

TV debate at TV *Kanal 21* in Veles

TV debate named *The function of the Commission for Inter-Community Relations in the Municipality of Caska and the Commission for equal opportunities in the municipality of Veles* was organized on 11th March, 2008 within the regularly broadcasted debate show *TV Debata* of TV Kanal 21 in Veles. The debate lasted from 20.30 to 21.45 hrs. The debate aimed at promotion of intercultural and interethnic understanding and equal participation of woman in politics with special accent on woman from non majority ethnic communities.

Following speakers expressed their views within the debate: Jusuf Ahmedov – President of the Commission for Inter-Community Relations in Caska, Stojna Trajkova – President of the Commission for equal opportunities in Veles, Sonja Gavrilova – representative of Parents’ association caring for healthy generations - Veles and Zati Ramadanov – representative of Roma citizens’ association “Romani Bah” - Veles. Moderator of the debate was local journalist Kire Vasilevski.

During the debate, the operation of the Commission for Inter-Community Relations and the Commission for equal opportunities was presented, as well as current activities of the civil sector in the region. The participants informed citizens about minorities’ rights and gender rights and opportunities, with special attention on woman from ethnic communities. The discussion concentrated on Roma Decade implementation in the region of Veles, and existing stereotypes or prejudices towards woman from minorities.

The debate had an open character; citizens had opportunity to pose questions and brought in their opinions. The majority of viewers expressed the need of improving mutual understanding and respect for all ethnic communities. Yet, some of the viewers demonstrated prejudices and stereotypes towards other ethnic communities.

All TV debates were announced with TV spot from the campaign that was broadcasted 2 weeks on the local media.