



Del editor

Estimados amigos y amigas,

Nos alegra enviaros el segundo número de nuestro boletín. Esperamos que os haya gustado la iniciativa y que este nuevo número os ofrezca un nuevo motivo de satisfacción en vuestra relación con BSF.

Como algunos ya sabéis, BSF Euskadi ha emprendido una campaña para darse a conocer en la sociedad vasca y en el Estado. Como parte de esta campaña se están organizando charlas y otros eventos en diversas localidades. Queremos invitaros a estas charlas, por eso quienes deseáis asistir a alguna de ellas poneros en contacto con nosotros por email para informaros al respecto.

Además, disponemos de trípticos impresos que podemos haceros llegar para su distribución entre quienes se interesen por nuestra labor.

Asimismo, la página web de BSF en internet (www.balkansufloowers.org) ha sido recientemente actualizada y os invitamos a visitarla.

Queremos contar con vuestra ayuda para seguir creciendo en nuestra implantación social.

Michel Fernández Sáenz de Ormijana
Editor
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Este boletín se publica con la colaboración de:



Proyecto del mes

El proyecto de octubre es uno de los más importantes en términos presupuestarios de los emprendidos por BSF en Kosovo. Dirigido por Fran Valle, el proyecto consistía originalmente en la recuperación de tres parques en el casco urbano de Pec/Pejë. El proyecto se extendió de finales de 1999 a febrero de 2001, cuando se entregaron los últimos informes a los financiadores.

Restauración de los parques de Pejë/Pec y campaña de concienciación medioambiental

Por Fran Valle

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BSF se concentra en el desarrollo social y la recuperación de comunidades. Por este motivo, el proyecto de recuperación de parques en la ciudad de Pec/Pejë presentaba un reto singular. El proyecto contaba con un importante presupuesto (unos 90.000 €), aportado por UNICEF, IOM y el Comité Internacional de Rescate y con la colaboración logística de la Cruz Roja Alemana y del contingente de KFOR de la zona oeste.

En una primera fase un equipo formado por ex combatientes de la UCK (Ejército para la Liberación de Kosovo) recibió las herramientas y preparación para realizar la parte "física" del proyecto; la limpieza de los tres parques urbanos de Karagac, Central (Voret e Gjate) y el parque del Hospital. Su labor iba más allá de la mera recuperación ambiental, pues este equipo debía asegurarse de que los parques estaban libres de explosivos y minas, tarea ardua, pues el ejército serbio disponía de un campamento militar y barracones junto al parque Karagac, el parque central está junto a la comisaría central de la ciudad y el Hospital fue prácticamente militarizado durante el conflicto.



El equipo de recuperación de los parques almuerza antes del trabajo.

La brigada de trabajo era una amalgama de combatientes endurecidos por la guerra que en un

principio hasta acudían armados al trabajo. Un día uno de ellos recibió un balazo, otros dos fueron arrestados por atacar a una familia bosniaca, otro más murió ametrallado al intentar extorsionar a una familia gitana... cada día una 'aventura' diferente. A pesar de las dificultades, el grupo desarrolló valores de solidaridad y en la actualidad algunos trabajan como educadores en nuestros proyectos.

Una vez desminados los parques, talados los árboles dañados por los bombardeos de la OTAN (cuya madera entregamos a las escuelas como leña para el invierno), rehechos los caminos, restaurados los postes eléctricos, entre otras tareas necesarias, se recuperó el parque como lugar de reunión y actividad para la comunidad. Desde el Reino Unido recibimos un parque de juegos que instalamos en la nueva zona infantil, construimos e instalamos bancos y papeleras y se remodeló una zona deportiva con una cancha de baloncesto y fútbol sala. Negociamos con el ayuntamiento el mantenimiento de los parques.

Una vez rehabilitado, nos tocaba "rellenar" el parque con actividades, queríamos organizar eventos y hacer ver a los jóvenes y mayores que podían regresar al parque, un lugar mucho más interesante que las ruinas de la ciudad de Pec/Pejë, muy destruida durante el conflicto.

