

Living in Multiethnic Environment – Citizens with Equal Rights, Opportunities and Protection



*Под исто сонце
Nën të njëjtin diell
Aynı güneş altında
Telo jekh kham
Под истим сунцем
Sum idghu soari
Under the same sun*

Analysis of data
obtained from discussions with focus groups comprised
of project participants according to regional centers :
Struga, Delcevo, Debar, Gevgelija and Veles

Skopje, October 2008

Introduction

As part of the project "Living in Multiethnic Environment – Citizens with Equal Rights, Opportunities and Protection" implemented by the Foundation Open Society Institute - Macedonia in cooperation with the NGO "Common Values" and 12 NGO Support Centers, statistical data obtained by means of processing the discussions with focus groups from certain regions have been analyzed.

Manner of data collection: Data which are subject of the present analysis were obtained during the structural discussions intended for assessing project activities and performed by participants in the relevant events. Discussions were moderated by local coordinators from other towns, who are not directly working with focus group participants.

Time of data collection: Data were collected during September 2008 by operational teams engaged in the project.

Focus group discussions on assessing project activities were structured around 11 questions, which were the same for all organizations/institutions and for all types of events. Participants were distributed questionnaires containing statistical questions and sub-questions concerning their gender, age, ethnicity, municipality they live in, organization they represent (NGO, local government, public institution, media, or other), type of event they attended/participated in (training, workshops, public debates, monitoring and/or other), general assessment of the particular event (on the scale from 1 to 5) concerning the fact to what degree has a particular event satisfied their criteria. Discussions were led on the basis of the questionnaire containing the following items: What did you like the best? What did you dislike? What is your opinion on the political involvement of minorities? Does it contribute to the improvement of minorities' situation? What is your opinion on the newly adopted laws? What is your opinion on the law for upgrading and protecting the rights of community members representing less than 20% of the total population in the Republic of Macedonia and in the local self-government unit? What is your opinion on the law for the use of languages spoken by at least 20% of citizens in the Republic of Macedonia and in the local self-government unit? Who and what for should we lobby/advocate? Who and what for should be lobby/advocate on local level? Who and what for should we lobby/advocate on central level? What kind of training you need that has not been encompassed by the project? What do you believe should be done in the next year of project's implementation?

The database was established by the local coordinators and operational groups and in compliance with a plan. Data contained in the Analysis have been grouped according to the region and the questions' structure. Cumulative information was extracted at the end for each question contained in the questionnaire by means of figures and summary answers grouped according to the region. The available database does not show personal identification information, nor the name and surname of the person providing answers to the questionnaire, as the data collection method did not have such intention.

Data contained in the database were provided by NGO Support Centers, which – upon the processing of their individual questionnaires - submitted cumulative data to the central collection point.

The tabular overviews provided further in the report show this data, arranged by region. At the same time, we provided the cumulative overview containing all answers to the questions arranged by region.

by the Operational Team of the Project
Living in Multicultural Environment -
Citizens with Equal Rights, Opportunities
and Protection

Tabular Overview

Regional Centre	Town	Coordinator	Date
Sustainable Community Development Centre	Debar	Suip Marku	12.09.2008
NGO Support Centre	Delcevo	Tereza Filobok	15.06.2008
Regional Sustainable Development Centre	Gevgelija	Katica Hadzi-Nikolova	12.09.2008
Association for Development and Activism – AKVA	Struga	Arbresa Vlasi	11.09.2008
Local Development and Democracy Foundation "Focus"	Veles	Dime Velez	11.09.2008

1. General data on persons who answered the questionnaires according to the regional centre

1.1. Gender	Debar	Delcevo	Gevgelija	Struga	Veles	Total
Male	4	2	7	4	8	25
Female	6	4	4	4	5	23
Total	10	6	11	8	13	48

1.2. Age group	Debar	Delcevo	Gevgelija	Struga	Veles	Total
15-20	1	0	0	3	0	3
21-30	2	0	3	3	5	13
31-40	3	3	0	0	2	8
41-50	1	3	6	1	4	16
51-60	3	0	2	0	2	7
61-70	0	0	0	0	0	0
71-80	0	0	0	0	0	0
have not indicated	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	10	6	11	8	13	48

