

## **Thematic meeting at Veles**

Thematic meeting titled *Improvement of status of women belonging to minorities in decision-making bodies in local community* was held in Veles on 28 June 2008, organized by NGOSC Veles on the initiative of women NGOs from Veles and Commission for equal opportunities in Veles. Total of 36 participants - representatives of Commission for equal opportunities in Veles, local NGOs, local governments and public institutions in Veles, Cashka, Gradsko and Lozovo - attended this meeting. Facilitator of the meeting was Mieser Mursin from women NGO *Akcija Zdruzenska*. The aim of the meeting was to include NGOs, local communities and local institutions in creating actions for improvement of the situation of women belonging to minorities in decision-making bodies in local community. The opening words on this workshop said Mirdita Saliu, head of Sector for equal opportunities within the Ministry of Labour and Social Politics, presenting legal regulations for women participation in governing bodies in public institutions and local/central government. Stojna Trajkovska, president of Commission for equal opportunities within the Veles Municipality Council, had a presentation about the structure of women in governing bodies in Veles Municipality, pointing out that the representation of women is not satisfactory. After the discussion participants identified major needs and priorities for improvement of status of women belonging to minorities. Recommendations for future activities were given in the following fields: education for all - primary education on own language; elimination of stereotypes/prejudices; support to women by the family; improvement of economical situation. The Minutes of the meeting were sent to Commission for equal opportunities in Veles Municipality, in order to lobby for involvement of the recommendations from the meeting in its working program for the next year. An overview from the meeting was broadcasted on local TV station TV *Zdravkin*. Actions for improvement of the situation of women belonging to minorities in decision-making bodies in local community were proposed to the Municipal bodies in Veles, Gradsko and Cashka.