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# THE ADVOCATE

Supporting the NGO community

Volume V • Issue 8 • October 2007

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## ATRC public meetings

### Politicians Give Explanations to Kosovo Citizens over Status Settlement Process



Seven hundred and thirty citizens participated 12 public meetings throughout Kosovo in Sep. and Oct. to gather information about the status settlement

Citizens, representatives of local and central government, NGO, media and business sector in twelve towns of Kosovo had the opportunity to gather information and ask questions about the status settlement process, through 12 public meetings organized by ATRC and British Office in September and October.

The meetings were held in Drenas/Glogovac, Viti/Vitina (Pozharan), Gjilan/Gnjilane (Bresalc), Malishevë/Malishevo, Ferizaj/Urosevac (Komogllava), Novobërd/a, Gjakova/Djakovica (Skivjan), Skenderaj/Srbica, Po-

dujevë/o, Peja/Pec (Vitomirica), Dragash, and Mitrovica, to provide members of the public access to up to date and accurate information, and discuss on

status related issues with government and representatives of the international community.

Local decision-makers and foreign diplomats called citizens to remain patient and cooperate with international community at the time when status for the future of Kosovo is in its final phase.

Participants had the opportunity to ask questions about this process to David Blunt - Head of British Office in Prishtina, Alex Laskaris - US Office in Prishtina, Jonuz Salihaj - Minister of Justice, Ardian Gjini -

Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning, Enver Hoxhaj, Hajredin Kuqi, Fatmir Limaj - PDK, Ahmet Isufi - AAK, and Teuta Sahatcia - Ora.

"If there isn't any status settlement after December the 10th, the basis of the agreement is to be found in Ahtisaari's package. I can't tell the exact date but this is the last phase and we want Kosovo status to be settled as soon as possible," David Blunt told the public in Drenas on September 11. "This process is going on the right direction with the support of our partners. We want results that will work for your future to build a society you want to".

The major concerns of participants were focused on "uncertain outcome after December the 10th, international recognition of Kosovo independence, unity of the Kosovo negotiation team for the status settlement, and lack of consensus of international community towards Kosovo status".

This newsletter is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of ATRC and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

## Government Institutions and NGOs to Cooperate Closely in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

### NGO publication

#### "Budget Analysis of the Municipality of Prishtina for 2006"

The non-governmental organization "New Millennium" published a budget analysis of Municipality of Prishtina for 2006, an initiative supported by ATRC and IREX Kosovo Civil Society Program.

At the presentation of this publication on October 1, representatives of New Millennium reported a series of issues related to the Municipal budget. According to it "budget of the year 2006 is 17% lower compared to the previous year."

This budget analysis was backed on the budget annual report of 2006 released by Municipality of Prishtina. The parameters were obtained from the budget plan for 2006 by comparing them with the previous year and the upcoming one, 2007.

The main parameters emphasized in the publication are focused on budget and expenditure planning in proportion with expenditure consumption.

The analysis includes information on budget planning, comparison of the planned budgetary incomes for 2005 versus 2006, for 2006 versus 2007, planning and consumption of budgetary incomes for 2006, budget expenditure, salaries, services ...

*For the full publication, contact [ojqmileniumi@yahoo.com](mailto:ojqmileniumi@yahoo.com)*

The Advocacy Training and Resource Center (ATRC) and Partnership Against Trafficking in Human Beings (PATH) implemented by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and partners organized six regional roundtable discussions in six main Kosovo towns to address the trafficking in human beings.

The roundtables entitled "The Importance of Civil Society in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings," were organized specifically for Kosovar civil society organizations in the regions of Prishtina, Peja, Mitrovica, Prizren, Ferizaj and Gjilan.

The initiative brought together local NGOs and experts from the public sphere and civil society to learn further about and comment upon the implementation of the Kosovo Action Plan to

Combat Trafficking in Human Beings.