1.3. Ethnicity		Debar	Delcevo	Gevgelija	Struga	Veles	Total
Macedonian	M	4	0	3	0	4	11
	F	5	0	2	0	6	13
Roma	M	0	2	0	0	1	3
	F	0	4	0	0	0	4
Serb	M	0	0	1	0	1	2
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turk	M	0	0	1	0	0	1
	F	1	0	2	0	0	3
Albanian	M	0	0	0	4	0	4
	F	0	0	0	4	0	4
Bosniak	M	0	0	0	0	1	1
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vlach	M	0	0	2	0	0	2
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	M	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0
have not indicated	M	0	0	0	0	0	0
	F	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		10	6	11	8	13	48

1.4. Municipalities according to the region									
Debar		Delcevo		Gevgelija		Struga		Veles	
Debar	8	Berovo	2	Valandovo	5	Struga	8	Veles	8
Centar Zupa	2	Delcevo	2	Gevgelija	5			Lozovo	4
		Kocani	1	Dojran	1			Caska	1
		Pehcevo	1						

2. Data on represented organizations/institutions						
	Debar	Delcevo	Gevgelija	Struga	Veles	Total
NGO	8	6	9	5	6	34
local self-government	1	0	0	3	4	8
public institutions	0	0	2	1	2	5
media	1	0	0	0	0	1
other- please indicate: local monitoring team	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	10	6	11	9	13	49

3. Participation in organized events							
	Debar	Delcevo	Gevgelija	Struga	Veles	Total	
3.1. NGO							
training	5	3	6	1	5	20	
workshops	4	4	6	0	5	19	
public debates	6	2	7	3	3	21	
monitoring	2	0	1	1	1	5	
Total	17	9	20	5	14	65	
3.2. Local Self-Government							
training	1	0	0	2	2	5	
workshops	1	0	0	3	2	6	
public debates	1	0	0	3	3	7	
monitoring	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	3	0	0	8	7	18	
3.3. Public Institutions							
training	0	0	2	1	1	4	
workshops	0	0	1	1	2	4	
public debates	0	0	2	1	1	4	
monitoring	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	0	0	5	3	4	12	
3.4. Media							
training	0	0	0	0	0	0	
workshops	1	0	0	0	0	1	
public debates	2	0	0	0	0	2	
monitoring	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	3	0	0	0	0	3	
3.5. Other – indicate	3.5. Local Monitoring Team						
	training	0	0	0	0	1	1
	workshops	0	0	0	0	1	1
	public debates	0	0	0	0	1	1
	monitoring	0	0	0	0	1	1
		0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	4	4	
Overall Total	23	9	25	16	29	102	

4. General Assessment																										
		NGO					Local Self-Government					Public Institutions					Media					Other				
		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
4.1. training	Debar				2	4					1															
	Delcevo				1	2																				
	Gevgelija				1	6										2										
	Struga			1	1				1		2				1											
	Veles				2	4			1	1	1					2										1
	average assessment			1	7	16			2	1	4				1	4										1
		4.63					4.29					4.80					4.00									
		4.43																								
4.2. workshops	Debar				2	3					1										1					
	Delcevo				2	2																				
	Gevgelija					6										1										
	Struga			1	1				1		2					1										
	Veles				2	2					2					1										1
	average assessment			1	7	13			1		5					3					1					1
		4.57					4.67					5.00					4.00									
		4.45																								
4.3. public debates	Debar			1	3	3					1										1					
	Delcevo			1		1																				
	Gevgelija				3	4										2										
	Struga				2	1			1		2				1											
	Veles					3				1	2					1										1
	average assessment			2	8	12			1	1	5				1	3					1					1
		4.45					4.57					4.75					5.00									
		4.75																								
4.4. monitoring	Debar				3	1					1															
	Delcevo																									
	Gevgelija					1																				
	Struga				1																					
	Veles					1			1																	1
	average assessment				4	3			1		1															1
		4.43					4.00					0.00					0.00									
		4.48																								
4.5. other	Debar										1															
	Delcevo																									
	Gevgelija																									
	Struga																									
	Veles					1					2															
	average assessment					1					2	1														
		5.00					4.33					0.00					0.00									
		4.67																								
Total		NGO					Local Self-Government					Public Institutions					Media					Other				
	average assessment	4.62					4.37					4.85					4.50					4.50				
		4.57																								

