

## End of year interview with ATRC Director Kreshnik Berisha

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Interview with ATRC director Kreshnik Berisha **2**
- New Millenium holds journalism training **2**
- ATRC holds discussion on water contamination **3**
- Advanced Public Policy training **4**
- Tips on journalistic writing **5**
- Tips on journalistic writing continued **6**
- Explaining proper inheritance documentation **6**
- ICG warning and comments on civil society **7**
- ICG comments continued **8**
- Roundtable on youth unemployment **8**

1)What do you think were the major successes of ATRC in 2004?

2004 was a great year for us here at ATRC. This year we had the opportunity to become more active in media campaigns and activism instead of just being a service provider. ATRC became more issue-oriented than ever before. Our most relevant success was the Get Out the Vote campaign co-directed with National Democratic Institute and Kosovo Women Network, which successfully concluded with significant voter turnout and increased name recognition for ATRC and its activities, as all the positive feedback we received shows. Other successes in 2004 include en-

gaging in an anti-corruption campaign, participating in a coalition for changing the electoral law and as organizing "The Diaspora Conference".

2)Why do you think ATRC received so much positive feedback for the GOTV campaign and why do you consider the Diaspora conference an important success?

I believe we received so much positive feedback due to being an issue-oriented campaign



*Kreshnik Berisha, director of ATRC in our offices in Pristina*

that raises interest on an important issue and the efficient networking of more than 70 different organizations. That the campaign had a good media strategy

**Continued on pg. 2**

## Avanced public policy

Pristina, January 17-19. A three day advanced public policy training was held at ATRC by two professors from State University of New York (SUNY), Mark Baskin and Robert T. Nakamura. This training was attended by members of local think-

tanks and institutes such as SFERA, Kosovar Research and Documentation Institute (KODI), Ron Brown Group, Kosovar Gender Studies Center and KIPRED. This training was made possible with support from the

American people through USAID.

Most training participants had previously published studies on the March 2004 events. These studies were presented at ATRC in October 2004 and received significant coverage from local media channels. The SUNY professors reviewed these studies and used the first day of the training to discuss the process that each of the participants had followed in their study. Each participant discussed their report and answered questions on the structure and purpose of their work. The professors

**Continued on pg. 4**



*Professors Nakamura and Baskin reviewing March event papers*

## New Millennium Holds Two Day Journalism Training

Pristina, January 28-29. A two-day journalism training was held at ATRC, in which young journalists and journalism students participated. This training was part of the "Better Together" project being implemented by the local NGO "New Millennium". The project is funded by FDI with support from the American people through USAID.

According to Executive Director Nehat Bllacaku, New Millennium was founded in 2001 to empower youth, women and minorities. The purpose of this project follows this larger objective by teaching young journalists how to perform better in their jobs and hold the authorities accountable.

The training was attended by more than a dozen young journalists working for various electronic and print media organizations. The topic of the training was how to cover public policies. It trained participants how to raise the quality of media inquiries especially in procurement procedures. The trainer, Afrim Berisha, explained the technical details of how to investigate the procurement process and provided guidelines for journalistic writing. ■

## End of year interview with Kreshnik Berisha cont' from page 1

and dealt with a significant issue ensured that the campaign would be noticed by many. The Diaspora conference was significant because it looked into the issue of finding ways to make the Diaspora community more responsive to the needs of civil society in Kosovo. It made Kosovar NGOs think about fundraising from compatriots living abroad. They also learned from more organized Diaspora communities, such as the Jewish Diaspora in the US.

3) Although the anti-corruption campaign has just begun, what do you think will be ATRC's role in this campaign and why is the campaign so important?

This campaign [which includes the creation of an Anti-corruption Coalition between the government and civil society] is important because the inclusion of civil society is a good omen for future relations between civil society and governmental institutions. It is also an impressive step towards recognizing the need for non-governmental input and support for activities that many see as belonging solely to the realm of governance. ATRC's role is to co-direct the coalition; to raise the general population's awareness regarding corruption issues; to provide trainings to government officials; and to introduce legal mechanisms against corrupt activities. ATRC has provided input during the drafting of the plan and will be a major partner for the

campaign's implementation. In the future, we hope to build watchdog capacities to assist the Ombudsman's office.

