

Rekonstrukcija □ enski Fond

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**RECONSTRUCTION
WOMEN'S FUND**

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Political environment in 2011 was disturbing. The tendencies which we have been alerting of started to bear consequences. Partitocracy eating civic space gained openly aggressive forms: party ranks mocked local women's groups advising them to join a party and "get everything"; local municipalities have been playing games with broken promises and humiliation of local groups; social service sector and the ministry through new documents avoid nominal diversity in the sector and position their own exclusivity which comprise of conflict of interest among other problems; ministry of internal affairs, together with choir of politicians and major of Belgrade decided again, after long period of boasting about their "readiness to protect", to ban Gay pride, blaming LGBT to be a risky (even deviant) groups who could provoke damage; since neo-Nazi and clero-fascist groups (identified and classified as such by the police in 2005) were not banned (one of the groups even registered as a political party), their violence works hand in hand with the repression. Official motto is "Serbia's face" in spite of obvious systemic corruption. Etc.

Annual RWF's plan was oriented in supporting clear mind and its public and activist power. By this strategy we hope to compensate a bit and to set opportunities for future.

Due to the requests of the new Law on endowments and foundations, RWF re-registered in October 2011. There were no changes in RWF's program orientation. Some changes were made within managing structure. Fund for an Open Society expressed the will to transfer its rights as a founding organization to RWF, so we were thinking about reorganization of the founding partners to continue to guarantee RWF's mission. The decision was to introduce committed individuals as founding partners, hence Slavica Stojanovic and Svenka Savic were appointed and Women in Black stayed as an organization. According to RWF's Statute, the founders have the right to make further changes in the founding body if needed. Managing Board consists of three members (Stasa Zajovic, Svenka Savic and Snjezana Milivojevic). Appointed director is Mirjana Mirosavljevic. The team stayed as: PR Manager Zoe Gudovic, Accountant Vajka Andjelkovic. New position of Slavica Stojanovic is Program Developer. We believe that the changes both secure and re-new RWF.

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Grantmaking

We followed our mission and goals to back-up the autonomy of women's groups that, with their programs, affect the public and lead to strategic changes; to support continuity of activities of particular women's groups, securing their quick response to the current developments; to strengthen networking, cooperation, solidarity and visibility of women's groups; to encourage communication and exchange between women's activist, academic, artistic and pacifist experience and knowledge.

For March 8 we organized the Call for small grants and within the program we supported 18 different organizations and their activities. "Sublimation" of the call would say: Different PUBLIC actions; Actions were very creative; Cooperation and solidarity with other women's groups; Diversity and "rationality" of promo materials; Mostly positive reactions from the public; Increased visibility of the groups is reported; Women's groups as info-centres; Women's creative work was promoted; Cooperation with the relevant Institutions; High response of volunteers; Further strengthening of the relations between members of the organizations.

More on our grant making activities is shown on extended list of the grants we awarded through our four principal programs on our website.

New programs and new partners

Concerning our programmatic plans, we succeeded to start the new program which was our great wish: Roma Girls' Solidarity. Our basic idea has been to create a meeting point and long-term learning space for Roma girls from various towns in South Serbia and to escape limits of seminars and NGO boundaries. The model and method have been discussed with experienced Roma women activists and support was asked from various activist groups from South Serbia.

RWF organized a focus group with the girls to assess their interest in the program, as well as potential obstacles. The recruitment campaign which followed brought 37 girls from 6 towns to apply as participants. The program starts in late January 2012 to finish the first cycle in June. RWF fundraised the budget to initiate the new program from Balkan Trust for Democracy, hopefully to advocate in BTM for its continuation. Meantime we envisaged a big public event with the participants of Roma Girls' Solidarity in cooperation with a Colombian artist and applied to Open Society Arts and Culture Grant Program (Advancing Roma Inclusion through Arts and Culture). Whatever comes out of our planned fundraising, RWF will continue with this program, depending on its development, since it is envisaged as a long term, creative and flexible one. For the first phase we already engaged program educators/facilitators and local supporters, as well as an assistant to RWF, a female student, Roma girl from Nis.

Cooperation with Community Foundation for Northern Ireland on our work with Roma girls and CFNI's experience with Youth Banks will, hopefully, come to practice in May 2012 if we succeed in getting grant from European program Youth in Action where we applied for a practical learning experience, visit of RWF to CFNI's youth banks program.

As a foundation already supporting actions of young women, but not having specific program for them till committed thinking and planning of the program with Roma girls, RWF was invited to join the new initiative called Community of Practice, a group of 11 international women's funds gathered to share lessons and experiences on the support to groups of young women and girls. After the first 'in-person' meeting in Amsterdam, with the goal to share, debate and propose how the CoP can generate initiatives to improve the support to girls and young women, improving the capacities

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and strategies of intervention of the women's funds participating, we "structured" ourselves in committees and RWF is the part of the mapping committee that will map the resources available with an aim to formulate strategies based on that knowledge. By "resources" we mean: funders supporting girls; application formats that are working for girls; M&E tools that are girl-specific or working well for girls; strategies to reach out to prospective girls grantees.