Answers provided to questions and assessment of project activities

5. What did you like the best (from the activities implemented as part of the project)?
<p>5.1. NGO</p> <p>Debar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Members of all ethnic communities living in these municipalities, as well as representatives of local self-government units, NGOs, institutions and media participated in the activities. It is good that all communities freely expressed their problems, ideas and positions. ❖ Thanks to the project activities, the local population was informed about the subject matter and is actively involved in the activities, and is also involved in solving problems and needs of non-majority ethnic. ❖ It is important that topics discussed and addressed were actual and that solutions were being elaborated. <p>Delcevo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The workshops organized are OK; lecturers were great, while the addressed topics on decentralization and ethnic communities' rights are selected at the right time. On the other hand, the multiethnic society is a reality for us and anticipated project activities and goals are realistically and correctly identified. ❖ We also like the manner of evaluation (by means of clean and ethnically mixed groups), for the purpose of allowing expression of positions and opinions. ❖ The lectures and the explanation of the problem matter were lowered to an appropriate level so that they would be understandable for all participants. ❖ The unofficial part, friendship-making and exchange of information with other participants, the establishment of contacts that would be of great use to us - both as individuals and organizations. ❖ We obtained very useful and good information. The event organizer (Tereza) made us feel comfortable and maintained that level. ❖ The organization of such useful events should be continued in future as well. <p>Gevgelija</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The organization and the idea are perfect; the objective was excellently defined, excellent equipment, presentations. ❖ Satisfaction with the topics presented. ❖ Monitoring team member: by means of our comments and suggestions, two local neighborhood units were established in two Dojran villages and they are operating well. ❖ Friendship-making on the seminars. ❖ It is good to have meetings that provide knowledge on the rights, and the manners for exercising them. ❖ It is nice that lecturers had different ethnic backgrounds. ❖ It is good to listen to the opinion of all ethnic communities on one place. ❖ It was great. <p>Struga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Public debate ❖ Training <p>Veles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ I welcome the idea for such project activities. ❖ An opportunity as a monitoring team member from Veles to directly meet and have real insight in the situation on the field.
<p>5.2. Local Self-Government</p> <p>Debar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Topics addressed on the topical workshops and the TV debate for opening dispersed high-school classes in Zupa where every year there are 80 students competing their primary education were very actual and important. <p>Struga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Public debate ❖ Training <p>Veles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Adhering to the participatory principle in all activities, i.e., the involvement of all relevant subjects in the activities, opening issues related to the rights of non-majority ethnic communities, freedom of speech....

5.3. Public Institutions
<p>Gevgelija</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Friendship-making on the seminars. ❖ Obtained information on the establishment of Commissions for Interethnic Relations
5.4. Media
<p>Struga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Public debate
5.5. Other
<p>Debar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Prior to the initiation of the project, nothing has happened in Zupa in the field of protecting the rights of non-majority ethnic communities and improving the multiethnic cohabitation. Due to the project activities the local population was familiarized with these matters and is actively involved in these activities, and is also involved in resolving problems and needs of non-majority ethnic communities ❖ Upon the organization of the topical workshop in Zupa, the Commission on Interethnic Relations holds occasional coordination meetings dedicated to solving the problem with the secondary education of students from Zupa. <p>Struga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Public debate ❖ Training

6. What did you dislike (from the project)?
6.1. NGO
<p>Debar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Citizens attending the events, but later not doing anything that would contribute to overcoming particular problems and leaving everything to discussions on the events. ❖ It would be shameful if the project ends in near future. ❖ I am not satisfied with the provision of feedback from events and the lack of additional specific activities intended for solving the problems identified and stated on the events. ❖ The venue for the organization of the topical workshop in Zupa. Lack of specific results from the public debate discussion, lack of information and long time period from the organization of the next local event. <p>Delcevo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Information was provided by few participants. More participants should be invited from organizations or institutions. Information does not reach ordinary citizens who are not familiarized with their rights. ❖ On the training organized in Veles we were underrepresented and suppressed by the representatives from the Macedonian associations. ❖ On the training organized in Star Dojran the Macedonian participants discriminated and provided undermining assessments concerning the Roma culture and tradition. Participants selected for this meeting showed no interest in what was going on the workshop, did not constructively contribute to the debate and were often absent during the working portions of the day; they also disrespected the agenda. ❖ Intolerance, disrespect, stereotyping and prejudices were present although the topic addressed was networking and partnership building. Participants on such events should be sufficiently aware of the differences between ethnicities, should show greater understanding and respect for their culture and tradition. ❖ Interactive approach was not on satisfactory level during some workshops (Zidas). ❖ More attention should be paid to hidden discrimination, which is a frequent phenomenon. <p>Gevgelija</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ When participants were asked to provide their opinions they remained silent, hence did not use the opportunity to speak about already existing problems. ❖ Problems were voiced, but too much energy is spent on diagnosing them as opposed to providing models (efficient ways) for overcoming them (at the training sessions) ❖ Insufficient time for expressing opinions held by participants (meeting with the Ombudsman). ❖ Although there was enough time, people did not voice their opinions on the public debate. ❖ No event-related feedback is provided to the local government.

