

YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS KUMANOVO  
(JEF – MACEDONIA)



ANNUAL NARRATIVE REPORT 2014  
(01 JANUARY 2014 – 31 DECEMBER 2014)

## 1. Introduction

Young European Federalists – Kumanovo (JEF – Macedonia) is independent, non-profit, non-party, political and civic organization dedicated to political activation of the young people in the process of integration of Macedonia in Europe, as well as initiating and fostering necessary changes towards creation of just, free, inclusive, transparent and democratic society.

Established in 1991 and revived in 2012, JEF – Macedonia is a branch/national section of the European network of Young European Federalists and works in the fields of:

- Youth activism;
- Integration of Republic of Macedonia in the European Union;
- Promotion of European federalism;
- Decentralization;
- Democracy;
- Human Rights.

JEF – Macedonia continuously, individually, in cooperation or as part of different networks implements activities that aim towards raising the awareness among young people for the civil society and democracy in Macedonia.

This report will provide a brief and structured overview of the most important activities that JEF – Macedonia implemented in the period between 01 January 2014 – 31 December 2015.

## 2. Activities by JEF – Macedonia

### 2.1. Annual general assembly of JEF – Macedonia

On 15 of March 2014 as part of the regular activities of the organization in the facilities of FON University, JEF – Macedonia organized the annual general assembly for 2014. Beside presentation of the activities and achievements of the organization in 2013, as well as the presentation of the narrative and financial reports, the participants at the assembly meeting were deciding on several important issues, such as:

- Changes in the Statute of the organization;
- Adoption of additional documents and rules of procedure;
- Election of new President of the organization;
- Election of new Executive board of the organization;
- Election of new Supervisory board of the organization.

At this meeting, Kristina Angelovska was elected President of JEF – Macedonia, Sanja Bogativnovska, Damir Neziri, Ana Topsiova and Aleksandar Ilievski were elected members of the board of JEF – Macedonia, while Marinela Stefanovska, Vesna Popovska and Andrej \_\_\_\_\_ were elected in the supervisory board of the organization.

### 2.2. Street action "Democracy under Pressure"

On 21.03.2014 on the central square in Kumanovo and in the venue of FON University in Skopje, JEF – Macedonia organized a street action titled "Democracy under pressure". Activists from the organization were informing the citizens about the challenges that democracy faces in Macedonia and across Europe during the past several years, and provided space for the people to express and write their opinions and stances on these issues.

This action was continuation of the constant effort of JEF – Macedonia to communicate with the citizens of Macedonia and raise their awareness on EU related issues.

### 2.3. Public debates on key political issues in Macedonia

In 2014 JEF – Macedonia established cooperation with the German Foundation Frederich Ebert and started a joint project that aimed towards opening a discussion in the society on important political topics that are not much discussed. Through organization of debates that are open for public, and are being streamed online JEF

and FES attempted to sit on a same table prominent people from the Macedonian society and allow them to discuss key political issues.

Within 2014, two debates of this kind were organized. The first one that took place in GEM Club on 15.05.2014 titled "Politics Vs. Partisanship: What do we need for EU?" provided overview of the opinions of Mr. Emil Atanasovski, Mrs. Biljana Vankovska, Mr. Nenad Markovic and Mr. Ivica Bocevski

The second debate was held on 28.05.2014 in Kino Frosina. During this debate, over 200 people that attended the discussion had the opportunity to discuss if "Macedonia Can(not) Have a Female President" with the panelists: Mrs. Lijljana Popovska, Mrs. Slagjana Taseva and Mrs. Karolina Ristova – Asterud.

These debates were organized as part of the celebration of the month of May as the month of Europe.

#### 2.4. Countering the Merit System: Cases of Promotion in the Service contrary to the Merit System in the Public Administration in the Local Governments in Macedonia

The largest project that JEF – Macedonia individually implemented was the project: "Countering the Merit System: Cases of Promotion in the Service contrary to the Merit System on the Public Administration in the Local Governments in Macedonia". This project was implemented between 18.07 – 26.11.2014 and the main activity of the project was conducting a comprehensive research in 8 target municipalities in Macedonia (selected after prior desk research), while the results of the research served as basis for production of report/analysis/publication on how people working in the public administration on local level get promoted in Macedonia. Beside the findings from the research, the publication contained series of recommendations on what is the best way how to overcome the shortcomings in the current system for promotion in the country.

As part of this project representatives from JEF – Macedonia, got the opportunity to participate on capacity building workshops about public relations and presentation, advocacy and strategy preparation.

With participation in this project, JEF become part of National network for prevention of corruption in the public administration. The project was supported by the Institute for Democracy – Societas Civilis, as part of a bigger EU funded programme.

### 3. Activities in cooperation with JEF – Europe and other JEF sections

#### 3.1. Youth Training: „Tolerant Europe – Defining the Obstacles“

JEF – Macedonia, together with JEF – Europe between 07 – 12.04.2014 in Skopje, organized a training for representatives from different JEF sections throughout Europe. More than 25 participants from at least 6 countries took part at the training titled: “Tolerant Europe – Defining the obstacles” where they were exploring tolerance as a concept, they were discussing about the radicalization and lack of tolerance in Europe in the past several years. The participants at this training had opportunity to explore possibilities for combating intolerance by using different methods, tools and approaches, including art and social networks.

### 3.2. Workshop “Young European Federalists for Tolerant, United Europe”

As part of the program Young European Federalists for Tolerant and United Europe, implemented by JEF – Europe, JEF – Macedonia was awarded a micro grant that was used to organize a workshop on hate speech on-line, as well as to explore methods on how to deal with hate speech online. Experts on human rights and hate speech, and social networks equipped the participants with the basic skills on how to recognize and how to react when they recognize hate speech on the social network. This event was organized on 23.10.2014 in Kumanovo.

### 3.3. Balkan training days – BTD

Traditionally as every other year, JEF – Macedonia had representatives on all of the events organized as part of Balkan Training Days. The International officer, Ana Topsiova, took part on the BTD pre-meeting that was held in Belgrade on 29.04-01.05.2014. President of JEF – Macedonia, Kristina Angelovska, took part in the evaluation of the Balkan Training Days program for the past several years. The evaluation took place in Norway during 23-28.07.2014. Several representatives of JEF – Macedonia were part of the main BTD event for 2014. This event took place in Belgrade between 08-12.10.2014.

## 4. Participation on activities organized by other CSOs

JEF – Macedonia has a practice to actively participate in different activities organized by different organizations and institutions. These are just few activities where JEF – Macedonia participated:

- TC MUSE - Media Understanding and Social Empowerment, 12.02-19.02.2014, Korca, Albania;
- Academy for young researchers organized by FES;
- Model European Union – Albania, 06 – 10.05.2014, Tirana, Albania;
- Different activities of the National Youth Council of Macedonia;
- Different activities within the Local Youth Councils in different municipalities;
- Workshop „Youth Networking and the Role of the Civil Society as a Factor in „Soft Politics“ in Southeast Europe”, 26.07.2014, Skopje, Macedonia;

- International Youth Conference – Krusevo 2014, 16-23.09.2014, Krusevo, Macedonia;
- Students station 3.0, 17-18.12.2014, Skopje, Macedonia.