Being a part of CoP initiative will give us the sense of direction about the different funds' roles and work with young women and girls; an overview of where we are as WFs in terms of funding YW/G; what is working and what is not working; the concerns and fears that many funds have about funding YW/G, information on potential allies, etc.

Out of supportive women's funds, a grant came from The Rita Fund (women's fund from Colorado), as recognition of our work and contribution to grant-making.

Complex step was made with Oak Foundation, who awarded 2-years grant both for program and grant-making concerning violence against women and enabled us to meet our plans as will be explained below. Based on the RWF's consultative meetings with women's groups, as part of the activities of the program supported by Oak, Autonomous Women's Center developed a project for EIDHR with RWF as the partner.

Summing all the above, as we said in our 2011-2012 plans: To meet some of our programmatic plans, we need new programs and new partners - and we made it.

Deep into the issues – Lesbian activism

RWF's dedication to support lesbian activists led us to organize a meeting of Serbian lesbian groups in order to map the needs of lesbian organizations. The meeting lasted for a day and was held on February 19th, from 10:30 am till 6:00 pm in RWF's offices in Belgrade. Five representatives from three lesbian NGOs participated in the meeting (NLO from Novi Sad, Rominjako Ilo from Zrenjanin and Labris from Belgrade), one representative of RWF as well, while the meeting was facilitated by Snjezana Njeza Mrse (Group MOST, Belgrade). Shortly before the meeting, due to sickness, five representatives of lesbian groups canceled.

The facilitator analyzed the process and findings and reported and recommended: "Direct evaluation of the first meeting of lesbian groups by participants shows that the meeting was organized at the right time and that it answered an existing need among the lesbian groups' representatives for a direct meeting with each other and opening up the space for developing more intense exchange and cooperation.

By actively participating and being focused on the work at hand during the meeting all participants showed a great degree of motivation for mutual work and willingness to take on responsibility for future contacts between themselves and for the realization of specific types of mutual cooperation which they agreed upon.

The participants' testimonies as well as the products of mutual work unambiguously show that such meeting of lesbian groups should be organized regularly (at least twice a year), in the aim of creating a space for mutual evaluation of the cooperation achieved – level and results and for suggestions regarding how to improve it."

New Bridges are Built - as the follow up of the initiative Learning Bridges, started in 2008, we agreed to organize exchange between lesbian activists from 4 countries (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Georgia and Serbia). First place of gathering was Prague in May 2011 on 7th Lesbian festival "eLnadrouhou" where two activists from Serbia and two from Georgia had an opportunity to meet

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their Czech colleagues, share the different experiences, especially on the way of transferring the knowledge and including younger generation of lesbians as well as participating in very interesting cultural and sport activities. In October, Lesbian organization from Novi Sad (Vojvodina), NLO was the host to five lesbian activists on their “Art for Action”, lesbian art festival, where they also had a chance to meet, next to people from Serbia, artists and activists from Croatia and Hungary, the guests of the festival too. Now when the Learning Bridges connected so many people, we will see where the next bridge will take us. <http://www.rwwfund.org/en/learning-bridges>

One of the participants wrote in her blog: *When I came back to Georgia, many people asked me if “it was like in Kusturica’s film” or if Serbia felt like some of the Pavic’s books, which is logical, since these are two people through whose work we usually get the image of Serbia and former Yugoslavia, but if only these people and Serbian and Georgian fascists and homophobes could see the face of Serbia I saw, our societies would be less hateful and more accepting.* <http://www.idmag.info/3815>

Regional: RWF supported travel costs of the activists from Serbia to participate in Split Pride in June. Labris, the respective lesbian organization from Belgrade, working for 15 years in continuous professional support to lesbians as well as with professionals in relevant institutions and media, organized 18 activists from Serbia to go to the first LGBT Pride Parade in Split. They paid an attention for activists to be also from cities outside of Belgrade (Sabac, Novi Sad), joined by four male LGBT activist as well.

Unfortunately, Split pride was attacked by a large number of people who, gathered behind police cordons were throwing stones, ashtrays and other missiles on the activists in the parade. Tear gas was thrown, as well as cannon attack. The stage, where the main program supposed to happen, was also surrounded by people who were violently demonstrated against the parade and the police had reacted only after roughly half an hour. Failures of the police were obvious - the mass meeting of the violent demonstrators was allowed on the same location where the Pride was planned to be, without safe distance from it, and some of the LGBT activists had been injured.