El 20 de noviembre, aniversario de la Convención de los Derechos del Niño, era una buena oportunidad para estrenar el renovado parque. En colaboración con UNICEF, Radio Dukhagini y otros, pudimos llegar a una gran parte de la población con un programa especial. Para ese día organizamos conciertos, competiciones deportivas, juegos, y el ejército italiano proveyó tiendas y más de 1.000 pizzas para los niños. Reunimos buena cantidad de refrescos y aperitivos y tan solo nos quedaba esperar a ver la respuesta al mayor acontecimiento infantil organizado en el Kosovo de la posguerra.



Muchos niños asistieron disfrazados a la inauguración del parque.

¿Cómo puedo colaborar con Balkan Sunflowers?

- Trabajando como voluntario en nuestros proyectos en Kosovo, Albania y Macedonia. Si dispones del tiempo y las circunstancias, pídenos una solicitud.
- Apoyando nuestros proyectos económicamente. Puedes enviarnos un cheque o transferir cualquier cantidad o ingresarla directamente en la cuenta de BSF Euskadi de la Bilbao Bizkaia Kutxa:
2095 0114 60 9105130418
Código Swift (para transferencias internacionales):
BASKE S2BXXX IBAN ES71
- Colaborando con nuestras iniciativas, charlas, eventos, etc. Te mantendremos informado. Y si deseas poner en marcha alguna iniciativa de recaudación de fondos, información, etc., ponte en contacto con nosotros y te ayudaremos.

El día 20 por la mañana nos reunimos en la plaza del Hotel Metohija, el punto de partida hacia el parque para quienes quisieran participar en la celebración. A la hora designada la plaza congregaba a unos 400 niños y padres. Bueno, pensamos que no estaba mal y nos preparamos para marchar hacia el parque. Pero, en ese momento, empezaron a llegar niños por centenares. Al parecer, se estuvieron agrupando en las escuelas para venir todos juntos a la plaza. En unos instantes la plaza congregó a más de 5.000 niños. La policía tuvo que cortar la circulación en el centro de la ciudad durante casi dos horas, tiempo necesario para recorrer el kilómetro que nos separaba del parque.

La inauguración fue todo un éxito, y un desafío, pero todo salió bien y el parque se ha integrado perfectamente en la vida de la ciudad, siendo uno de los lugares más populares para jóvenes y familias.

El proyecto fue por tanto un gran éxito y no solamente alcanzó sus objetivos primeros, sino también pudo ir más allá y utilizarse como base para futuros proyectos de BSF en la zona, como fueron los campamentos de verano, los proyectos fotográficos y de vídeo, futuros eventos deportivos y conciertos, etc.

Report from Rand's on his fundraising and information trip to the United States

Our coordinator in the Balkans and vicepresident of BSF Euskadi, traveled back to the States for a visit and a fundraising trip in several locations throughout the US. He wrote the following report to the donors:

During May and June I was able to introduce Balkan Sunflowers' work in a number of presentations in

Nebraska, Maine, Massachusetts and New York with a generous response. I want to let you know what we have been doing with your support.



Rand (left), our coordinator in the Balkans, with Caroline, volunteer from Canada, at the Prishtina office.

One of the early pleasures of returning to Kosovo in June, was going to a World Refugee Day event sponsored by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) which featured our new youth video, "Welcome to Plemetina". Fourteen Roma young people made this simple elegy on their life. The film has powerfully touched many who have seen it. One result has been receiving further support for a new project that will bring together 9 teenagers from three Kosovo ethnicities to make a 45-minute video on youth, ethnicity, and tolerance in Kosovo.

"Welcome to Plemetina" was a project based in our community center in a small village near the polluting power plants that sporadically keep the lights on in Kosovo. Our center has been working there since early 2002, teaching English and computer skills, doing children's activities, developing a Scouting program, and many other programs. Some nights this summer we set up a big screen in the local school yard showing "Babe" and other films. With the help of four French scout leaders who stayed with us in Plemetina, we held a summer day camp in July and August. Our van makes constant trips to health clinics, social assistance and other government offices to help local people access services, which because of their ethnicity they would otherwise be unable to get.