<p>Struga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Low media coverage <p>Veles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ More frequent activities and no monitoring team in Lozovo.
6.2. Local Self-Government
<p>Debar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Mayor of the Municipality of Zupa did not react on the invitation to participate in the events organized and implemented by the project. <p>Struga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Events should not last more than two hours. <p>Veles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Small number of NGOs from the Municipality of Caska and insufficient activities of the civil sector in Caska.
6.4. Media
<p>Struga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Inability to obtain information for the purpose of completing the monitoring task.
6.5. Other
<p>Debar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Local authorities in the Municipality of Zupa do not assist at all, even the specific requests for scheduling a Municipal Council meeting dedicated to reconsidering the application and the conclusions developed by Commission on Interethnic Relations were received on the deaf ear by the Mayor and the Municipal Council in Centar Zupa. <p>Struga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Shortening the discussion.

<p>7. What is your opinion on the political involvement of minorities? Does it contribute to improving the situation of minorities?</p>
7.1. NGO
<p>Debar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Turkish community is not involved in the Municipal Council and the municipal administration despite the fact that 13% of the population in the municipality is of Turkish ethnic background. ❖ Three members of the Municipal Council in Debar are Macedonian, but they are marginalized, while the municipal employees with Macedonian ethnic background are on the lowest hierarchical level indicating that in the Municipality of Debar there are no Macedonians on higher positions in the local administration. ❖ The cultural events organized in Debar do not include Macedonian components. <p>Delcevo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ No use comes from the political involvement as everything boils down to void and unrealized pre-election promises. ❖ Our leaders and representatives are merely pawns, while the Government is not making efforts to solve our problems. ❖ Political representatives are poor in lobbying and advocating for the rights of ethnic communities. The ones from the election unit one are not interested in the rest of the population, while the people from the third election unit are not numerous enough to act independently; hence we have to incline towards the left- or right-oriented parties. ❖ We depend on the willingness of the larger political parties. Our leaders are merely pawns and not worthy of representing our rights. <p>Gevgelija</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Commission on Interethnic Relations has been established but it has not been mandated to represent the smaller ethnic communities. ❖ Vlachs do not have their legitimate representative in the Parliament. ❖ They are not doing anything. ❖ No activities. ❖ Turks have their representative in the local government in Valandovo, but the same only looks after his own interests. ❖ The representative of the Turkish community in Dojran does not hold the necessary capacities; he does not impact the environment where he lives.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Representatives are afraid to express an opinion without obtaining approval from their political party. <p>Struga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The political involvement of minorities is good. <p>Veles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Roma population suffers because their politicians are spineless. Roma politicians enter coalitions with whoever holds the power at the moment, while the population is suffering; local politicians follow the leaders. ❖ 3 from the total of 11 elected members in the Municipal Council in Caska are members of non-majority ethnic communities, and they are all men. ❖ Minority political parties are established to serve a particular purpose. ❖ With due respect for the political system in the country, I must say that nothing has been done in the last 15 years, although there were Albanian political parties. For example: the road to Jabolciste; local politicians do not identify and solve problems on local level. ❖ It is erroneous to think that they are the only ones responsible for solving problems affecting the minority groups, but should be the ones to raise these issues. ❖ People present here have already been trained, we only need to discuss matters and upgrade our knowledge and skills to a higher level. However this project contributes to solving problems, but little is done with the younger generations, for examples students from the fifth and sixth grade in primary school so that they would be better prepared for their secondary education, because problems would be easier to solve if the quality of education (particularly for the Albanian classes) is higher. Politics does not impact NGOs. ❖ Political parties' leaders are not the legitimate representatives of the whole minority party. ❖ Everybody cares solely for their own interests; nobody really cares for the needs of non-minority ethnic communities. ❖ All politicians lead their own coalitions, their own NGOs. We are doing ourselves a bad favor by staying quiet. ❖ Non-majority ethnic communities have not done anything through the Municipal Council in Veles, disregarding whether they come from the opposition or the governing party. ❖ The situation is as it is because politicians are not familiarized with the real problems and needs of non-majority ethnic communities, but are led by their personal interests.
<p>7.2. Local Self-Government</p> <p>Struga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ One cannot yet say that this issue has been completely closed. ❖ Per-diem reimbursement for the members of the Commission on Interethnic Relations is a major problem affecting the activities of the commission itself. <p>Veles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Municipal Council in Veles has 3 representatives from non-majority ethnic communities (disregarding whether they are from the governing party or the opposition), but none of them has ever advocated for something; they serve only for raising their hand in favor of other proposals. ❖ Establishment of ethnic-based political parties should not be practiced, the ethnic background of people should be abandoned and we should move towards declaring ourselves citizens - all citizens in the Republic of Macedonia should have equal rights disregarding their political party affiliation. ❖ The Government and the Parliament should think locally (decentralization); they should restore the competences on local level, as this is the only manner for overcoming problems, general policies should be adjusted to the present conditions in the Republic of Macedonia, since the major problem affecting the population is its sustenance. ❖ Many factors affect this issue; the current mischief and like are not something new, since politics is a matter of calculations. A Bosniak should not be the sole representative of the Bosniak population (for example, should a child represent the rights of children). Our silence makes us allies in the current situation.
<p>7.3. Public Institutions</p> <p>Gevgelija</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Politicians only care about their pockets, and not about us.
<p>7.5. Other</p> <p>Struga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ One cannot say they are involved as there are still outrages, such as the events with the