Activists from Serbia think that their participation in Split Pride was very important because of its historical importance and that for the first time larger group of people from Serbia attended it, what gave a strong support for regional parades and LGBT activism. Pride parade in Split is scheduled for the next year and activists from Serbia are again invited to participate. Additionally, on the Lesbian Feminist Activist meeting (LFA) organized after Split Pride, further concrete steps to boost regional cooperation of lesbian feminist groups were agreed, including a protocol on cooperation. Five Labris activists then took part in the Zagreb Pride on June 18.

Great cooperation and elevated experience for all in the numerous audience was a discussion with our guests Joan Nestle and Dianne Otto: *Feminist rights and lesbian freedoms*, organized on April 25, together with Belgrade Women’s Studies Center and cultural Center REX,

Joan Nestle, legendary lesbian, femme writer is the founder of the first Lesbian Herstory Archives in New York that began as a lesbian support group in 1974 in the apartment that Joan Nestle shared with her then partner Deborah Edel. She is the author of a number of books about lesbian desire, love, butch and femme relationship and other political lesbian topics. Her more recent writing focuses on the issues related to older lesbians and lesbians who survived cancer. She lives in Melbourne, Australia with her partner Dianne Otto, where she is an activist of the organization Women in Black actively opposing Israeli and US regimes and the occupation of

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Palestine.

<http://www.joannestle.com/>

Dianne Otto is a long time feminist professor of law at the University of Melbourne. She first joined the feminist activist movement at a Centre for Women Victims of Rape, on an SOS Hotline in Australia and later in a Socialist Feminist Collective. Dianne has been active in a number of human rights NGOs including Women's Rights Action Network Australia (WRANA), Women's Economic Equality Project (WEEP) Canada, International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP-AP) Malaysia, and International Women's Tribune Centre (IWTC) New York. She currently teaches feminist intervention in international law.

<http://www.joannestle.com/diottodilounge.html>

The event stands as a benchmark of the quality gathering.

Critical Issue – VAW

Publishing of the book "Violence against women in partner relationships: Model of coordinated community response" by Tanja Ignjatovic has been a subtle complex intervention.

There are added values for RWF in publishing this book. The author, Tanja Ignjatovic is program coordinator in Autonomous Women's Center whom we look at as our partner (16 Days campaign).

The book was originally her MA thesis in Women's Studies which is our second partner in building and disseminating knowledge in feminist and gender issues. The author and the book are live

examples of RWF's politics of intersection of activist and academic fields. Crossing borders, the book had excellent reviews from academics in Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia. And, finally, the book

advocates for model of coordinated community response to violence which is the model

incorporated in RWFund's approach to VAW. Since Tanja is long term expert on violence against women, working in AWC and MA graduate of Women's Studies, with the brilliant study on VAW

and its author, the synergy of feminist work is palpable. Since so called academic books are mostly unavailable to wider public, printed in a small circulation and if promoted at all it would be in small

circles of experts, RWF decided to use an opposite strategy. Feminist theory has been mostly

excluded from the poor but established order. As our Board member Svenka Savic put it, it was

subversive RWF's strategy to print 3,500 copies to disseminate to a complex audience. (We already tested the strategy with the book *Becoming Woman*, by Adriana Zaharijevic in 2010.) RWF opened

its door for people interested in the book so we came closer to various people and highlighted our

office/work as well. We organized one promotion in the National Library, but numerous promotions actually occurred, initiated by diverse actors: FemiNis (within its program feminist festival in Nis

organized a promotion for students at Law Faculty as well as PitchWise, feminist festival in

Sarajvo. Local women's groups organized public discussions, there are already invitations for

2012, including Library from Pozarevac wanting Tanja as the guest to connect the book with 8th of

March. RWF granted the book to 52 public libraries all over Serbia and to 30 university, faculty,

departments' and institutes' libraries in all university centers. One of the promotions was initiated by

an artist Ivana Smiljanic within her exhibition in an art gallery in Belgrade. The life of the book will

not be a short one. The book was distributed to professionals dealing with violence through training

program (Autonomous Women's Center with Provincial Secretariat for Labor Employment and

Gender Equality) and similar gatherings.

In July and September RWF organized consultative, strategic meetings with women's groups dealing with violence against women, with the idea to list, first hand, problems women's groups

face and to encourage collective debate on strategies for overcoming them. The meetings will

continue in 2012 since normative, institutional and political environment has been changing rapidly

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and against stability of the women's groups' work and influence. New law regulating social services and the related protocols strengthened the tendency of exclusion of women's organizing in the field. The groups themselves have been organized around advocating for a fair treatment and recognition of feminist and civic services. RWF participates in the process with all our programs and tools. Next to VAW grant making, RWF contributed with the book, the meetings, contributing to networking needs and enabled a larger number of activists from local groups to participate for the first time in the conference of prominent European network against violence against women – VAWE meeting in October in Rome, Italy.