Representatives of Municipal presidency, local shelters for victims of trafficking, municipal employees of Centers for Social Work and Victims Advocate Unit, Kosovo NGOs in the region, Kosovo Law Centre (KLC) participated in the discussions.

KLC presented a civil society monitoring report of the Kosovo Action Plan which covered a period of 18 months.

The roundtables were open discussions for all participants who recom-



*The roundtable discussion held in Peja on September 5*

mended "government institutions and NGOs to cooperate closely in fighting trafficking in human beings, prosecutor institutions and courts to be involved in implementation of the Kosovo Action Plan, media to give more space and cover issues related to trafficking in human beings ...

*For more information, contact [info@advocacy-center.org](mailto:info@advocacy-center.org)*

### NGO funding opportunity

## Freedom House Calls for Proposals for Grants of Community Reconciliation Program

On October 3, Freedom House announced the recent series of grants for the Kosovo Community Reconciliation Program (KCRP) aimed at achieving stable multi-ethnic communities and contributing to lessening ethnic tensions in Kosovo.

KCRP program, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), is focused on civil society efforts aimed at generating changes and reforms to advocate for reconciliation and become a stronger voice in Kosovo's future. The primary objec-



*Freedom House will award grants that promote cross-community reconciliation and dialogue, which will include grants to civil society organizations in creating advocacy coalitions or networks to address specific long-term reconciliation topics.*

tives of the program are: cross-community reconciliation efforts to increase inter-ethnic communication and cooperation; and civil society organizations as leaders in community reconciliation in Kosovo.

The deadline for submitting proposals is November 05, 2007.

*For further information about call for proposals, application and budget forms, contact 038 248 699 or [orfreesomhouse.ks@gmail.com](mailto:orfreesomhouse.ks@gmail.com)*

### Project on ethnic relations

#### Confidence Building Measures in Kosovo

The Project on Ethnic Relations (PER) published in September 30 a report about "Confidence Building Measures in Kosovo."

PER aims to "launch a set of confidence-building measures between Albanians, Serbs, Roma, and other ethnic communities in Kosovo to support the ongoing efforts of the international community to resolve the future status of Kosovo".

The initiative began in June 2006 and concluded in July 2007.

The report content includes: needs of the Serb community in Kosovo; Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians of Kosovo; interethnic relations; education for non-Albanian communities; implementing the proposal for status settlement; security and the status process; the Balkans as a source of security and stability in Europe; confidence building during the status process, etc.

For the full report, visit:  
[http://www.per-usa.org/Reports/KS03\\_Kosovo\\_Confidence\\_Building\\_2007.pdf](http://www.per-usa.org/Reports/KS03_Kosovo_Confidence_Building_2007.pdf)

Source: Project on Ethnic Relations

### Local urban development plans

## "Eye of Vision" Initiative Transforms Zatra Neighborhood into an Urban Planning Area of Peja Municipality

The town of Peja has a number of informal neighborhoods (settlements). The so-called Zatra neighborhood was one of them until April 2007 when the non-governmental organization "Eye of Vision" initiated an urban planning process, in partnership with UN Habitat and Municipality of Peja. Now Zatra is an urban planning area within the Peja Municipality as a result of advocacy efforts of this NGO.

Through this initiative, supported by ATRC and IREX Kosovo Civil Society Program, Eye of Vision aimed to increase participation of Zatra residents and their input in drafting roadmap priorities for urban development and its implementation.

"The Peja Municipality did not hold any consultative

meeting with citizens in order to start urban planning process", Veton Mujaj, director of Eye of Vision, stated.

"We organized meeting with Zatra community representatives to inform them about urban regulatory plan for this neighborhood. Three types of questionnaires were delivered to 350 households (the questionnaires focused on urban economic situation, family situation and infrastructure)," Mujaj added. The research results were analyzed, Zatra residents were informed, and their priorities reflected in the municipal urban plan.

The plan for urban development of Zatra as a legal act approved by Municipal Assembly of Peja, prohibits municipal administration to allow re-parce-

ling and building in this neighborhood if that isn't in accordance with the plan, which includes a map for usage of land in Zatra.

