

# PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## CENTRAL EUROPE

23 JUNE 2003

**Appeal No. 01.76/2003**

**Appeal Target: CHF 4,088,229 EUR 2,652,000/ USD 3,110,000**

**Programme Update No. 01;**

**Period covered: January to April, 2003**

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries.  
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### **In Brief**

**Appeal coverage:** 64.1% (on date of report issue) See web link below for latest information  
[http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf\\_appeals.pl?annual03/1-2-3%20-%20ap017603.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?annual03/1-2-3%20-%20ap017603.pdf)

**Outstanding needs:** CHF 1,467,680 (USD 1.103 m/ EUR 0.952m)

**Programme Summary:** Donor support has been good to the Federation approach of providing focused and responsive support from its regional base in Central Europe (Budapest) to national society work with vulnerable people. This strategy has resulted in effective assistance at community level. Partners are requested to maintain their commitment.

### **Health and care**

**Goal: Contribute to further improvements in the overall health and social situation in Central Europe.**

**Objective: To contribute to the establishment of effective and targeted national Red Cross health and care programmes that lead to reduced vulnerability to disease and accidents as well as addressing social exclusion through participation.**

The first four months of the year were extremely busy in order to respond to the overall objective. The regional Health and Care delegate has regular contacts with all 15 National Societies in the region. Visits to the Croatian RC, Macedonian RC, Slovak RC and Slovenian RC has taken place. The financial situation of the regional Health and Care programme is relatively good as the part of the funds from last year could be carried forward in early 2003. The co-operation with EU Enlargement Officer in Budapest is good. National Societies were informed about the call for proposals of EU Public Health Action programme. The National Societies have started to prepare the applications as the deadline is in mid May 2003.

### **Progress/Achievements against expected results**

**The role and mandate of the Red Cross National Societies will have been better defined in the field of Health and Care. The National Societies will be recognised by the governmental/local authorities as effective partners**

This objective is an ongoing process for the Health and Care programme.

**Capacity of the National Societies in the region to deliver effective and sustainable HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis prevention programmes will have been improved. Advocacy of humanitarian values will have been increased, reducing the stigma of people living with HIV/AIDS.**

During the first quarter the National Societies have completed the HIV/AIDS prevention programmes started in late 2002. The reports received pointed out that the National Societies have been effective and enthusiastic with their work. E.g. The Bulgarian RC implemented the prevention programme throughout the country. The Macedonian RC and RC of Bosnia-Herzegovina had peer education programmes. The Estonian RC has completed the translation and printing the manual "Action with Youth". All these programmes were funded by the Norwegian RC.

The regional Health and Care programme supported three members (Croatian RC, Latvian RC, Lithuanian RC) to participate in the 14th International Conference on Reduction of Drug Related Harm, on 6-10 April in Thailand. The Croatian RC member had prepared a presentation on Harm Reduction activities in Croatia. Unfortunately the Croatian member could not attend. The experiences from the conference will be shared with other National Societies in the ERNA meeting.

The ERNA board and the working group established last year in Yerevan had a meeting on 1-2 March 2003 in Bratislava. The aim of the meeting was to amend the Terms of Reference (ToR) of ERNA and to plan the next ERNA meeting. They will be introduced to the National Societies at the next ERNA meeting. Last year it was agreed that the ERNA meeting will be held in May but the financial support was not confirmed to cover all the expenses, therefore the meeting will be held in September in Latvia. The theme for the workshop will be Advocacy on Harm Reduction, Care and Treatment. The regional Health and Care delegate is the focal person to co-ordinate preparations.

The regional Health and Care programme will support the Croatian RC to employ a new person for the Harm Reduction activities in Croatia as the previous incumbent is now operating at the regional level.

The Lithuanian RC started in 2002 to plan co-operation with the Kaliningrad RC branch. The first study visit was completed in March 2003. Members from Lithuanian RC accompanied by the Senior Health Officer from the Secretariat travelled to Kaliningrad. In April 2003 the Kaliningrad RC branch members visited Lithuania, the agreement for co-operation and plan of action was signed. The areas of co-operation will be HIV/AIDS peer education, harm reduction activities and visiting nurses services. So far the regional Health and Care programme has funded the visits. Negotiations for further funding needs to be discussed with the partner national societies (PNS) and the Russian RC in Moscow.