Complexities of agenda of Roma women activists

In our plans to go deeper into the complexities of agenda of Roma women activists, mapping dispersed activities, reflexion etc. we made initial steps only. We have been supporting Roma women activities through all our programs, but hectic environment limited RWF to concentrate on some segments only, rather than on the overall picture.

In the team of facilitators/educators in Roma Girls' Solidarity program and with Roma activists, supporters to the program, we had thorough discussions on overall value of such a program, meaning of the method and the nuances which make profound differences. Language, issues, group dynamics, values, attitude, obstacles – these were valuable inputs RWF accumulated from the consultations, already built in the Roma Girls' Solidarity program but treasured also for further research and debates.

RWF raised interest for Roma issues in Foundations for Peace network: CFNI already started a project with Roma in Northern Ireland which we are going to visit; cooperation of RWF and CFNI on youth program; a comparative study was drafted within the network on social and economic exclusion of Roma and Dalits, as a baseline for transnational learning and exchange.

Activating space

Due to our political interest in the issue and determined will to cooperate, lecture and discussion with Gregory Sholette was organized: *From radical solidarity to "whatever" collectivism: political art and the rise of crisis capitalism* in Cultural Centre Magacin in June

Gregory Sholette is a New York-based artist, writer, and founding member of *Political Art Documentation/Distribution* (PAD/D: 1980-1988), and *REPOhistory* (1989-2000). His recent publications include *Dark Matter: Art and Politics in an Age of Enterprise Culture* (Pluto Press, 2011); *Collectivism After Modernism: The Art of Social Imagination after 1945* (with Blake Stimson); and *The Interventionists: A Users Manual for the Creative Disruption of Everyday Life* (with Nato Thompson). He teaches in the Department of Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University, is a faculty member of CCC post-graduate research program at Geneva University of Art and Design, and is currently Chair of the MFA Program in Studio Art, as well as an Assistant Professor of Sculpture at Queens College: City University of New York (CUNY).

<http://gregorysholette.com>

<http://darkmatterarchives.net>

The event was organized by Kombinat of Self-organized Initiatives/ Reconstruction Women's Fund, TkH – Deschooling Classroom, Women at Work, Cultural Centre REX and Kontekst Collective.

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With Cultural Center REX, RWF refined cooperation and trust. Hence, within the festival of engaged film Free Zone has been profiling as an annual body of films on women's human rights and feminist issues. Together we planned to engage in bringing women authors as the festival guests and participants. Inspired by the cooperation REX initiated women's film marathon on 8th of March attracting diverse public.

Intensive cooperation and wide communication in 8th of March "navigation" and 16 Days Campaign

-“Navigation” of 8th of March activities was positive and in 2011 RWF attracted 22 actions from 16 towns in Serbia to participate in collective presentation of the celebration. The interest has been raised in the region, so for 2012 RWF has already agreed partnerships in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina to be part of the virtual mapping of actions. The growing interest is remarkable and complex.

Four years saga of celebrating 100th anniversary of 8th of March has been an interesting process in Serbia. (It is very possible that compatible stream of events was recorded in other parts of the world.) There are decades of fighting for political meaning of 8th of March, against kidnapping of the symbol by changeable mainstream regimes and from misleading ownership. In 2008 Women in Black were preparing peace march to celebrate the 100th anniversary of 8th of March. The march was banned by Belgrade authorities! After Kosovo independence was declared in February, the wave of authorized violence in Serbia imposed kind of public auto-censorship close to internalized marshal law. At that time it was the lowest point in Serbia since 2000. RWF stayed with women's groups who were never silent. On February 26 we supported public promotion and its recording, in Belgrade, of the book Women's Side of the War, just published by Women in Black and performed by Dah Teatar. Two weeks later, celebration of 100th anniversary of 8th of March, organized by Women in Black was banned by the police, followed with the fuss made by the activists and allies. On March 15th, in the “Postponed 8th of March” the activists crowded for a march on the streets which ended with the presentation of the work of young generation of feminists in the newly published book “Someone Said Feminism?” published by RWF, Women's Studies and Women in Black. The silence was broken and position confirmed in the crisis. In 2009 8th of March was celebrated in Belgrade with a large march and slogan “I tell you for the 101st time”, and with growing participation of Roma women activists from smaller places. Roma Women's Network from Vojvodina organized their street activities in Novi Sad for the first time. (RWF supported.) But information kept coming that 2009 has been also celebrated as 100th anniversary, which grew in 2010 with another claim for the date. Again? In Serbia, feminists have been flowing to Belgrade to join the peace march planned by Women in Black network who have been trying to come sharper to the point, with local reports on women workers and with anticorruption panel. Also, it became evident that local gatherings and actions did occurred and nobody was aware of the number, places and forms. In 2010, RWF invited activists for communication and visibility of actions which started with launching of Map of March 8th Celebrations in Serbia, presenting activities in 12 towns, announcing also for the first time the Month of Roma Women's Activism led by Roma Women's Network Serbia, which connected 8th of March and 8th of April – International Roma Day. But, 2011 appeared as the fourth time 100th anniversary! The fuss was global. Such campaigns disseminate critical overview of the status of women, not the critical analyses of global or one's own politics. The controversy of 8th of March is around its women workers' rebellion grassroots origins in 1908 going into international congress format, national delegations, international (mostly

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European agenda), with UN joining the club in 1975.

