

Follow-up thematic workshop at Struga

As a follow-up from regional meeting with Ombudsman, on 11th June 2008 in Struga, a thematic workshop on the topic *Role of the Commission for Inter-Community Relations in improvement of multiethnic life in Struga* was held. A total of 32 representatives of NGOs, local authorities, and local institutions/organizations from Struga participated in this workshop, organized by NGOSC Struga. The aim of this workshop was to introduce the participants with the role and competences of the Commission for Inter-Community Relations, as well as with the ways of better communication and cooperation between Commission for Inter-Community Relations and Struga Municipal Council. In addition, the role of Ombudsman in the framework of the improvement of multiethnic life was presented. Facilitator of the meeting was Mr. Sreten Koceski from *Institute for Community Development – Tetovo*.

Conclusion from this workshop was that the legal provisions and competences of the Commission for Inter-Community Relations should be respected on maximum level because they arise from the *Law on Local-Self Government*. At this stage, not everything is defined by the *Law on Local-Self Government* regarding the functioning of the Commission for Inter-Community Relations. It should be defined in the statute of Struga Municipal Council. The Commission for Inter-Community Relations has an opportunity for participation of smaller multiethnic communities that haven't their representatives in the Municipal Council, so that they can advocate for their rights in creation of local policies.