

## **Follow-up topical discussion at Debar**

On 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2008, a discussion *Consequences from underage marriages within Roma population* was held in Debar, as follow-up from the public debate organized in 2007. The aim of the discussion was to raise awareness of the Roma population about consequences from underage marriages from judicial, medical and social point of view.

48 citizens and members of citizen's organizations from Debar participated in the discussion. Introduction was given by: Ilir Iseni, lawyer, Edlira Piperku, medical specialist - gynecologist, Ismail Mersimovski, Center for Social Work - Debar and Nuri Koleci, inspector. Moderator of the discussion was Nesime Salioska from NGO „Roma SOS”, Prilep.

Main discussions points were the triangle student-parent-student, education of the parents, respect of laws, responsibility of the physicians in performing abortion in hidden circumstances, the appearance of underage marriages in all (not only Roma) ethnic communities, problems with the economic situation, education of girls, early sexual experiences, rights of children, domestic violence, children's manipulation etc. The Foundation Open Society Institute - Macedonia realized this discussion in cooperation with NGO Support Center Debar.