



National Geographic Photo Safari Project Breaks Records



Photo safari participants jump for joy in the village of Vevcani (Photo credit: Miso Ristov)

US Embassy Skopje hosted Sarah Leen, senior photo editor for *National Geographic*, through the US Speakers program to train photojournalists and lead a weekend photo safari for a multi-ethnic group of young amateur photographers. Leen had previously done a story on Macedonia for *National Geographic* in 1995. On her first evening, she presented her own work to standing-room only crowds at the National Gallery “Mala Stanica” and later drew the largest crowd American Corner Skopje had seen since its opening. Audience members reveled in the photos of Macedonia thirteen years ago, as well as those of people from Siberia, Mali, and Mexico, setting the stage for increased mutual understanding. Leen selected photographs from the photo safari for the capstone event, an opening at the National Gallery attended by more than 300 people. “I am so proud of these photographers who produced such extraordinary work in such a short amount of time,” she said. Many of the photographs captured scenes involving the rural poor, building empathy and shedding light on living conditions in small villages. In addition, Leen appeared on A1 TV’s morning show, and APAO Amy Storrow did an interview with TV Telma at the gallery opening. Leen also held interviews with *Tea Moderna*, Macedonia’s largest circulation magazine and with *Life*, the inflight magazine for Macedonian Airlines.