RWF maintained the strategy to support and promote grass roots actions. Map of activities was compiled. It was printed and distributed. Designed also as a GPRS virtual map

<http://rwwfund.org/osmimart2011>, was promoted to the surprise and delight of many women activists.

Facebook group was created and the Map's banner was welcomed by portals and magazines and attracted media attention. Our short presentation on March 8 you can find on following link:

<http://www.rwwfund.org/node?page=2>

-RWF participates in 16 Days as an equal partner in conceptualising, organizing, promoting annual campaign and with special commitment to financially support travelling performance, grass roots feminist artist group which grew now with its own name ACT Women.

As we already learned how to build on the materials/resources from previous campaigns and how to document and use video material, with growing interest and ownership of women's groups in Serbia who localised and created the campaigns around their work, in search for other forms, RWF opened new path and opportunities.

The book on violence against women written within the political context of Serbia is a book which clears the area theoretically and establishes a methodology for evaluation/selfassessment and monitoring. For women's groups it is the lighthouse in the woods of papers and arbitrary debates and acts. Since reception of the book in various public and feminist spaces and festivals was very positive, we decided to include it in 16 Days campaign and to reach libraries. The books were sent/delivered, with a letter of introduction to the Campaign and a package of leaflets, to 52 public and 30 faculty libraries in Serbia. Some of the recipients sent messages to thank us and to ask for further cooperation, with acknowledgement of violence against women as a critical issue. It means a lot to our idea to widen circle of collaborators, to involve public/cultural/academic spaces in dissemination of messages and knowledge to new public.

Similar process was with traveling performance. RWF and ACT Women invited artist Deborah Hunt,

<http://hemisphericinstitute.org/artistprofiles/index.php?lang=Eng&Artist=dhunt&Menu>About&Category=Bio>,

maskmaker and performer since 1990 residing in Puerto Rico, founder and artistic director of MASKHUNT Inc, theatre of the futile – to cooperate with ACT Women in designing the performance. <http://www.rwwfund.org/en>

Deborah's work with ACT women made strong impact on the team and her admiration of their work was equal. They got important skills as well as a new artistic perspective. The 16 Days performance was powerful. The potential of the group and of the investment in feminist activism grew and new opportunities have been envisaged.

Both, the book and the performance make knowledge for the future, set standard, widen social and professional outreach and establish permanent spots for learning. The processes gave new aspect to RWF's work and planning.

Participation in the campaign has been growing annually. RWF cares to include all the new and old contacts for the campaign, diversify material offered to them and think about new and complex strategies. So, 2011 campaign involved over 80 sites: cities, towns, villages, settlements (comparing to 45 in 2004).

The campaign promoted an *Amendment on STALKING to the Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia*. Number of cases of stalking has been rising in Serbia, some of them with lethal ending.

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Victims have no protection and have been exposed to the violence with no sanctions for stalkers.

During the Campaign our partners in the campaign who drafted and backed the amendment, Autonomous Women's Center and Women against Violence network, received the information that the amendment was recognized and put on the agenda of working group of Ministry of Justice in charge of drafting changes and amendments to the Criminal Code.

National media coverage was good, informing about the campaign and announcing the performance.

<http://srb.time.mk/read/3319227902/0c7ea945fe/index.html>;

http://www.glassrbije.org/info/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=38022:odran-performans-umorne-posveen-nasilju-nad-enama&catid=61:galerija&Itemid=59;

<http://www.tanjug.rs/videodet.aspx?galID=49430&videoID=171469>

<http://www.tanjug.rs/videodet.aspx?galID=49430&videoID=171471>

<http://www.beta.rs/?tip=article&kategorija=vestiizzemlje&ida=2610339&id=&ime=>

<http://www.beograd.rs/cms/view.php?id=1478694> <http://www.mc.rs/kampanja-16-dana-aktivizma-protiv-nasilja-nad-zenama-2011.4.html?eventId=8244>

<http://www.story.rs/vesti/u-fokusu/19023-16-dana-aktivizma-protiv-nasilja-nad-zenama.html>

<http://www.superste.net/sr/vesti/performans-umorne-44771.html>

http://www.media1.rs/drustvo/hronika/644150/652028/Danas_je_Medjunarodni_dan_borbe_protiv_nasilja_nad_zenama

