

## **Regional workshop at Probistip**

Regional workshops were organized to offer open space for sharing experiences, exchanging good practices, discussing and defining joint concepts, priorities, as well as cooperation and networking needs. A regional workshop „Preparation of annual program for Roma communities in six municipalities in the North-Eastern region of Macedonia” was held on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2008 in Probistip with 41 participants from institutions, representatives of NGOs and local authorities from Rankovce, Kratovo, Vinica, Berovo, Kocani and Probistip. Facilitator was Mario Veljkovic, co-facilitator Erol Ademov (participant in ToT program). NGO Support Center Kratovo provided technical assistance for institutional network development, including the facilitation of the network development process (consultancy work).

The aim of the workshop was to establish cooperation between Roma advisory groups in order to become an active factor for social inclusion of the Roma population in the region, and to create their annual plan of lobby and advocacy activities for improvement of situation of Roma communities. Participants worked separately in six groups, divided by municipalities. Each group worked on priorities and needs of Roma community in their own municipality and prepared annual programs for 2009 for each municipality.