

TV debate at *TV Nova* in Kumanovo

The first TV debate on the topic *Does Kumanovo live in the spirit of multiethnic understanding?* was realized on 30th November, 2007 at TV Nova from 21.00 – 22.00 in live, with possibilities for direct telephone calls of the audience. For the preparation of the first TV debate, project team had a meeting day before with journalist from TV *Nova*, the Chairman of the Municipality Council in Kumanovo, representative of Regional Ombudsman office in Kumanovo, and representatives of Albanian, Roma and Macedonian ethnic communities. Within this meeting goals of the project and the aim of the TV debate planned to be organized in Kumanovo were presented. Ideas for the concept of TV debate were exchanged.

Within the debate, President of the Municipality Council Mr. Zoran Petrushevski spoke about the activities undertaken by the municipality to improve the multiethnic living in Kumanovo. Mr. Ahmed Jasarevski, representative from Roma NGO *Drom* underlined the cooperation with Municipality Council in composing the Local Action Plans for Roma Decade, and the need for their implementation, in the context of the needs and problems that Roma are facing. Ms. Sonja Arsovska from NGO *SOS* and Mr. Bajram Sulejmani from NGO *Natura* gave their own views and opinions about the multiethnic spirit in Kumanovo, speaking about segregation between Macedonian and Albanian pupils and the efforts to be made in order to integrate them. The representative from Regional Ombudsman office in Kumanovo – Mr. Naser Vejseli promoted the role and responsibilities of the Ombudsman, how and for what purposes assistance can be obtained from this institution. The debate was moderated by Ms. Snezana Petkovska, journalist in TV *Nova*.

Debate was broadcasted again on December 5th and December 8th, 2007.