The World TB Day was recognised by the National Societies in the region and awareness campaigns have taken place.

**First Aid programmes in the region will have been improved and their sustainability increased. A community based First Aid approach including psychological support and health promotion components will have been developed and integrated in the First Aid Training.**

The EU accession National Societies (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia) are eligible to participate in the EU Road Safety campaign in 2003-2004. The first meeting for the National Co-ordinators was held in March in Brussels with introduction to the campaign. The National Societies have planned their activities for the campaign.

The regional Disaster Management and Health and Care programme organised a joint workshop on Psychological Support integrated with Disaster Preparedness/Management. The first workshop was in April in Bratislava. Six National Societies were present from the Northern region. The facilitators on Psychological Support issues were

appointed by the Reference Centre for Psychological Support in Copenhagen. The feedback and evaluation from the workshop was positive. The aim of the joint workshop was to raise awareness of Psychological Support components in various disasters and accidents. The participants expressed their interest in further co-operation nationwide and regionwide.

**Capacity of National Societies in the region to promote voluntary non-remunerated blood donor recruitment will have been improved, with the aim of contributing to safe blood supply.**

The regional Task Force meeting on voluntary, non-remunerated blood donor recruitment (VNBDR) was held in February in Slovenia. The outcome was to collect updated information from the National Societies in the region and share good practices/success stories.

The process to translate and print the Federation manual "Making A Difference" was started in late 2002 and continued in 2003. The Bulgarian RC, Hungarian RC, Macedonian RC and Slovak RC have received support from the regional Health and Care programme for translation.

The RC of Serbia-Montenegro has organised a seminar on VNBDR in late February, but the report is not yet available at the Regional Delegation.

**Social welfare programmes will have been improved to better meet human needs and to ensure a better promotion and awareness of the well-being of the population, especially vulnerable groups in the community.**

The first quarter of the year was to prepare the workshop on Social Welfare that was held in April in Budapest. The main themes were to introduce the Participatory Community Development (PCD), promote the advocacy on social welfare and the disabled people in the community project. All the National Societies in the region were invited and eleven were present. The HelpAge International members participated and plans for the further co-operation were established, e.g. joint training programmes. All the participants agreed to create sub-networks with the responsible National Society as follows: Homeless People (Slovak RC), Food Assistance (Bulgarian RC), Home Care (RC of Bosnia-Herzegovina), Youth Health Care (Romanian RC), PCD (Polish RC), Disabled People (RC of Serbia-Montenegro). It was also agreed that by mid May 2003 all the National Societies will join the networks accordingly. The Regional Health and care delegate will follow up progress.

The feedback from the workshop was positive and pointed out the importance of discussions on social welfare issues in the region. Participants expressed their concern that the post of the Social Welfare Officer at the Secretariat will be closed by the end of April 2003.

The Latvian RC and Lithuanian RC have the Visiting Nurses programme to provide services to elderly people living at home. Both National Societies have planned the training programme to motivate the nurses and volunteers with their work. In addition, the Latvian RC has started to organise a Friendship Meeting for the volunteers working with the Visiting Nurses in Latvia and Lithuania. The meeting will be held in September 2003. The Regional Health and Care programme has supported these trainings. The Lithuanian RC has started to translate and print the manual of Home Care prepared by the Croatian RC.

## 2. Disaster Management

### Goal

**Participate in the development of an effective and efficient level of assistance to victims of disaster - man made and natural - in the Central Europe region.**

### Objective

**To enhance the capacity and the know-how of the national societies in the region to respond to disasters, and to provide assistance to displaced persons including asylum seekers through programming interventions.**

### Expected Results

*Disaster Preparedness*

**By the end of 2003, all national societies in the region will have designed Disaster Preparedness (DP) plans within their respective national contexts that will outline:**

**I. A well functioning and realistic Disaster Preparedness organisation;**

Out of the 15 NS in the region four will not have a DP plan by the end of 2003. Those four are in the process of developing a plan. It is also important to underline that there still is room for improvement when it comes to a more realistic approach in the other NS plans. Plans need to be modified, based on the agreements that the NS are in the process of developing with their Governments.

