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## Cultural events will celebrate diversity

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Strengthening inter-ethnic relations in the Southwest region through creative forms and activities is the goal of the "Decade of belonging project - a celebration of diversity" which in the next three years will be implemented by the Local Development Agency "Creative-Active", a civic organisation from Struga.



Project coordinator Katerina Vasilevska expects that it will attract the attention of the citizens from different ethnicities through friendship and various cultural events in the municipalities of Ohrid, Struga, Vevcani, Debarca, Debar and Kicevo.

- Unique to this project is that we are trying to do it in a more creative way, not through the standard methods, which are intended exclusively for certain representatives of the public or state sector, but we want to involve citizens by organising several initiatives and activities such as a choir, dance theatre, urban planning, exchanges with foreign guests, a magazine for youth, multicultural festival... Basically, cultural events which we hope will attract people to get involved, to give their contribution to make this region more interesting to live, said Vasilevska.

Through quality form of socialising, she added, they want the settlements nicer for living in this region, for both the youth and the elderly.

- We know that all the most interesting cultural events and happenings are concentrated in Skopje. Struga and Ohrid are only active for the Ohrid Summer Festival and the Struga Poetry Evenings is a very short period. It is truly sad that our cities are ghost towns between September to May. We want a way to take people out into activities for children and senior citizens. To separate them from their telephones, television screens and the Internet, said Vasilevska.

The project "Decade of Belonging - a celebration of diversity" is financed by EU funds for pre-accession assistance of the civil sector to the tune of 230,000 euros. Making life nicer for both the young and the elderly.

Translation by GDF, using Google Translate and <http://www.idividi.com.mk/rechnik/index.htm>