

Public debate at Negotino

On 26th August, 2008, a public debate was organized in Negotino on the topic Formal education of Roma in Tikves region - necessity and challenges. Introduction was given by the following speakers: Vojislav Marijanovik, Department for development and improvement of the education in the languages of ethnic minorities within Ministry of Education and Science; Zorica Vckova, Municipality of Kavadarci; Ivica Zlatkovik, Municipality of Negotino; Gordana Jordanovska, Director of the Primary school “Dimkata Angelov Gaberot” - village Vatas, Kavadarci; Safet Temurovski, NGO Mesecina, village Krivolak – Negotino and Raim Sulejmanov, Association of Tikves Roma Kavadarci. Moderator of the public debate was Erol Ademov from Stip, participant in the ToT program.

Speakers discussed about regulations and reforms in the education sector, need for raising awareness of Roma population about their rights. Statistical data about the inclusion of Roma children in schools were presented to the participants. Some issues about the Roma Decade and its possibilities came up, also.

The debate ended with following conclusions: active field work is necessary in order to raise awareness among Roma population; free school books for Roma children have to be provided, citizens have to be informed about new Law on obligatory secondary education; more female Roma children origin should be encouraged to visit school; partnership relations between parents and schools have to be established.

Total of 27 participants – 12 representatives of institutions, 14 NGOs and 1 media - from Negotino and Kavadarci participated in the debate, organized by Foundation Open Society Institute - Macedonia and NGO Support Center Negotino.

As a result of the public debate, Association of Tikves Roma Kavadarci sent a request to Municipality of Kavadarci for establishing a position of public servant for Roma issues. The answer of Municipality to this request has not been received yet.