**II. Partnership with government;**

All NS today have discussions with their respective Governments when it comes to partnership between the NS-Government. In the Southern sub-region there are formal agreements between the NS and their Governments. In the Northern sub-region the NS have more of a 'letter of intent' with their Governments.

**III. Cooperation with other organisations (NGOs);**

The NS do, to a certain degree, co-operate very well with other NGOs. There are problems, the first being that the traditional role of Red Cross in all fifteen countries is to be part of the Governmental structure that creates a certain distance between the Red Cross and NGOs

In some cases the Red Cross, compared to NGOs, is regarded as a big organization creating nervousness among NGOs that they will be 'incorporated' if they work too closely with the Red Cross. The Red Cross in general needs to disseminate their role much more to the public and to NGOs.

**IV. Methods to carry out basic needs and vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCA) in a disaster situation;**

The Red Cross in seven of the fifteen NS has carried out VCA and two more are ready to start this year. In one case, Romania, the NS will do the VCA again to cover the whole country.

**V. Knowledge of how to respond in a disaster situation following the minimum standards developed by the Sphere Project;**

The Sphere Standards has been translated into all national languages of the region. The plan is to follow this up with training of one trainer per NS this autumn (this was not in the original plan 2003-04).

**VI. Established channels for mobilisation of international assistance where local capacity is inadequate;**

The regional delegation (RD) has established a system that enables quick response and also follow up of disasters occurring in the region. One part of this is the development of Regional Disaster Response Teams (RDRT). Today about 35 people are trained and registered. Another part, is the training of all NSs in the appeal and reporting process following a disaster. To this end the Regional Delegation conducted a ten-day RDRT training session in Sutomore, Montenegro, hosted by the Montenegrin RC. The feedback was good and the general feeling was that there was a lot of good, useful work done that will stand the region in good stead for responding to disasters.

A series of workshops around the region were planned and carried out by members of the reporting unit on reporting in emergency operations. Funding came from the Capacity Building Fund to conduct these workshops with participants invited from National Societies. The first round has been completed and the second round, whereby those who attended the first round meetings act as facilitators for spreading the information to branches, is going well. Many NS have finished the second round, while others have a fixed date when they will hold their workshop. With this capacity building project, it is expected that NS will be more involved in producing the reports that meet Federation reporting standards, and provide information to participating national societies that is needed.

**By the end of 2003, a regional disaster preparedness and response framework will be in place based on regional needs, opportunities and threats, outlining the specific roles and responsibilities of national societies.**

Will be in place. See above.

**Disaster response mechanisms will be in place at the RD enabling it to be ready for efficient action.**

Is in place. See above.

**By the end of 2003, the computerised regional database will have been established to track regional resources in case of a disaster.**

The pilot project phase has been completed.

### ***Population Movement***

**The respective National Societies (Croatia, FRY, BiH) will have maintained well-functioning population movement units, recognized and acknowledged by major stakeholders, integrated into the National Society organigram and strategic plan with a sound supporting asylum policy and legal base in the field of displacement.**

The Population movement (PM) programme is divided into four components:

1. **PM Unit:** All three National Society PM Coordinators continued to make progress in their activities in the field of population movement. These Coordinators are well-integrated into their respective NS organigrams and strategic workplans.
2. **Legal base:** Laying down the legal base for the NSs in the area is an ongoing process through the Red Cross law, the Law on Refugees and Law on Asylum as well as through the NS statutes. In this respect, it is interesting to note that the Croatian Parliament has agreed on the amendments proposed by Croatian RC regarding reference in the new law on Asylum to the NS role. In Serbia/Montenegro recommendations were made regarding Red Cross Law and statute under revision. In BiH, the Red Cross Law once adopted will have provisions concerning the RC BiH role in displacement.
3. **Networking:** Apart from networking in country with the stakeholders - such as Governmental agencies of relevance, UNHCR, IOM, NGO community - efforts were made by CRC and RCS Serbia/Montenegro PM coordinators to move closer to ECRE (European Council on Refugees and Exile) network by attending the General Assembly of ECRE in February 2003. Likewise it is worthwhile to note that CRC PM Coordinator has attended for the first time general meeting of PERCO in April 2003. It was agreed that PERCO would be more open to NS participation from the so-called Western Balkans. In other words networking results in concrete programme funding, especially in Croatia but also opens the way for timely advocacy and all-European RC dialogue on migration, in line with the Red Cross Berlin Conference conclusions.
4. **Activities:** The operational activities undertaken by the respective NSs on behalf of the displaced is wide ranging but below mentioned are the operations directly funded through the PM programme (not mentioning other Federation/NS programmes and other agency funded ones, as well as the Winter Appeal for the returnees to BiH, these activities are subject to separate reports). Nonetheless it is worthwhile to point out that beneficiaries are of two categories: the refugee/returnees ex-Yugoslavia caseload within the region as well asylum-seekers and irregular migrants from third countries outside of the region. For the latter category, in Croatia, the CRC became operational in providing protection and assistance to asylum-seekers in CRC facilities in Sasna Greda through a sub-agreement with UNHCR. In the other two countries, the process is at an earlier stage and support is being provided through attending Round Tables on Asylum, such as in Serbia and initiating twinning agreements between RC BiH and Swedish RC on the returned BiH asylum-seekers from Sweden.

**An Asylum Handbook/manual for Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Europe will have been prepared and shared in a participatory manner through consultation with European National Societies.**

The Guide on asylum as a follow-up to the Zagreb Meeting on Experts on asylum in 2002 has been prepared by an adviser on asylum on loan from Swedish Red Cross to the Zagreb PM office. The final draft has been sent to the Secretariat via RD Budapest at the end of February 2003. The process of consultation with European National Societies is ongoing through PERCO. The Guide apart from concrete tips, advice and examples of Red Cross involvement with asylum-seekers in Europe, offers a compilation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement resolutions pertinent to displacement for the period 1981-2001.

**The cross-border information points will have been providing direct/personalised answers to the refugee caseload and community mobilisation activities are assisting in re-integration in Croatia and/or integration in Serbia. The grass-root volunteers info-network in priority areas in Croatia, BiH, and Serbia/Montenegro**

**will continue to provide outreach and referrals to the refugee/returnee caseload. The three Red Cross mobile social integration teams in BiH will have made some 4,8000 interventions for returnees, with a focus on minority returnees and up to fifteen per cent of the local vulnerable population.**

The cross-border information/community mobilisation project is the first joint project between the RC of Croatia and of Serbia/Montenegro since the break-up of the former Yugoslavia. It aims to provide individual and direct information through personalised dialogue on both sides in order to facilitate making a decision whether to return or integrate based on a well-informed choice. There are 5 locations in Croatia and Serbia that are equipped with web cameras in their community rooms, where refugees/returnees are enabled to contact in privacy. Due to technical difficulties the cross-border communication component is somewhat delayed yet first contacts have been made and the interest is there. The community mobilisation component of this project is being implemented in the same five locations in both countries being Novska, Topusko, Dvor, Donji Lapac, Knin in Croatia and Sombor, Stara Pazova, Ruma, Cukarica and Zvezdara in Serbia. These RC branches have formed their committees consisting of the RC, the returnees/refugees themselves, volunteers, local authorities and relevant NGOs which are the generators of ideas for micro-projects. The projects are implemented after being filtered by their respective NS headquarters and includes RC mobile teams, skills training of different types, community room activities for returnee children, agricultural and self-sustainability related. In the first quarter of 2003 some 980 beneficiaries were supported at these locations. Apart from beneficiary related input the reconciliation angle through direct contacts between branches across the border should be taken into account.

The four Mobile Social Integration Teams in support of the Winter Appeal in BiH has been re-established in Tuzla Canton, in Herceg-Bosanska zupanija (Glamoc. Grahovo), Birac region (Srebrenica, Bratunac), and Doboj region. These teams have provided assistance and protection to 1,591 beneficiaries (within that up to 15% local population covered as well) ranging from services such as small repairs, chopping firewood, relief distribution. The grassroots info network of RC volunteers in BiH established in the priority areas have been instrumental in coordinating relief assistance, info provision, referrals, and advocacy. (More on this can be found in a separate report on the Winter Appeal for BiH).