Five of the Plemetina youth in the Scout program, this summer traveled to Belgium for an international Scout camp. A former Balkan Sunflowers volunteer developed the project to bring 30 Scouts whom we had worked with in programs around Kosovo to the Belgian Flamboree as well as spend days before and

after exploring Belgium with young people from Vremde, their host city. Balkan Sunflowers provided the Kosovo logistics, raising funds, making three trips to Belgrade related to visa applications, shepherding kids through the passport process, and helping them with all of the arrangements for getting onto a Belgian military plane for the trip. Balkan Sunflowers is now a partner with the European Scout Region in supporting the rebirth of Scouting in Kosovo.



Scout meeting outside Prishtina, bringing together children from all ethnic groups.

Providing impossible "access" is one of the things that we can do for young people who otherwise have little opportunity. In Gjilan, our community center in the Roma neighborhood has been working since June 2000. As I write, two of our young friends from there are attending the Seeds of Peace Camp in Maine. Another youth who participated in our English language programs recently returned from a 3-month internship with the Council of Europe. These kinds of programs are necessary to support future leaders who can help Europe's most persecuted minority.

Colabora con **EGUZKI HAIZEA**...

- ... enviándonos tus comentarios, preguntas, etc.
- ... compartiendo sus contenidos con otras personas.
- ... animando a otros a asociarse a BSF Euskadi.

Puedes contactar con nosotros por correo:

BSF Euskadi
Rioja, 4, 5 dcha.
48015 Bilbao
Bizkaia

O por correo electrónico a la dirección:

bsfeuskadi@euskalnet.net

O bien por teléfono a los números:

(+34) 943 206907
(+34) 607 69 1711

O por fax al número:

(+34) 943 206907

The center also supports a kindergarten that is now over two years old. As in Plemetina, English and computer lessons and social services are constants. We are also working with the community leadership council to develop "civic skills" - designing projects and writing proposals, representing their interests to municipal authorities and donors, decision making, etc.

In Skopje, Macedonia, after a one-month summer break, classes have started again in the Soncogledi (Sunflower) School, which provides kindergarten and school catch-up classes for some of the Skopje's poorest children. A similar program continues in Tirana, Albania. With the support of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) we have been working with local community activists in several other towns to assess the school attendance of the poorest children. We are designing a new kindergarten and after school project for Gracanica, a minority enclave near Kosovo's capital Pristina.

A recent United Nations study, "Avoiding the Dependency Trap" says that preschool programs with support in language learning are the most important single thing that can be done for minority children if there is to be a hope that they will attend school and break the cycles of poverty and discrimination.



Macedonian children; they are the target of our education programmes in the country.

Balkan Sunflowers Network partner MCYPC (Multiethnic Children and Youth Peace Centers), in the divided city of Mitrovica, is one of leading groups bringing, particularly, Albanian and Serb young people together in a number of projects: a magazine, a radio program, mixed ethnicity computer classes, a youth NGO network. They are expanding their programs in the Mitrovica Culture House.

Nor dira BSF Euskadi?

BSF Euskadi elkartea 2002 urtetik inskribatua da Eusko Jaurlaritzaren Elkarteen Erroldan, AS/B/09572/2002 zenbakiaz.

BSF Euskadiren Zuzendaritza-Batzordea

Fran J. Valle, Lehendakari

Rand Z. Engel, Lehendakariorde

Michel Fernández Sáenz de Ormijana, Idazkari

Montserrat Sáez Montero, Altxorzain

Iñigo Gutiérrez Garramiola, Bozeramale

As much as we are encouraged by these successes, recent weeks have re-exposed just how fragile the peace is here. Possibly ethnic murders, mass demonstrations, political posturing from the Serb leaders in Belgrade and Albanian leaders in Kosovo, rock throwing incidents, seem to have taken us back two years. We, who work here, connect faces and hearts to the threats. We have fallen for these warm Balkan people, as we see them, particularly the children and youth, and want them to be able to grow up in peace and security. So with very much appreciation for the support you have given, we intend to continue to work as neighbors and friends in their communities.