4) How will this year's developments shape the future of ATRC?

As we focus more on issue-oriented campaigns, we need to make significant changes. We need more partners to manage successful campaigns. In order to achieve this, we plan to support Avoko, the network of local NGOs that was reformed in October 2004. GOTV taught us how to better organize significant campaigns, a crucial skill as we move from capacity-building into a more active role.

This year we also started cooperating with governmental institutions through the anti-corruption coalition. Here at ATRC we consider good and transparent governance to be key to the development of Kosovar society. We will continue this cooperation as long as our governmental partners demonstrate their will for positive change. We hope to extend this cooperation to other issues that interest us such as the freedom of the information act.

5) ATRC's achievements have been possible only through the considerable support it receives. Would you like to specifically thank any organization or individual?

Our partners have always been crucial since ATRC's mission is to support other local NGOs. Our special relationship to FDI is our

most important partnership with local NGO's. Among our partners I would like to especially thank those NGO that cooperate with us on specific campaigns, and they are too many to list here.

It is clear that the contribution of the American people through US-AID have made our activities possible. US-AID's impact on our activities has been instrumental. Many other donors have also helped our activities.

Special thanks must go to East West Management Institute, Inc. (EWMI). Their structural and technical support has been essential to our activities. EWMI's trust in our abilities has allowed us to develop a truly local NGO in accordance with international standards. EWMI didn't act like overbearing parents who shelter their offspring but allowed us to run this local NGO. It gave us the expertise we needed, but it also allowed us to learn how to run things ourselves and become sustainable. Special thanks go to Mr. Fron Nazi who was present since the founding of KNAP until now when he is moving to a higher position.

6) Would you like to add anything?

Yes, I would like to say that this year we have gone through many changes as an organization. As a result, we have become a respectable partner in the NGO community, and we plan to continue our work in building democracy. ■

## ATRC's FOI explained

Pristina, November 25. Kosovo's Law on Access to Official Documents was adopted by the Assembly and signed by the UN Administrator in November 2003. Now, a year later, although Section 17.1 of the Law on Access to Official Documents states that "the Government shall adopted adequate rules and procedures regarding the classification of sensitive documents [...], sixty days after the Law comes into effect", this has not happened. Two working groups were established to work on Freedom of Information (FOI). The Prime Minister's Office formed one group to work on the draft law, and international and local NGOs established the other working group. The groups cooperated to draft and adopt the law, which included training officials and journalists on FOI.

Members of the NGO FOI working group, such as the National Democratic Institute (NDI), are working closely with the government to draft law amendments and to train officials. ATRC, a member of both working groups, will build the capacity of NGOs throughout Kosovo and will raise public and NGO awareness on how to best use their rights under this law. The Kosovar Institute for Non-for-profit Law (IKDO) will also train NGOs on FOI.

ATRC plans to organize public discussions on FOI throughout Kosovo by the end of spring 2005. ATRC's FOI project has been funded by Article XIX.

The working group members, including the Office of the Prime Minister's Legal Office, hope to continue their successful cooperation to see through the implementation of this law. ■

## ATRC holds Public Discussion on water contamination

Pristina, January 26. Local NGO "Water for the Third Millenium" (WIIIM) cooperated with ATRC to organize a public discussion dealing with the issue of well water pollution. The discussion focused on analyzing the current well water situation in Kosovo and presenting possible solutions. WIIIM's original project was funded by the Foundation for Democratic Initiatives (FDI), which is supported by the American people through USAID. This project was discussed in the December issue of "The Advocate".

The public discussion was moderated by ATRC Director, Kreshnik Berisha. The Director of WIIIM, Halit Gashi presented the organization's study to discussion participants and engaged in a lively debate with the representative of the National Public Health Institute (NIPH), Burbuqe Nushi. Two other panelists from the Swiss Development and Cooperation Office (SDC), Hajrie Morina and water specialist Mirko Manzoni expressed their opinions and comments as well. Environmental specialists and media outlets like KTV attended the discussion.