**The sustainability of programmes will have been reflected by mainstreaming, positioning and advocacy.**

The PM programme is envisaged to be handed over to NSs with the planned departure of the Delegate and closing of the Zagreb Office by the end of September 2003. The exit strategy for the PM programme has been written up based on the input from the three respective National Societies and has been presented to the leadership and RD Budapest as planned by the end of March 2003. The document encompasses various steps and methods both country specific and sub-regional that aims to address the continuation of the PM programme with full NS ownership divided by components of the programme.

**The public awareness activities will have increased the profile of the National Societies and will have helped to influence the thinking of the community and increased tolerance, and thus contributed to civil society.**

The roundtable on asylum in Croatia and the coordinating role of the CRC in this field have been increasingly recognised. Presentations to the Croatian Parliament and appearances on high-profile TV-shows and networking enables the CRC to support Croatia's bid for EU membership and through activities to disseminate tolerance and understanding, thus contributing to civil society.

The public awareness campaign in BiH is to accompany the Winter Appeal. To that end a poster campaign is to be launched in May, the poster to be approved by the Presidency of RC BiH in April. By launching the campaign under the slogan "let's help the returnees" the RC BiH is openly advocating for reconciliation and providing assistance and protection to minority returns.

In Serbia/Montenegro the public awareness campaign will target the refugee caseload in Serbia with the aim of informing interested parties on the possibility of cross-border communication through a poster and referral cooperation with agencies providing legal assistance to this caseload namely the Commissioner of Refugees of Serbia and Swiss Disaster Cooperation.

**The Red Cross structures in Kosovo are trained in issues pertinent to displacement**

The last grass-roots PM workshop planned for June for the Kosovo RC structures has been now agreed to take place in September. Preparations are nonetheless underway through the Kosovo Office of the Federation and via discussions with ICRC, UNHCR, IOM and other relevant stakeholders and RC structures. The workshop is envisaged to be in collaboration with the above-mentioned agencies. It will follow the methodology of the previous 12 grassroots workshops in Croatia, BiH, and Serbia/Montenegro, naturally with adjustments to the local situation.

### **3. Organisational Development**

**Goal: Strengthen the capacities and the sustainability of National Societies to effectively meet the needs of vulnerable people.**

#### **Programme Objective**

**To support and promote good governance and effective management of skills within National Societies and to strengthen programme management capabilities in line with the Strategy 2010.**

#### **Expected results**

**National Societies will have been committed to a strategy development process.**

This is taken by the Federation as the basic condition that must be in place before any further skills or capacity could be developed.

**Red Cross staff skills and capacity will have been reinforced in planning, project management and reporting areas.**

RD has been supporting Romanian RC in planning the organisational development process based on the RRC request. Detailed OD plan, covering issues related to Governance and management, Financial management, Fund-raising, Human Resources, Project Planning and Communications, has been developed in close co-operation with the Romanian RC.

On the request of the Slovak Red Cross, the RD provided consultancy to the National Society in issues related to Fundraising: Direct mail campaign, Hunger day and Road safety campaign thanks to the Finnish RC Resource development consultant.

Capacity building workshops were provided for the NSs in the region. The topics covered during this workshops included issues related to attracting funding through the Federation appeal mechanism, as well as issues related to fund management, and efficient, transparent financial reporting. For more details see the Disaster Management section.

As a result of this, Slovak RC, Czech RC and Romanian RC produced reports related to the Floods 2002 that were timely, accurate and transparent.

**Financial transparency and accountability will have benefited the National Societies in the region and will have resulted in increased confidence from donors and other Red Cross partners. The ability of Red Cross societies to attract, manage and generate reliable funding for their programmes will have been increased.**

RD has assisted Romanian RC in providing introductory training to the 23 branch directors on issues related to accountability and transparency in handling the financial tasks as well as on mission based fund-raising. This training was an integral part of the organisational development process the Romanian RC. The Romanian Red Cross will undertake financial management development and fundraising activities in its effort to improve its organisational structure and finances.