I hope this update brings you some satisfaction that your past support is indeed having positive results.

With thanks and best regards,

Rand Engel

Proyecto financiado por Bilbao Bizkaia Kutxa

La campaña emprendida recientemente con el objetivo de captar nuevos socios y voluntarios para los proyectos en los Balcanes cuenta con el apoyo económico de Bilbao Bizkaia Kutxa.

La iniciativa incluye la publicación de este boletín electrónico, la impresión de un tríptico informativo (del que os enviaremos algunos por correo si nos lo solicitáis) y otra papelería, la presentación de charlas informativas en distintas poblaciones del País Vasco y una exhibición fotográfica sobre el trabajo de BSF en los Balcanes.

Queremos invitaros a todos a asistir a estas charlas. En muchos casos servirá para que algunos que nunca nos hemos visto podamos conocernos en persona, y en todos los casos ayudará a visualizar el trabajo con el que colaboráis. Las charlas que ya tenemos programadas para noviembre son las siguientes:

Sábado, 15/11, a las 12.30

En el local de la agencia Bolunta
c. Ronda, s/n, frente al número 5, 2 planta
Bilbao

Lunes, 17/11, a las 20.00

En la Oficina de Información Juvenil
Barrio de Urreta
Galdakao

En ambas ocasiones, además de la charla se proyectará el vídeo "Welcome to Plemetina", que ofrece una interesante visión sobre uno de los lugares donde se realizan nuestros proyectos presentada por los mismos beneficiarios.

Aunque no es necesario, si deseáis confirmar vuestra asistencia podéis hacerlo, de este modo os esperaremos y podremos informaros de cualquier cambio o detalle adicional que surja.

Los preparativos de la exhibición fotográfica están muy avanzados, y es nuestra intención comenzar su presentación a finales de año.

Queremos agradecer a todos vosotros que de uno u otro modo ayudáis a BSF y a Bilbao Bizkaia Kutxa y los demás colaboradores (ayuntamientos, centros de juventud y Kultur Etxeak) por su apoyo en esta campaña.

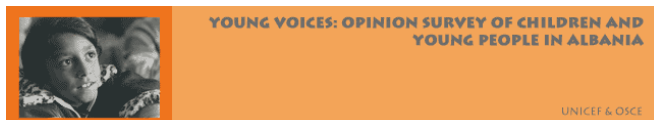


En nuestro primer número dedicamos la última parte de nuestro boletín a familiarizaros con la situación de los Balcanes con una pequeña descripción de la desmembración política de la antigua Yugoslavia.

En esta ocasión os ofrecemos una encuesta realizada por



UNICEF Tirana sobre las dificultades de la infancia en Albania, uno de los grupos en los que BSF concentra sus actividades.



About the survey

400 interviews among children (aged 9-13) and young people (aged 14-17) were conducted. The interviews took place between December 2000 and February of 2001.

The surveys were administered by trained interviewers in line with the "Guidelines on Interviewing Children and Young People" issued by the European Society for Opinion & Marketing Research (ESOMAR) in 1999. All children were interviewed in their own language and in their homes with the permission of their parents or guardians but not in their presence.

How happy are our children?

- The majority of the children (71%) think their life is better today than in the past. 9% think that life today is much better than 10 years ago.
- The major concerns children have relate to problems in their family (58%) and at school (38%).

How do children feel at school?

