

**MULTIETHNIC FORUM IS PART OF SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND'S REGIONAL PROJECT  
„BRIDGES FOR THE NEW BALKANS“**

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## To the reader



*The past three years will probably be remembered as one of the most dramatic periods in the recent history of Macedonia, as a time in which the country got entangled in deepest crisis, but also a time in which it succeeded to overcome the big challenges and to maintain its traditional values. Three years ago, in the already distant December 2000, "Multiethnic Forum" has commenced its media life with intention to fill in one gap in the interethnic communication, and hoping that it will be able to help out the process of building the common European road. Though, by twist of fate, our first multiethnic magazine got itself into a situation when it tried to bridge and decrease the gap that was threatening to separate the different ethnic communities in Macedonia completely, especially the Macedonians and the Albanians.*

*During all that time, when the act of expressing multiethnic views was a pretty risky thing to do, tens of journalists and intellectuals, young and old, men and women overcame the ethnic frames with their personal courage and intellectual virtue, and giving a personal example showed that interethnic cooperation is, nonetheless, possible. What our appreciated associates might not have known while they were writing for our magazine is that in certain difficult moments of the above-mentioned crisis, their words and signatures in our magazine might have been the only hope that common life of different peoples is, nevertheless, possible.*

*In the past three years, all of us that were creating and keeping our magazine alive, were trying to explain in the best possible way what was happening to all of us and, at the same time, we were trying to encourage our readers not to give up on what we all consider to be most important, and that is cooperation and cohabitation.*

*As a result of this effort we have published hundreds of thousands of "Multiethnic Forum" issues, and the magazine that you are now holding is a product of all issues published up to now. In it, you will find some of the texts published hitherto as a reminder of the work conducted thus far, hoping to make the picture of Macedonia more complete to our readers.*

*After the Ohrid Agreement, Macedonia has got a new chance. It is our intention to continue with our joint project with the support of those who have supported our efforts so far, and in that way, to help to carry on going on the road of peace and cooperation.*

*Ibrahim Mehmeti*

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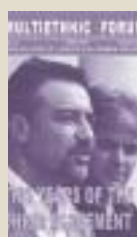
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