As of January this year, a finance development coordinator was recruited (previously working with the Regional Finance Unit). RD has been providing consultancy related to the financial accountability and international financial reporting practices to Romanian RC and Slovak RC.

One of the components of the overall OD process of the Romanian RC is fundraising. One of the fundraising objectives of the Romanian RC is to develop a strategy during 2003 and 2004. The base for working out the

strategy has partially been provided through the RD assistance and will be supported by training and funding the public image survey.

Thanks to the RD support, Estonian Red Cross has reorganised their financial management system, introduced new financial software and is currently training its staff in financial management, accounting and financial software issues.

RD has been assisting the Latvian RC in their effort to develop financial management procedures by sharing with them existing materials on the relevant issues, as well as providing the financial support for the training of staff in financial management policies. RD is planning to further support the LRC in their effort to link the local branches with the headquarters through unified accounting software.

**Development of strong National Society branches as the key to National Societies' ability to respond to the needs of the vulnerable will have been fostered. Through Participatory Community Development Projects, and strong National Society integrated Youth sections, greater knowledge of the vulnerable and their needs within local communities will have been gained by the stakeholders. Communities will have been better involved in Red Cross projects and it will have resulted in increased partnerships within communities. Volunteer management will have been improved, and the volunteer expert network will have been developed.**

## **Youth**

The first four months of the year 2003 were mostly dedicated to the production of the CD-ROM from the 6th Central European Youth Conference. All the presentations, discussions, workshops and other activities, as well as an extensive report are therefore captured on the CD. It has been distributed to all National Societies, as well as three National Societies from Western Europe, participating at the Conference and the main donor, British Red Cross. Therefore the knowledge and ideas gained at the Conference can be refreshed at any given time and be successfully used in the daily work.

In order to achieve this objective Regional Youth Development Program (RYDP) is initiating common activities for all 15 National Societies youth sections within the region. In addition it is creating various platforms and opportunities in order to exchange knowledge, experiences and lessons learned. Also, RYDP is trying to link the Central European youth network with other similar networks.

Following the agreement from the 6th Central European Youth Conference, negotiations for official partnership between Global Network of people living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+) and Central European Red Cross Youth are taking place. The idea is for each respective National Society and its youth section to invite one person living with HIV. That would bring another aspect to the Red Cross activities and would enable Red Cross to focus on issues of anti stigma and anti discrimination. Practical details to this partnership are yet to be discussed.

Regional Youth Development Program is putting its efforts to create as many possible opportunities for the respective National Societies to reach new partnerships and cooperation. A fine example of that is the cooperation of Red Cross Youth with European Youth Forum Jeunesse (EYFJ). EYFJ has more than 91 organisations under its wing. One of the strongest cooperations with its member organisations is through Balkan Youth Project (BYP), where more than seven countries within our region will participate in different activities from conferences, various forums, training and workshops. Albanian Red Cross Youth took part in the "Training of trainers working in a multicultural environment", earlier this year. The participation of Red Cross Youth, among many other non-governmental organisations, was valuable. It gave visibility to the Red Cross, the opportunity to learn from each other, as well as being suitable platform to gain new contacts and establish possible new partnerships.

European Union issues are more and more important to the Red Cross people from this region. Eight out of fifteen countries are joining the EU in 2004. Therefore, European Road safety campaign, where youth plays a significant part, is already a good example of EU and accession countries working closely together on the issue of common concerns. Youth interests are also strongly represented in the Steering Group of the Road Safety campaign, while Slovak Red Cross Youth President is a member of the group.

There are more and more youth sections in the region (one of them being Slovak Red Cross youth, as well as Macedonian and Romanian), which are forming a partnership with Red Cross youth sections from EU countries in order to obtain EU funds and implement common projects.

#### **To raise National Societies image through regional awareness campaigns.**

The final evaluation of both regional awareness campaigns and recommendations were finalised. Also preparations for the workshop, where the region would prepare an information pack, in the form of CD-ROM, for all National Societies within the region, containing all available information, promotion materials and photos from the regional campaigns, started.

RYDP assisted respective youth sections through information/advice sharing with their campaigns conducted on 8 May, in order to commemorate the International Red Cross/Red Crescent Day.