<http://www.rts.rs/page/stories/sr/story/125/Dru%C5%A1tvo/997252/Stop+nasilju+nad+%C5%BEenama.html>

<http://www.blic.rs/Vesti/Beograd/291397/Sa-Trga-Republike-u-petak-krece-16-dana-aktivizma-protiv-nasilja-nad-zenama/komentari>

<http://www.vestidana.rs/beograd/blic-sa-trgu-republike-u-petak-krece-16-dana-aktivizma-protiv-nasilja-nad-zenama/>

<http://www.novostidana.com/danas-je-medunarodni-dan-borbe-protiv-nasilja-nad-zenama.html>

<http://www.novostidana.com/dan-borbe-protiv-nasilja-nad-zenama.html> <http://www.blic.rs/Vesti/Beograd/291397/Sa-Trga-Republike-u-petak-krece-16-dana-aktivizma-protiv-nasilja-nad-zenama>

http://www.pouke.org/forum/topic/16227-svetski-dan-borbe-protiv-nasilja-nad-zenama/page_p_532876#entry532876

<http://www.rtvpink.com/vesti/vest.php?id=38182>

Local media reported about the local campaigns and guest performance.

Annual organizing of big gatherings

Reconstruction Women's Fund organized on July 5 in Botanical Garden a mini festival *JOYFULNESS CRAZINESS II /RADOST LUDOST II* in our collaborative strengths, with help of our friends from independent cultural scene and public institutions, to present widely and publicly women artists and art initiatives who with their specific expression and unconventional ways treat society and challenges of life. With a help of friends: Fair of Short Electronic Form - KEF, ŠKART and Cultural Center REX as well as institution like Botanical Garden is, we made the unique public event and opened possibilities of cooperation and exchange in engagement of wider public. In various and "joyfully crazy" program took part: *Cica and her partner Globus* with pockets full of circus tools and juggling balls who entertained both the kids and adults. The group *Secondhanders* who performed and sold slightly used, readymade music of well known authors. Duo rhythm of Sisters Engineers! *Gruvlend Sessions – frontmen/women Zemlja Gruva* Zoe Kidah, Milovan and Constructa, supported by show attraction Shobaye and DJ master Nietzsche, who played the music at the end of the festival and made more than 150 visitors relax, dance and be happy. Event was a benefit party – certain amount from each of 87 sold tickets went to "piggy bank" of Reconstruction Women's Fund for the support and promotion of women's art! Big thanks go to our volunteers who responded in large number (22). The goal of the gathering is not just an affirmation of the only local women's foundation, but also networking and solidarity of different ideas and collectives.

Permanent promotion of RWF's focused publications, both to the focused and ad hoc audiences

It was a year of extensive distribution of the book on violence against women. To the libraries, the

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book was sent accompanied by 16 Days leaflets and a friendly and inviting letter introducing the fund, the book, the campaign and another RWF's book "Becoming Woman" by Adriana Zaharijevic. We wanted to raise interest and respect through comprehensive presentation of the work done.

In 2011 we have been using our website extensively to promote (including facebook) and to enable reading of the books to the focused and ad hoc audiences. RWF's publication (2007) *Written Out, How Sexuality is Used to Attack Women's organizing* was uploaded. In honor of the work of our Board member who just retired as professor emerita, we hosted *Svenka Savić, BUILDING AN ACADEMIC COMMUNITY IN THE PERIOD OF 1960-2010, with Bibliography of her works*. We also started a serial of e-books *Disobedient to History*. Until now *The Book of the City of Ladies* by Christine de Pizan and *Three Guineas* by Virginia Woolf, once translated and printed by nonprofit Feminist Publisher 94 were uploaded.

Influx - volunteers, supporters, artists

They are coming, some new and some already committed, some RWF's stipendists, some from partner organizations, after RWF's facebook or personal invitations.

In-kind support including legal services, volunteers, media and free space for the different events we've been organizing is estimated to 15.000 Euros.

Volunteers: distribution of the March 8 Map, distribution of *Švorc* postcards (in cafes, mailing boxes, hairdresser's saloons, etc.), logistics for *Radost Ludost* and Campaign 16 Days, translation of some articles for the web site, design for the virtual invitations for Amsterdam event and *Radost Ludost*. Approximately 40 volunteers.

Individual donors: 7 individuals and 'Miltvuur Keuken Zuid' from Amsterdam

Cooperation with young artists was one of RWF's goals. A highly respectable female designer Katarina Popovic expressed her interest in cooperating with RWF. It has been a challenge for both parts and a mutual effort to improve visual expression of our activities. Also, we were supported by Urška Merc (Slovenia/Holland) with her design and technical skills.

