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**STUDENT ACADEMIC NETWORK "BORDER CROSSING"
IVth STUDENT CONFERENCE ON ETHNOLOGICAL AND
ANTHROPOLOGICAL ISSUES, INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND
INTELLECTUAL EXCHANGE
(14-17th of May, 2006, Struga, Republic of Macedonia)**

"THE BALKANS IN NEW CONTEXTS"

The student conference on ethnological and anthropological issues, with a special focus on cross-border cooperation and intellectual exchange, this year dedicated to "The Balkans in new contexts", was held for the fourth time in the frames of the international informal student academic network "Border Crossing". This network consists of students and Departments of ethnology, anthropology, folkloristics and Balkan studies from the Balkans, i.e. students and professors from the Departments of ethnology and anthropology from Ljubljana, Zagreb, Belgrade, Skopje, Athens, Mitilini; the Departments of Balkan studies from Florina and Thessaloniki and the Department of history, archaeology and folklore from Yannina.

Participating at the conference held from the 14th-17th of May in Struga were around 40 representatives from the above mentioned departments (excluding Zagreb), mainly undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate students. Their presentations referred to national ideologies and nationalism at the Balkans, the Balkans and the post-socialistic concepts, religion and religious institutions at the Balkans, patriarchal and feministic approaches at the Balkans etc. A specificity of this conference was the tendency to present so called 'case studies', field research dealing with contemporary issues related to social life, supporting the idea of a higher engagement of ethnology and anthropology in dealing with social issues in a certain context, as for example the issues of the emigrants and asylum seekers. In the frames of the conference and in the frames of the topic "Balkans as a synonym for a society of man and patriarchy" a screening of the documentary "Female stories" and a discussion with the author Jelena Cvetanovska was organized.

The success of all four conferences so far, as well as the great interest for participation on the side of the students and the professional staff, as well as the fruitful discussions and the atmosphere of friendship and exchange promise that the cooperation in the frames of the "Border Crossing" network will continue and gain new dimensions.