#### **To improve the skills and reinforce the knowledge of key youth people in the National Societies within the region, also by optimising internal procedures.**

Upon request, RYDP assisted youth sections with information about upcoming training, workshop, conferences, organised by other organisations as well. Also, based on a specific request, materials and other lessons learned project were shared.

Few youth sections participated in the different training organised by the European Youth Forum.

RYDP conducted a team-building seminar for the Youth Board of the Lithuanian Red Cross, where 10 key young people in the National Societies, were shown how important the communication and team work is in the field of our activities.

RYDP constantly supported Latvian Red Cross Youth in their efforts to reorganise the National Society and therefore build strong and integrated youth section. There was due to be a conference organised on this topic.

#### **Participatory Community Development (PCD)**

In the first quarter a Regional PCD Team was established from national PCD coordinators at the regional workshop in January 2003. The PCD programme development process was started. A regional PCD development team was established from representation of GVA Secretariat OD department, Armenian Red Cross and Country Delegation, Serbia & Montenegro Country Delegation, Budapest Regional Delegation as well as national PCD coordinators from Hungary and Poland. Developed PCD will be launched at the Central Europe Partnership Meeting 13-15 June 2003.

Ongoing PCD programmes are 90% finished in most of the countries. The Macedonian, Hungarian, Bulgarian Red Cross branches finished planned activities within PCD, although micro projects are ongoing. In Poland and Serbia and Montenegro the micro projects implementation are continuing. Annual Report of PCD programme 2002 was sent to the Norwegian Red Cross.

An Advocacy Campaign was designed by the Hungarian Red Cross in a close cooperation with Saachi & Saachi. The campaign was launched on 8 May 2003 and will continue until the autumn. The Year of Disabled People in the European Union Countries, which is lobbying for more job opportunities to people with disabilities, ties in with the campaign.

The regional PCD coordinator is in regular contact with the national PCD coordinators within the development process and planning process for 2003-2004.

A new inter regional cooperation had been started with a visit of regional PCD coordinator to Bolivia, South America Region in March 2003. The regional PCD coordinator participated in a five-day meeting of Amazonico and Camelotte program coordinators from 10 South American countries. The purpose of the inter regional cooperation was to share experiences, to learn of each other as well as to represent the importance of Community Development in the Movement at all level of the Federation.

**Stronger regional networks and learning from each other will have been developed; a regional pool of expertise will have been developed for mutual sharing and learning best practices between societies across the region.**

During February this year, RD supported participation of 4 National Societies from the region (Croatia, Romania, Slovenia, and Slovakia) at the 9th Central and Eastern European Fundraising Workshop organised by the Resource Alliance. The workshop focused on fundraising in the non governmental sector, covering issues from credibility, sustainability and communication. It gave an opportunity for all those involved to share and learn from each other.

RD has managed to link the Bulgarian Red Cross expertise in Fund-raising with the emerging needs at the Romanian RC. As a part of the Romanian RC Organisational Development Process it is planned for the Bulgarian RC to consult the Romanian Red Cross in their efforts to achieve more diversified fund-raising base.

**National Societies from EU accession states will have been prepared to enter the EU. Contact and partnerships will have been created and developed. Adequate provision of guidance and training will have been provided.**

During this period a regular information sharing between the RD Budapest – RC/EU Office and the 8 accession NSs + Malta RC has been ensured. The information was related to the current calls for proposal for which the accession NSs were eligible. In February the Austrian RC approached the EU Enlargement officer in order to find partners from the region for the Public Health Initiative of the European Commission. The Polish RC reacted and started to cooperate in the field of health nurses program. In March the British RC asked to find partners from the region for the same Initiative, in the field of first aid program. Three NSs from the region reacted – the Slovak RC, Hungarian RC and Latvian RC.

The revision of the Latvian RC Youth project proposal on drug prevention has been carried out in cooperation with the RC/EU Office in Brussels. The result of the revision was that the Latvian RC could submit the above project to the EC. The partner is the Italian RC. Work has been done to strengthen existing and new alliances. Partnership is one of the most important requirements for the EU when submitting a project for funding. As part of this preparatory work for EU accession, an introduction meeting on 16-17 May 2003 in Brussels was held.

