilities. One of the workshop's objectives was to enrich participants' knowledge on the issues of children rights based on their individual experience and emotions. During the activity the



### CTRP Regional Workshop was Held in Sofia with the Organizational Support of PBF



**Save the Children**

In the period October 20th-21st, 2009 PBF took part in a regional workshop organized by Save the Children-Albania in Sofia. Participants in the meeting were all the CTRP country coordinators from the seven countries in Southeast Europe and the regional management team.

During the workshop each of the countries presented the programme progress in their local context. The coordinators had the opportunity to discuss their achievements, the challenges they faced and the way they coped with them

Ms. Presiana Manolova from OAK Foundation attended the first day of the regional workshop. She gave valuable advice to the teams on implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme activities.

At the end of the workshop the coordinators had the opportunity to develop communication and advocacy strategy for the

program at national and regional level, which will be used during the second and third year of CTRP.



**Professionals Working with Children Discussed Children Rights Conception and Trafficking Issues**

Partners Bulgaria Foundation organized two capacity building training sessions within CTRP on the topic of “Children Rights, Trafficking and

Safe Migration” Rights. The first training was held on November, 7th – 8th in Kjustendil and the second one - on November 9th – 10th in Samokov with the participation 30 professionals.

The training goal was to introduce the professionals working with or for children-potential victims of trafficking with the concept of children rights and the issues of trafficking and unsafe migration, to focus their attention on the opportunities and ways of incorporating these issues into their everyday work with children. The training program offered the participants a deeper understanding and various skills that will help them carry out preventive activities to combat child trafficking. The acquired knowledge facilitates the practical application of the human rights principles and standards in the everyday work with children.



**DARE Presented Fundraising Strategies for European EDC/HRE Initiatives**

Partners Bulgaria Foundation took part in a two-day conference in Copenhagen, Oct 1-3. Nineteen educators from ten European countries exchanged experiences and best practices on the topic. The event was hosted by IUC Europe in cooperation with Humanity in Action Denmark, and organized by DARE.



The conference offered workshops on the general policy framework of EU funds, a practical introduction to the grant programs GRUNDTVIG and DAPHNE and an overview on how to gain foundation and company support as well as private donations.

**Peacebuilding Programmes in the Focus of Local and Central Authorities**

**Development of Municipal Strategy for Children by Building Consensus, Samokov**

On October 1st and December 10th and 11th, 2009, in the boardroom of Samokov Municipality a three-day

training on "Development of a municipal strategy for children by building consensus" within the project “Consensus Building through Programmes for International Development”. 22 representatives from different local organizations took part in the

training - Child Protection Unit, representatives from Samokov Municipality, school headmasters, NGOs working with children. Trainers in the seminar were: Rumen Minkovski – Chief Trainer and Deputy Director of Partners Bulgaria

Foundation and Aleksandar Ranev – Project Manager in the Foundation.



The development of a municipal strategy for children with the participation of all stakeholders is a key moment in the local community development. The training was focused on understanding the need of continuous building, development and improvement of social relations networks for strategic planning and local problems solving through consensus between stakeholders. Building an adequate network of social partnerships involving all stakeholders provides optimal functioning of local social infrastructure and optimized quality of its services.

During the three days the trainers conducted presentations focused on the needs of municipal organizations and institutions working with children. The intelligible language, well-chosen examples, and interactive approach to present the problems ensured a high degree of commitment of all participants. Trainees

expressed great interest in the presented issues and actively participated in both group discussions and work in small groups, while analysing the municipal capability in the work with children and solving case studies related to strategic planning, management and monitoring the strategy implementation.

### Peacebuilding through Programs for International Development, Sofia

On December 14th – 15th, 2009 Partners Bulgaria Foundation organized training on the topic of “Peacebuilding through Programmes for International Development in Central and Eastern Europe” which was carried out simultaneously in four countries – Bulgaria, Slovenia, Czech Republic and Poland. Trainers in the seminar were: Daniela Kolarova PhD, Director of Partners Bulgaria Foundation and Iva Boneva, Director of the Centre for Inclusive Education.

International and national donors are increasingly aware of the link between security and development, and treat them as mutually interacting spheres of action, which are important for establishing permanent peace in conflict-affected countries and for the development of these countries. It is increasingly accepted that development programmes should take into

account the factors leading to conflicts, which are often at the root of poverty and lack of stability.

The training programme included introduction in peace, security and development. It was aimed at focusing participants’ attention on the peacebuilding approach and the system of measures in programming as the conflict factors are analyzed and tracked during the whole process – from planning to implementation and development programmes impact evaluation.



The approach, in which analysis of situation’s conflict potential follows the programming in all its phases, has a much more resistance capacity than interventions in which this analysis is missing. This is just the same as peacemaking is not enough to ensure development and prosperity of communities.

The participants were provided with exercises and materials ensuring the seminar’s interactive organization and practical application.

## Partners Bulgaria Has Traditions in Mediation Programme



Currently Partners Bulgaria Foundation provides the unique for Bulgaria mediation program, which was launched in 1998. The program’s goal is to introduce and develop the culture of dialogue in conflict resolution and to offer mediation in specific cases.

With the support of the mediators from PBF Mediation Center two cases were solved and extrajudicial agreements were reached between the

parties. Mediation training for PBF staff, working on different programs, was conducted.

Experts from PBF participate in a working group at the National Association of Mediators in Bulgaria to prepare proposals for amendments to the Mediation Act.

## Sofia University Students Discussed Partners Bulgaria Programmes



On October 22nd, 2009 and November 3rd, 2009 two seminar classes on the topic of Informal Education were held in Partners Bulgaria central office with students in Pedagogy from Sofia University.

During the classes the students had the opportunity to discuss PBF

ongoing programs and activities in the context of the various forms of informal learning. The future pedagogues also discussed different methodologies, pedagogical approaches and their applicability.

### CONTACTS:

**Partners Bulgaria Foundation**

**Sofia, 2A, Jakubitsa Str, fl.3,  
app. 13**

**Tel: (+359 2) 962 31 74, 489 69 20,  
Fax 868 8007**

**Email: [partners@partnersbg.org](mailto:partners@partnersbg.org)**

**[www.partnersbg.org](http://www.partnersbg.org)**