

Thematic meeting at Negotino

On 30th June 2008, a thematic meeting *Access to public institutions for Roma population in Negotino and Kavadarci* was held in Negotino. 25 representatives of local NGOs, Centers for social care, schools, Ministry of Interior Affairs and LG participated in this workshop. Facilitator of the meeting was Vesa Skortova from Foundation *Focus*, co-facilitator was Erol Ademov, participant of the ToT program. The aim of the meeting was to improve the communication of Roma population with local institutions and to alleviate the access to information and services for Roma. The participants were divided in four groups; each group had to identify problems and obstacles in the communication between Roma populations and institutions and to suggest possible solutions for the identified problem. Positive examples of cooperation between Roma populations with institutions were presented, as well.

As a result of this meeting a plan with follow-up activities was prepared: submission of a request to municipalities of Negotino and Kavadarci for engaging an public servant for Roma issues; improvement of communication with institutions and access to draft-form lists, applications and requests that have to be filled out by citizens; engagement of volunteers for mediation between Roma population and institutions; submission of an initiative for organizing Open days in municipalities and institutions; organization of workshop about legislative provisions; campaign about the role of education; submission of a request to all institutions and municipalities of Kavadarci and Negotino for placing boxes for praises, comments and complaints in their buildings.

As a result of the thematic meeting realised in Negotino region (Negotino, Kavadarci and Demir Kapija municipalities) the request for establishing an officer for Roma issues was sent to the Local Self Government of Kavadarci and to the Council of the municipality of Kavadarci, but there is no response on this request yet.