What the child would tell his/ her teachers/ parents regarding his/ her school if given the opportunity:

- Don't like school/ going to school: I don't like school/ going to school, teachers/ lessons/ school is boring, want to change school, want to quit school
- Curriculum: too much to learn, too theoretical, subjects are too difficult
- School facilities: must be modernised, more and newer textbooks, new facilities must be built
- School organisation: want more and longer breaks, more excursions/ events, education should be free of charge/ cost less, it is cold in school, it is dirty in school, grade system is not just, classes are crowded, school is too hard, don't like educational system, don't like school's uniform
- Strictness and punishment: should be less strict and less punishment
- Security: security should be strengthened, there is corruption at school, illegal activities happen at school (not specified), problems with drugs at school, there is mobbing (teasing) at school
- Relationship with teachers/ pupils: bad relationship with teachers/ pupils, communication should improve/ bad communication, teachers are to be more attentive regarding students' needs and problems, teachers are unfair, teachers do not treat pupils well, teachers should be more understanding

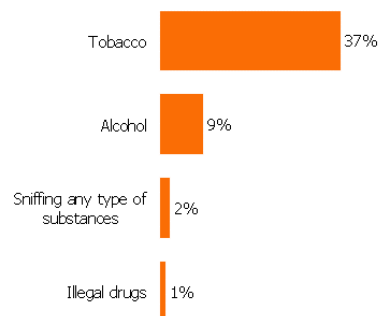
- Teaching methods: teachers teach badly/ should be better trained, too much homework, teachers expect too much, teachers should give better grades, others
- Parents should be more understanding: should be more understanding and less strict, should help more

How integrated are children in society?

- Significantly higher values for "belongs to a group/club/association" for male young people: 35% versus scores varying from 19% to 21%.
- Significant difference for "sports groups" between boys and girls: 15% compared to 2% respectively.
- Trust in adults and institutions:
 - Only 39% trust adults in general.
 - The most trusted adults in Albania are the children's parents themselves.
 - 60% also express trust towards medical doctors.
- The Government and the Head of State are both distrusted by many children (with 63% and 55% distrusting them respectively).
- Teachers are significantly more trusted by children (53%) than by young people (29%), and by non-working children (46%) than by working children (5%).
- The Church/ religious authorities are significantly more trusted in North Albania (69%) than in all other regions (values ranging from 30% and 50%). They are significantly less trusted by children from South Albania (40% compared to 18%-24%), and by young people than by children (37% compared to 20% respectively).
- The police (distrusted by 39%) and the army (by 40%) are also institutions that rate highly for distrust. The police are significantly less trusted by children from Tirana City (53%) than by children from all other regions (scores between 33% and 38%), and by working children (58%) than by non-working children (37%).
- Perceived respect for minorities: 57% feel that disabled children, 43% that children of other ethnic groups and 41% that children from poor families, are treated unfairly - especially children from Tirana City. 85% say there is fair treatment for children of other religions.

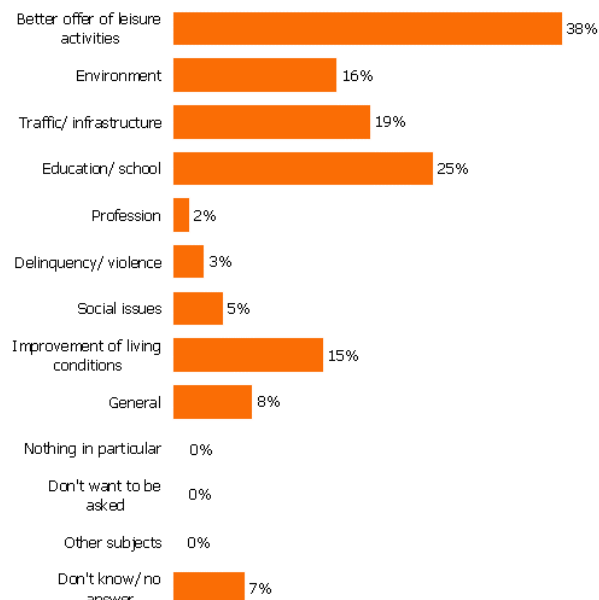
To what extent do children have contact with harmful or illegal substances?

Friends or acquaintances of the child's age having had an addiction to harmful or illegal substances:



What are the children's views about politics?

- 58% of the children feel that voting is a very effective way to improve things in their country. 8% think it is ineffective and 16% do not know.
- Subjects on which the child would like to be consulted by his/ her local government:



How do children evaluate the situation in their families?