The representative of



Public Diskussion at ATRC moderated by Mr. Kreshnik Berisha

NIPH appeared dissatisfied that local NGOs had not cooperated with their institute in analyzing the samples. According to her, only NIPH has the right to control water in Kosovo. She disputed the WIIIM's conclusions from their analysis, which had found traces of bacteriological or chemical pollution in all of the samples. Yet, she brought forth NIPH's data that 72% of wells are contaminated with bacteria and 49% are chemically contaminated. According to Nushi, the water in 85% of Kosovo's wells is dangerous. Although she accepted that it is quite possible for all samples to be polluted either by bacteria or chemicals, she played down the possibility of serious infec-

tions rising from the consumption of well water.

Gashi responded that NIPH had been contacted but had not been cooperative. He explained the methods used and that the results had been quite similar to those of the NIPH, which according to him had tested few wells and had not published detailed data of their findings. Other participants criticized NIPH for the same reason.

Mirko Manzoni, SDC water specialist, said that the situation in urban areas is just as serious as it is in the villages due to failures in the distribution system. "If we have private studies, I consider it a positive contribution. There is a lack of awareness regarding this problem," he said. ■

## Contaminated water used in high schools

This is one of the many articles published covering the latest project of Water for the New Millenium From Koha Ditore December 2004

Burim, January 6. Bajram Berisha, principal of the school, says that in Saradran [a village] in Burim, 600 students are using contaminated well

water. He said that a water analysis conducted by experts from "Water for the Third Millennium" showed traces of bacteria. "It is recommended not to use water from the school's well nor from the other 12 wells that are currently in use in the village", he said. According to him the school and the Education department

are doing all that is possible to clean this well, but it is difficult to purify the water. The sole solution would be to construct a modern waterworks system, which is not possible due to inhabitants' lack of interest in helping the municipality with this task. ■

## Three Models of the Policy Process

Conceptualizing How Decisions Are Made

**Rational Comprehensive:** This is the model of economists - the value-maximizing model. It answers the question: how do I get the most for the least? This is a time-consuming method that has a grand plan. It often involves cost-benefit analysis.

**Incremental:** This form of decision-making is for immediate problem-solving. For example, it is like fixing a pothole rather than re-doing the entire street. It is doing the least it takes to solve a given problem.

**Garbage Can:** This sort of decision-making often happens when there is a window of opportunity to act. The window can be unplanned, like the result of a crisis, or it can be a scheduled event like elections. The actors who have the best answer at that point in time often benefit from these types of situations. However, the proposed solution may or may not have anything to do with the actual problem. The opportunity is simply used to propose something. ■

commented on specific problems that the studies might have had and on how they could have been more efficient in dealing with the issue.

The second day of the training focused on the theoretical background of public policy research. In a structured discussion, the professors demonstrated several different models of decision-making and social theory related to this field of study. They explained the three different models of decision-making (displayed in Table 1) and three main theorists: Harold Lasswell, Charles Lindbom and John Kingdon. Then, they discussed the different policy tools that can be used to influence changes in behavior (see below)

On the third day, the participants focused more concretely on how public

policy analysis could be used in Kosovo. The trainers suggested that public policy analysis groups look closely at the government's agenda and how they could influence it, considering the recent elections and new Prime Minister. They discussed how public policy groups could influence some of the key issues facing Kosovo, including security, health, education, economic development, decentralization, and public resources.

The trainers encouraged public policy analysts not to get caught in discussions that they do not have control over. For example, concentrate on issues proposing policy solutions for issues like health, roads and water, they said.

The trainers suggested that the public policy groups influence policy

changes by lobbying towards parties not in power. "You have to be strategic," they said. "Influence the parties. They will come to power soon. If they don't have staff and need information, you can do policy papers that inform their decisions."

Overall, the trainers provided a following step-by-step plan for developing public policy, which is presented in the sidebar.

- Public Policy Strategy**
1. pick an area
  2. develop data
  3. create recommendations
  4. put out a position paper
  5. make the government use the results. ■

## Public Policy Tools

**Mandating:** using force such as the police, law, or power of the state to compel certain types of behavior. If people do not do what they are supposed to do, they are punished.

