

Thematic meeting at Centar Zhupa

On 24th June, 2008 in Centar Zhupa, a thematic meeting named Open meeting of the Commission for Inter-Community Relations of Centar Zhupa Municipality was organized by NGOSC Debar. 28 representatives of local NGOs, members of the Commission for Inter-Community Relations and Municipality Council, as well as representatives of the high school participated in this meeting. The aim of this meeting was to introduce the participants with the role and activities of Commission for Inter-Community Relations in Centar Zhupa. Commission for Inter-Community Relations was established by the Municipality of Centar Zhupa even it is not obligated by the law¹. However, the Commission is only existing but not functioning; only one official meeting (with 2 members) has been held since its establishment.

Facilitator of the thematic workshop was Senad Bekiri from NGO *Milenium*, Vrapchishte. The establishment of the secondary schools was underlined as a need and recommended to be solved as a first priority by all participants on the meeting. Municipality of Zhupa had only one class on Turkish language with poor space conditions and inadequate teachers, so the high schools students have to travel to Debar or Gostivar each day, in bad weather conditions in the winter times.

As a result of the meeting in Centar Zupa, the Commission for Inter-Community Relations in this municipality prepared a request for the Municipal Council for establishment of central secondary school in Centar Zhupa, with education on Macedonian and Turkish language. Commission for Inter-Community Relations set a deadline for Municipal Council to solve this issue for 15 July 2008. There is no answer from Municipal Council to this request yet.

¹ Minority representation in Centar Zupa is bellow 20 % (80.17% Turks, 12.49% Macedonians, 6.96% Albanians).