## **Humanitarian Values**

**Goal: To raise and maintain the profile of the National Societies in Central Europe, to strengthen their communications capacity and facilitate the various promotion of the humanitarian values and principles reflected in all their programmes and activities.**

### **Programme Objective**

**To support National Societies in developing high and positive profiles and in raising awareness of the humanitarian values and principles they reflect.**

### **Expected Results**

**National Societies will have emerged as prominent actors in the strengthening of civil society, seen to respond to unmet social needs of the most vulnerable, and rapidly mobilising when natural disaster occurs to mitigate the suffering of victims, with well functioning and effective communications services supported by governance and management.**

**Promotion of the Movement's fundamental principles and humanitarian values will have been an intrinsic part of all communication activities but National Societies will have also been provided with specific opportunity to enhance the level of understanding of the Movement.**

Themes covered in the reporting period included: home care and social welfare programmes, problems of migrants and trafficking, problems of people living with disabilities, EU enlargement, EU Road safety campaign, regional disaster preparedness teams, issues of gender and integrity in the humanitarian world; World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day and continuation of the global campaign against stigma and discrimination related to HIV/AIDS.

The work on these themes produced articles and news stories for Federation print and electronic media, and material for media releases, press kits and media briefings.

Winter and spring issues of *The Bridge* – a publication that facilitates knowledge sharing, defines issues, raises self-esteem and promotes humanitarian values, advocacy and regional thinking - were prepared and published. The coverage included contributions from most countries in the region. *The Bridge* continued to appear in Hungarian and Polish versions.

Due to limited resources, training programmes of the South-east European Network for Professionalization of Media were not possible to implement.

**The media will have begun to perceive the Red Cross as a natural ally, a reliable source of independent information on humanitarian issues. Humanitarian reporting in the region will have gained ground and many young journalists schooled in ethics and journalistic responsibility.**

Communications training components have been provided to the capacity building workshops and seminars in disaster preparedness and social welfare.

The Communications Unit provided support and follow-up for the May 8 celebrations and the global campaign against stigma and discrimination related to HIV/AIDS. (See reports from the countries on the Federation web-site).

**The Red Cross will have been established as a prime source of information relating to all natural and man-made disasters in Central Europe, through fast response and the provision of breaking news, eye-witness accounts and assessments of need for media, donors and the humanitarian world. Information emergency teams will have been in a constant state of readiness to respond to disaster, ensuring a Red Cross information flow from outset to end of emergency, and into post-emergency operations.**

Related to the establishment of effective communication departments within National Societies, discussions were held with the Serbia and Montenegro, Romanian Red Cross and started with the Hungarian Red Cross each has declared that they need changes in their communications policies. They have requested Federation support. Communications strategies and plans that will allow the NS to get maximum media exposure have been discussed and drafted.

The first of a series of training of trainers workshops was held in Belgrade in February for communicators from four national Societies (Albania, B&H, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro). Devoted primarily to training methods and presentations skills, its theme was how to promote communications throughout a National Society. The workshop provided a closer insight into the Communications Guide - a Federation web-site tool for all RCRC communicators. This activity occurred within the Disaster Preparedness programme, and a first workshop is scheduled for July.

**The Red Cross advocacy will have placed key social and health issues on national agendas, and contributed to a change of mindset and behaviour for the public good. So doing, National Societies will have acquired greater profile and standing.**

All the objectives outlined in the 2003-2004 Appeal have been maintained and will continue through 2003. With the Regional Communications Unit capacity reduced from three to one person, the first half of 2003 saw priority given to Serbia and Montenegro and Romania - the countries where National Societies have requested Federation support in raising their profile to address the urgent humanitarian needs. Regional Delegation editorial services and products were available to all National Societies and country delegations. Cooperation with other programmes, and networking together, have been essential elements of communications policy.

In the first quarter of the year the Regional Information Delegate worked in close co-operation with Disaster Preparedness, health and care, PCD and Youth regional programmes. Sharing opportunities and resources provides a great impetus and the policy will continue and intensify.

***For further information please contact:***

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*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

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