football fan group "Komiti".

8. What is your opinion of the newly adopted laws?	
8.1. NGO	
Debar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ In Debar, the law on the use of languages is applied on local level, except on the Council meetings where the translation into Macedonian is of poor quality. ❖ As for the newly adopted laws on protecting and upgrading the rights of non-majority ethnic communities, workshop participants said they were not informed about their adoption and essence.
Gevgelija	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ They were not informed thereof.
Struga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Laws have many shortcomings which prevent their righteous application. Certain provisions can create confusions.
Veles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Laws are better in quality than the quotas – quotas sound discriminatory. ❖ They were not informed about the adoption of such laws. ❖ Laws cannot be passed without holding consultations with the civil sector. Politicians are not accountable to their political parties, for example the Roma Political Party.
8.2. Local Self-Government	
Struga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Laws are OK and finally this matter was given priority.
Veles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A strategic plan should be developed for the whole territory of the Municipality of Lozovo; we do not need separate laws; the existing ones which are applicable for all citizens in the Republic of Macedonia are sufficient.
8.3. Public Institutions	
Gevgelija	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ They were not informed.
8.5. Other	
Struga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Again something has been introduced as a possibility for recruiting employees in the administration and for bargaining.
8a. What is your opinion on the law for upgrading and protecting the rights of community members representing less than 20% of the population in the Republic of Macedonia?	
8a.1. NGO	
Delcevo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Although there is a strategy on equitable representation, Roma are not well informed thereof, except for the employment opportunities at the Mol. ❖ We have competent and expert staff, but the applications of these people are not considered for employment. Employment opportunities are rare. ❖ Not a single Roma has been employed in the local institutions in Berovo. Roma are not employed in private companies or textile industry. ❖ Discrimination and declarative cohabitation exist. Nobody cares for Roma rights. We feel as if we live in a two-national state. There were also cases of application documents being hidden in drawers so that the person in question would not be considered for the job position.
Struga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Law has shortcomings which prevent its righteous application. Certain provisions can create confusions.
8a.2. Local Self-Government	
Struga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Law is OK and finally this matter was given priority.
8a.5. Other	
Struga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Law is not what it should be. Its present text is confusing and unclear.