To come closer with our plans to cooperate with young female students of arts, RWF in cooperation with festival of short electronic form KEF www.kef.rs announced a call, 30 sec. on the theme *ŠVORC (Broke)*. The authors, male and female, were asked to research women's side of crisis and peniless life. There were 24 contributions and on November 30 the jury announced winners. Their work was presented in REX and will be promoted in festivals in Serbia and the region.

First prize: Rastko Šejić, Association "Šta hoćeš", film HELP, http://youtu.be/eZ0sP1Ze_tw

Second prize: Jan Predan Zvonar, film ŽENA U

KRIZI, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VW9jBn0aRak> (Woman in crisis)

Third prize: Slađana Rackov, film ŠvorcBus, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4xBLt8vqXio> (BrokeBus)

Next to all the work done in conceptualizing and facilitating the competition, RWF contributed financially for the winners' purchase of some technical equipment.

The jury also payed tribute to the following authors:

Marina Ilić, film IN MY CASE, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QOmQmOHqMN8>

Rada Đurić, film IZGUBLJENE U MAGLI, <http://youtu.be/Zs2sCILpfv4> (Lost in fog)

Lana Pavkov, film Ništa nije samo to što

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jeste, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Netr0bl0jBs&feature=related> (Nothing is only as it is)

Local /Global Philanthropy

We continued testing development of local philanthropy and access to individual donors.

Sailing with Reconstruction! Our trip through the local philanthropy was the sailing and spending time with Labud Raznjatović who invited us to his boat, introduced to his friends and with whom we hope to achieve long-term cooperation. Svetlana Saric our friend from the group SOS Vlasotince and Biljana Stankovic-Lori from Novi Sad Lesbian Organization were invited to present their work, as well as a broader concept of human rights: from deconstruction of patriarchy and violence to right to difference. We had a presentation on a raft BARKA, where mostly men gathered and were very supportive, ready for dialogue and cooperation. The opening of the new spaces and opportunities for a wider circle of people to hear about us was one of the goals, not only to increase the visibility of our work, but also to involve and engage more people to donate certain funds to the activities and continuous development of women's movement.

In spite of keeping contacts with the people involved since July, until now RWF did not get individual donations from this event, although we believed that the setting of a friend as the host inviting his friends, genuine and creative atmosphere etc. would be excellent opportunity.

In the event Joyfulness Craziness II where, as explained above, RWF included an aspect of local fundraising through the tickets sold.

One of our stipendist, with the explanation that our stipend "changed her life" became one of our major individual donors.

As planned, RWF took opportunities to organize fundraising events when some RWF stuff participated in some international programs:

New York: READY FOR RECONSTRUCTION!

Venue: *La Mama First Floor Theatre* Time: April 12, 8 P.M. Speakers: Mirjana Mirosavljevic Bobic, Program Coordinator & Zoe Gudovic, PR Manager, Reconstruction Women's Fund Belgrade- Serbia

The event was announced widely: „You are invited to the meeting to see the story on human rights, freedom of movement, thinking, love and life. Is it enough to say that we are humans or we have to combat for it? How we fight for better social relations in Serbia and what are our problems“...

...“We would like to meet people who are engaged networkers, donors, those who change systems and relations in their communities, concerning human rights, women's human rights, LGBTQ, minority and marginalized groups' issues, feminist groups, intersection of arts and activism, feminist and lesbian arts and visibility.”

The venue itself was compatible and an international paragon. Ellen Stewart founded La MaMa in 1961 in a tiny basement on Manhattan's Lower East Side. She dedicated it to the playwright and all aspects of the theater. Today, La MaMa is a world renowned cultural institution recognized as the seed bed of new work by artists of all nations and cultures. <http://lamama.org/>

RWF received small money but big attention and recognition. We learned complications of fundraising events without a local organizer.

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We were lucky to have an enthusiastic supporter and friend Urska Merc living in Amsterdam where we used the opportunity of Zoe Gudovic being in working visit to Mama Cash.

“Zoe Gudovic from the Reconstruction Women’s Fund in Belgrade, Serbia, is in Amsterdam! Those of you who already met her will know that she is an energy injection and has lots of inspiration. Together with Andjela Tomic, she will give a presentation, screen short films, and discuss the Fund's latest doings and strategies at the MKZ on Friday. “...

Date and time: 9th of September at 8.30pm Venue: MKZ - <http://binnenpr.home.xs4all.nl/mkz.htm>
‘Miltvuur Keuken Zuid’ is a people's kitchen (VoKu) in the south of Amsterdam. The idea of a VoKu is not only to provide food for the neighborhood and people with a low budget but also to create social space for discussions. It's not a restaurant so we stick to self-service – picking up your own food and cleaning up after yourself. MKZ is run by volunteers and all the profit goes to different social or grass-roots initiatives which the volunteers decide upon. This is why you can always donate more money. Maybe you want to cook, clean, serve behind the bar or do the dishes? It's always possible to volunteer!