Eye of Vision will continue its work in identifying informal neighborhoods in cooperation with community groups aiming to involve them in the urban development plan of Peja Municipality.



Zatra neighborhood of Peja Municipality, Kosovo

For more information, contact [vizioni@gmail.com](mailto:vizioni@gmail.com)

### 2007 Kosovo elections

## NGOs Call for Media Objectivity during the Elections Campaign



Local NGO and media representatives discussed their role in the general and

local elections process to be held on November 17. They gathered on October 2 at a press club organized by IREX Kosovo Civil Society Program and USAID's Kosovo Media Assistance Program held at ATRC aiming to inform media about its role, importance of impartial reporting and innovations in the election process of November 17.

Participants commented that media and NGOs' role in the elections process is essential, therefore it's ne-

cessary to report fairly about elections campaign and communicate to citizens the importance of casting their votes.

"Media is one of the key factors of fair elections as citizens most of the information receive through media", Leon Malazogu from the coalition "Democracy in action: Election 2007," said.

For more information, contact [shpantina@irex-kcsp.org](mailto:shpantina@irex-kcsp.org)



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## Virtual School of Dialogue, Democracy and Peaceful Conflict Resolution calls for applications for the next generation

Nansen Dialogue Network calls for applications for the seventh generation of the Virtual School of Dialogue, Democracy and Peaceful Conflict Resolution.

All interested socially active citizens (politicians, NGO activists, journalists, representatives of local and regional governments and institutions) from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Macedonia and Croatia are invited to apply.

A total of 40 participants will be selected.

The school lasts eight weeks from November 7th to December 25th, 2007. Lectures will be distributed to participants through e-mail, which are 4-6 pages long and may contain additional materials/web links. Participants receive sixth lectures in sixth weeks. The two remaining weeks are dedicated to evaluation and writing of final essays. Participation is free of charge.

Topics cover dialogue, conflict reconciliation. Lecturers are experts from



For more information and application form visit:  
<http://www.ndnvirtualschool.org>

Norway, USA and the Balkans.

Source: Nansen Dialogue Network

## Research by Save the Children Reveals Children's Insights, including Kosovo Children

The international non-governmental organization "Save the Children" conducted an extensive, field-based research in 7 countries/entities in Southeastern Europe, speaking to more than 600 children in individual interviews. The research includes focus-group discussions on how they perceive the risks of trafficking and exploitation, what are their own strengths and coping mechanisms, and how states and civil society can better provide protection and assistance to children at risk. The findings of the research are published in

the report "Children spoke out" which was launched on September 18th at the European Parliament in Brussels.

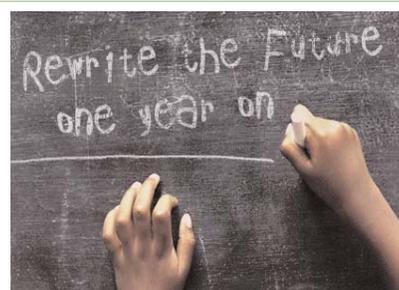
The Save the Children's research aimed to learn more about what causes some children to be more at risk of being trafficked than others, and how efforts and interventions to prevent child trafficking can be designed to better assist and protect these children. The report "Children spoke out" also aims to inform national and regional policy makers, NGOs and civil society on what changes are required to meet the needs

of children at risk of exploitation and trafficking. It documents the importance of listening to children and taking their views into account.

Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Kosovo, Romania and Serbia participated the research.

"Children spoke out" can be downloaded from Save the Children Alliance website: [http://www.savethechildren.net/alliance/what\\_we\\_do/newsdesk/2007-09-18.html](http://www.savethechildren.net/alliance/what_we_do/newsdesk/2007-09-18.html)

Source: Balkan academic News



One year into the global campaign, Save the Children have improved education for 3.4 million children

Prominent Hollywood Artists donate \$1 million to Save the Children