8b. What is your opinion on the law on the use of languages spoken by at least 20% of citizens in the Republic of Macedonia and in the local self-government units?
8b.1. NGO
<p>Delcevo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Since the Roma population in all municipalities from the region accounts for 5% or less percent from the total population they fail to meet the legal threshold for the implementation of this piece of legislation. <p>Struga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Law has many shortcomings which prevent its righteous application. Certain provisions can create confusions. <p>Veles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ As for the law on the use of languages – students from the school in Orizari do not like to have the Serbian language as their instruction language but prefer to study in Macedonian until the Bosniak language is acknowledged and available.
8b.2. Local Self-Government
<p>Struga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The law is OK and finally this matter was given priority. <p>Veles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ There is no Bosniak language. We should all be integrated.

9. Who and what for should we lobby/advocate?
9.1. NGO
<p>Debar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The translation provided on the meetings of the Municipal Council in Debar is poor in quality, especially from Albanian into Macedonian language. Three of the Council members are Macedonians. For this matter we need to lobby ZELS (Association of Local Self-Government Units), Ministry of Local Self-Government, Mayor and the Municipal Council in Debar. ❖ The municipal web-site is not regularly updated, especially the Macedonian language pages, for which we need to lobby the Mayor and the Municipal Council in Debar. ❖ On local level we need to lobby the Mayor, Municipal Council, Commission on Interethnic Relations and the commission responsible for organizing local events and for the purpose of including the Macedonian community in the preparation and realization of cultural summer events in Debar. <p>Gevgelija</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Macedonian language classes in primary schools (on national and local level). ❖ Ethnic communities' representatives should be available meetings with citizens. ❖ Investments are needed in the educational system. ❖ Lobbying for the establishment of Cultural Centers, theatres. ❖ Cultural and art associations should be supported with funds, as they provide opportunities for friendship making among all ethnic communities. Funds should also be provided for supplying folk costumes of all ethnic communities. ❖ Publishing houses should print books on the Turkish language. ❖ Optional classes for learning the languages of ethnic communities. <p>Struga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Lobby public institutions that can improve interethnic relations. ❖ Lobbying should be done for events that would develop good interethnic relations. <p>Veles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Lobbying efforts should be made for infrastructural projects in the areas inhabited by non-majority ethnic communities.
9.2. Local Self-Government
<p>Struga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The municipality ❖ For an interethnic festival <p>Veles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Recently the NGO sector is very inactive – nobody knows the problem behind this. A coalition should be created and the whole NGO sector should act unanimously.
9.5. Other

<p>Struga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The business sector ❖ For financing activities such as an interethnic festival or sport games, etc.

9a. Who and what for should we lobby/advocate on local level?

<p>9a.1. NGO</p> <p>Debar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Insufficient representation of non-majority ethnic communities, especially the Turkish community in Debar (they do not have a single representative in the Municipal Council). ❖ Members of the non-majority ethnic communities should be appointed to managerial (decision-making) positions in the municipal administration. <p>Delcevo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Social Work Centers for the purpose of solving social welfare problems. ❖ The officer responsible for Roma issues for the purpose of obtaining information. ❖ The Municipal Council for the purpose of providing benefits for the Roma community. ❖ The Health Insurance Fund for the purpose of providing equal treatment and better health services. <p>Gevgelija</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ethnic communities' representatives in the local government should not be appointed because of their political affiliation. ❖ Ethnic communities' representatives should be available for meetings with citizens. ❖ Initiatives should be raised both by citizens and municipal administration officers. ❖ Lobbying for the establishment of Cultural Centers, theatres. ❖ Cultural and art associations should be supported with funds, as they provide opportunities for friendship making among all ethnic communities. Funds should also be provided for supplying folk costumes of all ethnic communities. <p>Struga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Public institutions that can improve interethnic relations. ❖ Lobbying should be done for events that would develop interethnic relations. <p>Veles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ We should lobby the local government because it is responsible for covering traveling costs of high-school students traveling to and from the school which is located more than 2 kilometers from their residence. ❖ Meeting should be organized with the Municipal Council members and matters should be discussed openly. ❖ Specific proposals for constructing a monument of a Roma hero in the Roma settlement.
<p>9a.2. Local Self-Government</p> <p>Debar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Establishing a dispersed high-school class in Centar Zupa. <p>Struga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The municipality ❖ For an interethnic festival
<p>9a.5. Other</p> <p>Struga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The business sector ❖ For financing activities such as the international festival or sports games, etc.