- 59% of the children say they sometimes face aggressive or violent behaviour (verbal or physical) at home, especially in Tirana City (75%). In 21% of the households, children claim that family members even hit each other. These situations are mainly caused by family problems or children's misbehaviour.
- Children who reported hitting and screaming in their homes:

	Screaming	Not screaming	
Hitting	20%	1%	21%
Not hitting	38%	41%	
	58%		

- When a decision that concerns YOU is taken at home, do you feel that your opinion is sufficiently taken into consideration?
- Significant difference for "considered" between male young people and other sex/ age groups (54% versus scores varying from 26% to 39%), and between middle/ upper class and lower class (44% compared to 31% respectively).
- Significant difference for "not considered" in Tirana City in comparison to all other regions: 8% versus scores ranging from 17% to 19%.
- The most important values Albanian children are taught by their parents are to respect others (79%) and to be honest (70%).

How safe do children feel?

- While the majority of children say they feel safe (65%) in their neighbourhood, 31% state they feel rather unsafe or very unsafe.
- 11% of the children say they have been a victim of violence (mainly of physical violence). 20% know of people within their family or group of friends who have been victims of violence.



How well informed are children? Do they know their Rights?

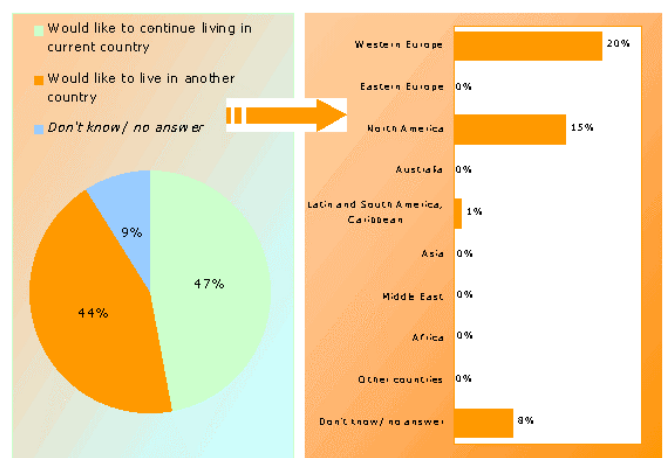
- Most of the Albanian children have at least some information, even if only very little, about the rights of the child (91%). Only 3% claim to not know any of their rights. Children spontaneously name the right to learn and play (88%), the right to dignity and freedom (59%), and to feel safe and healthy (59%).
- The rights to a healthy environment, to choose what they like, and not to be hurt or mistreated are considered to be least respected in Albania by children aware of these rights.

How do children see their future?

- Albanian children are optimistic concerning their future. 89% expect their future life to

be better than their parents' current life. Two thirds also think that Albania will be a better place to live in, although fewer in Tirana City than in other parts of the country.

- Describing how they would like their country to be ideally, children cite a better standard of living (60%), fewer social issues (56%), better quality of politics (56%), and protection of the environment (52%).
- Despite positive predictions about the future, 44% of the children say they would like to live in another country in the future - mainly in Western Europe or North America. On the other hand, 47% say they would like to continue living in Albania. Of those who like to live abroad, most were young men.



Ideario de BSF

Balkan Sunflowers envía voluntarios procedentes de todo el mundo a trabajar como vecinos y amigos en la reconstrucción y recuperación sociales. Al organizar actividades sociales y culturales fomentamos el entendimiento, la transformación no violenta de los conflictos y la riqueza vital y cultural de la región balcánica.

Los voluntarios, mediante su trabajo por unas pocas semanas o muchos meses, contribuyen sus habilidades, experiencia y entusiasmo a sociedades exhaustas por el conflicto, y los voluntarios mismos se enriquecen al implicarse en el desarrollo comunitario.

Las actividades de Balkan Sunflowers se dirigen a la consecución de resultados concretos y a animar y preparar a los participantes y a sus comunidades para la continuación de los programas. Mediante los juegos, el arte, los deportes, el trabajo y la celebración de eventos, en respuesta altruista a experiencias traumáticas, servimos a las comunidades en las que vivimos.