The venue was a great host, with diverse audience who stayed alert, with intensive attention the whole evening. Except giving us the venue with no charge, MKZ donated part of their income to RWF.

Participation of RWF in capacity building and exchange program (Mama Cash in cooperation of International Network of Women’s Funds) “Strengthening Local Fundraising Initiative”: Our PR Manager Zoe Gudovic was two weeks working guest in one of the first women’s funds, Mama Cash in September in Amsterdam. The program (initiated by MC, applied to by RWF, agenda designed for PR manager of RWF): learning development strategies of local fundraising, getting to know Mama Cash PR team. Zoe worked with Yolanda Jansen, a colleague in charge for communication with individual donors. Corine Aertman explained whole concept of “friend-raising” - keep expanding the circles of people supporting our mission, who can help not only with money. They explored different individual payment possibilities, from long-term to short-term donations, and as good practice “standing payment order” for an individual donor bank account. From Sarah van Brussel there were useful suggestions for RWF’s web-site. From Ingrid Verver and Liz van Omme Zoe got useful information on campaigns and electronic magazine. With Esther Arp exchanged practical advices, how to make it easier for people to donate, how to organize happenings, dinners and other forms expanding the circle of people donating to a foundation. Zoe had a meeting with founder of Mama Cash – Marjan Sax, both concluding that, when developing and expanding a foundation, collective or organization, it is of vital importance not to lose policies, mission and vision. Marjan Sax interested to come to RWF as well. During her stay in Mama Cash Zoe had a presentation on RWF’s work and facilitated two workshops, one about art and activism and the other about ways of presenting feminist message.

Focusing programs and growing partnerships (including Learning Bridges follow up activities and plans with Community Foundation for Northern Ireland) for small EU grants and compatible fundraising

All the aspects were discussed above.

Nobody is Perfect

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We planned to cooperate extensively with Regional Center for Minorities and connect their knowledge and activities on right to housing with our Roma Women Initiatives program. But 2011 was hectic with series of forced evictions and RCM was overwhelmed and started a campaign with Amnesty International. RWF supported them morally and as activists, but there was no space for any structural cooperation.

Roma woman international expert with whom we have relation of trust and we planned to involve in the national program was unavailable due to personal reasons. We met on April 7th in the international meeting and it was clear that our bottom up approach is compatible with her strategy. But all our plans on cooperation had to be put on hold.

In consultative meetings and by following the complex process of women's groups positioning towards the new Law on social services, Protocols, Standards etc. it was clear that institutions only normatively recognize civic groups and have internal interests to occupy the field of violence against women. In the next years the results will be clear. RWF will participate in that process and stay for the groups' need.

In spite of all the achievements listed, we can't tell that significant step was made in establishment of structure for steady flow of energy and knowledge of generations of feminists which is our long term goal. It is serious work which will take time. List of RWF's stipendists and the amount given since the beginning, which is impressive and unique in Serbia was used in public presentations of our Board member who advocated for responsibility of the state and universities concerning women's and gender studies and research, also informing public about RWF and promoting its politics and contribution. Contracts with stipendists about their voluntary obligations were reaffirmed and some of them participated in 16 Days and other activities, etc. Circumstances are not favorable (universities strengthening their walls against change and influence, conservative and irresponsible political climate, neoliberal university reforms, existential concerns of stipendists etc.).

First hand, with partners or through grantees we attracted various audiences to be informed/engaged in the issues and politics we share and promote. For us this work is very important and rewording. Mostly it takes lot of time and energy from our part and we need to be aware of this when planning. Also, the activities are still scattered and it is mostly RWF who keeps together the full scope and depth of the message, so we try to make public events visible as much as we can (through classic and new media) and to tell the most we can of RWF's political platform around each event.

In spite of some progress RWF did not reach the aim of persuasive and relaxed approach to local fundraising. We had remarkable in-kind contribution. Individual donors' contribution increased to our satisfaction. Participation in capacity building and exchange program "Strengthening Local Fundraising Initiative" did contribute to RWF's strength to think beyond previous planning for local fundraising. We postponed some of our 2011 plans (local "dinners") since pilot did not reach our expectations. EU fundraising was modest. Our programs with which we previously applied for EU funds and did not get through fully, we transformed. The project "Building structure to stop violence against Roma women" as a program was delegated to one of our grantees who managed to raise funds from other sources and we were satisfied. The other project, for Roma girls, we transformed according to our further thinking and raised money from Balkan Trust for Democracy.

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The 2011 attempt was to collaborate with CFNI for Youth in Action as previously mentioned and we shall see the results in 2012. EU funds and RWF's ways are still apart. We have to be alert and sure that we are giving our best in understanding opportunities, limitations and its worth.