9b. Who and what for should we lobby/advocate on national level?

<p>9b.1. NGO</p> <p>Debar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Supporting governmental and local institutions in the implementation of activities and projects in the field of culture, cultural summer 2007 and 2008 during which the Macedonian ethnic community was not involved <p>Delcevo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ministry of Health ❖ Ministry of Education ❖ Ministry of Labor and Social Policy ❖ Ministry of Transport and Communications
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ministry of Culture ❖ Ministry of Justice ❖ MPs in the Republic of Macedonia ❖ Committee on Interethnic Relations <p>Gevgelija</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Ministry of Education so that ethnic communities' members in Dojran will learn the Macedonian language. ❖ Need for investing in the educational system. ❖ Lobbying for the establishment of Cultural Centers, theatres. ❖ Cultural and art associations should be supported with funds, as they provide opportunities for friendship making among all ethnic communities. Funds should also be provided for supplying folk costumes of all ethnic communities. ❖ Publishing houses should print books in the Turkish language. ❖ We should lobby for public information on what has been passed on the central government meetings and whether Commissions on Interethnic Relations have been established. ❖ Optional classes for learning the languages of ethnic communities. <p>Veles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ For example a person was given second mandate as a MP, but he has not organized a single meeting with the citizens.
9b.2. Local Self-Government
<p>Debar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Non-operation of the local government in Centar Zupa – probably ZELS (Association of Local Self-Government Units) and the Ministry of Local Self-Government

10. What kind of training you need which has not been encompassed by this project?
10.1. NGO
<p>Debar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Training on lobbying and advocacy for NGO and local government representatives <p>Delcevo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Training on annual program development ❖ Training on financial operation ❖ Training on action plan development ❖ Training on the legislation and rights of ethnic communities <p>Gevgelija</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Bringing local government decision-making mechanisms closer to citizens ❖ Information mechanisms ❖ Specific topics: decentralization (for the municipal administration representatives) ❖ Feeling of ethnicity <p>Veles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Workshop on all education issues for the non-majority ethnic communities ❖ Lobbying and advocacy - with learning by doing and with the participation of local government representatives ❖ Civil sector's participation in policy making ❖ Team work and participatory planning ❖ Decentralization as a process (how far are we in its achievement....) ❖ Meeting people from other countries who can share their experiences (Netherlands, Scandinavian countries)
10.2. Local self-Government
<p>Struga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Training for the Commission on Inter-Ethnic Relations <p>Veles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Gender roles and the non-majority ethnic communities (overcoming stereotypes and prejudices) ❖ Legislation on the rights of non-majority ethnic communities ❖ Seminar with the Ombudsman (meeting) on issues related to non-majority ethnic communities

10.5. Other
Struga
❖ Training on fundraising and funds available

11. In your opinion, what else should we do during the next year of project's implementation?	
11.1. NGO	
Debar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Meeting with the Ombudsman (Idzet Memeti) for the purpose of familiarizing with this institution and the mechanisms for protecting the non-majority ethnic communities. All participants agreed that a meeting with the Ombudsman is necessary and that it would be great if it can be initiated as part of this project. ❖ Organization of more events and specific activities on local level in the aftermath of major events. ❖ Suggestions were made for organizing more debates.
Delcevo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Establishing an inventory of foundations and open calls for proposals where NGOs can apply with projects related to the rights of ethnic communities. ❖ Attention should be paid to the selection of participants invited on workshops and training from the aspect of their contribution to the events. ❖ Supporting technical equipping for NGOs with members from non-majority ethnic communities.
Gevgelija	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Kim Memeti should be invited as a trainer on one of the seminars. ❖ Educational meetings, information. ❖ Health workshops, for example on brucellosis. ❖ Designing a brochure that would list the NGOs included in the project and submitting it to the local government. ❖ All meetings should be covered by the media. ❖ Materials should be distributed before the training. ❖ Provision of information on the laws. ❖ Anonymous survey should be carried out so that people can express their opinions and positions.
Veles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Multicultural events that can bring us closer (people's awareness should be stricken radically) ❖ Legislation, competences of local governments
11.2. Local Self-Government	
Struga	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ TV debates of regional character on the operation of the Commissions on Interethnic Relations and they should be broadcasted on a national TV station.
11.3. Public Institutions	
Veles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Monitoring activities everywhere (for example, Lozovo).