

Multiethnic happening „Under the same Sun”

Panel discussions

Panel 1

Public debate dedicated to the 7th anniversary of the Framework Agreement was part of the program of the first Multiethnic fair „Under the same Sun”. The debate on the topic ***Seven Years after the Framework Agreement – Where is Macedonia Today?*** was held on 1st November, 2008 starting at 11.30 hrs. Introduction speeches were given by: Abdilakim Ademi, Deputy Prime Minister on the topic *Plans for Implementation of the Framework Agreement as Government Priority*; Mirjana Maleska, professor at University South-East Europe in Tetovo on the topic *Pacification of Western Balkans and Rearrangement of the Political Framework*; Ljubomir Danailov-Frchkoski, professor at University Ss “Cyril and Methodius”, Faculty of Law „Justinijan Prvi” on the topic *The Ohrid Framework Agreement between the Success and its Weaknesses*; Ermira Mehmeti, member of the Parliament on the topic *Multiethnic Relationships until Today and from this Day Forward – Steps for Improvement*; Muhamed Toci, president of NGO Mesecina, Gostivar on the topic *The Subjective Sentiment of Roma towards the Ohrid Framework Agreement – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow* and Imer Ismaili, professor at South-East Europe University in Tetovo on the topic *Post Festum – Suggestive and Ethnic Interpretation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement*. Debate was moderated by Gordana Duvnjak, president of the FOSIM’ Executive Board.

The Ohrid Agreement is a successful project, which, despite certain omissions and the tendency to bipolarize the country, is giving results, outlined the participants in the debate. The professor from the Faculty of Law and one of the creators of the Framework agreement, Ljubomir Frchkoski, addressed the strengths and weaknesses of this agreement, but he also indicated the optimistic and pessimistic scenarios for Macedonia if nobody takes responsibility for the negotiations in the name dispute. The participants agreed that the Framework agreement brought stability to the country, but they asked for equal treatment of all ethnic minorities. There were also remarks regarding the partisan employments in the public administration on grounds of ethnic origin.

Panel 2

Public debate on the topic ***Multiculturalism – Surpassed or Unsurpassable Concept?*** was a second debate organized within the Multiethnic fair on 1st November, 2008 starting at 15.00 hrs. Introduction was given by the following speakers: Mr. Ferid Muhić, University Ss “Cyril and Methodius”, Faculty of Philosophy, on the topic *Multiculturalism – the Macedonian Concept*; Nikola Gelevski, NGO *Kontapunkt* on the topic *Reflections of the European Multiculturalism in the Republic of Macedonia*; Ilija Prokic, Department for Advancement of Culture of Communities’ Representatives on the topic *Improvement of the Culture of Communities – Possibilities and Challenges*; Gjuner Ismail, NGO *Forum* on the topic *Between the Declarative and the Realistic*; Ljatif Demir, Government of the Republic of Macedonia, Cabinet of Minister without Portfolio on the topic *To What Extent Do Policies in the Culture and Education in Macedonia Contribute to the Development of Multiculturalism?* and Zharko Trajanoski on the topic *Integration versus Segregation*. Debate was moderated by Vladimir Milčin, Executive Director of FOSIM.

Discussions were focused on the understanding of the concept of multiculturalism, the reflections of European multiculturalism in Macedonia, the declarative and the real in our society. The cultural segregation of ethnic communities encouraged with Governmental policies, instead of promotion of multiculturalism was emphasized by Zharko Trajanoski; the critical overview on the Government policies in development of culture of different ethnic communities was considered by the attending representatives of different ethnic communities (Vlachs, Turks, Serbs, Roma, Egyptians, Croatians).