**Inducements:** encourage the right behavior through rewards that motivate people to do what you want them to do.

**Capacity building:** this is often used when it is not known how to deal with a problem. For example, internationals do not know what to do about Kosovo's final status, so they are working on building local capacity. On the one hand this buys time and on the other it provides skills that locals might need later.

**Systems change:** this is when the entire structure of rules or an entire system is changed. An example of systems change in Kosovo would be moving the decision-making power regarding final status from the UN to a contact group comprised of different countries. This is often popular because it is rather inexpensive and leaders can make the change without first having to convince the public.

**Information:** this is getting people to do things by providing information. For example, you might encourage people to stop smoking by printing health hazard warnings on cigarette packages. Internationals and NGOs are often very interested in this approach; they refer to it as "raising public awareness" ■

## Training on Journalistic Writing held at ATRC

Pristina, November 2004. Mr. Bashkim Gjergji, the Dean of the Journalism department at the University of Tirana, conducted a two-day journalism training for NGO employees and our staff at ATRC. The beginner level training clarified how journalists write and interview. The training encouraged local NGOs to become more vocal and to directly approach media organizations to inform and to promote their activities. ATRC organized this training, using Kosovo NGO Advocacy Project funds. In order to reach a larger audience, we are publishing a mini-guide on how to write as a journalist. Here at ATRC we consider journalism skills important because when organizations write for the media, they can significantly raise the amount of coverage that their activities receive. Extra-coverage results from NGOs supplying useable information to newspapers whose staff cannot cover the activities of the organization due to a lack of resources human or other factors. The guide featured to the right has been tailored to fit the needs of NGO professionals and others who are interested in journalism. ■

## Tips on journalistic writing

What is the difference between writing literature and writing a journalistic piece? Journalism is connected to literature because they both use language to narrate. However, journalistic writing is a different type of narrative that has specific rules and standards. Only by respecting these rules can we ensure that we are writing a journalistic piece. Yet, there is no need for journalism to be fully separate from artistic writing. Actually, it is important to include artistic elements to narrate a more engaging story, as long as we respect the other rules of journalistic writing. It is necessary for a journalist to have good control of language as well as a distinct vocabulary that can express sounds, scents and feelings in order to convey a full and accurate image to the reader. Accuracy in writing is crucial. In order to ensure accurate reporting of events, it is necessary for the writer to take detailed notes as well as to record any conversations that might be important for writing the article. When writing, we must faithfully and carefully express exactly what is in the notes and interviews. In this way, journalism can be compared to scientific writing. A journalist, like a scientist, deals with facts. As in scientific writing, a journalist should always make sure that every sentence's verity can be checked and will withstand fact checking. It is

important to ensure that the facts that are the basis of the article are correct. It is also important to convey these facts as clearly and truthfully as possible. The abovementioned rules are relevant for all types of journalistic writing, but in order to write a good article, two more elements are important. First, journalists must know their audience and how to attract their audience's attention. Second, journalists must decide which format to use, depending on the topic they are covering. There are four main formats of journalistic writing: news, interviews, opinion pieces and editorials. At times, a mixture of these formats is present in one piece.

### Writing News Articles

Here we will focus more on the structure and rules of writing news articles. A news article must be simple and to the point. It must be truthful to the events it is portraying. It cannot have a manipulative or propagandistic nature nor should the author lace the writing with personal opinions on the issue. A news article's sentence structure needs to be simple.

A news piece must have an introduction, a body and a conclusion. The intro explains the main issue that the article deals with and the most important facts/arguments tied to this issue. In the body, the author can offer a detailed narrative that explains all the issues referred to in the introduction. One

should make sure that every article provides answers to four questions: what, who, where and when. The conclusion of the article must either summarize all the previous arguments or tie them to the introduction. Schematically, this process can be represented as an upside-down pyramid; the first paragraph broadly encompasses the article's overall purpose and the following paragraphs have a more narrow focus. This is not the only model a journalist can use to structure an article. However, this model should be mastered first before venturing further.

The sentence structure of the news piece must be as simple as possible. Careful word-choice and the avoidance of unnecessary terms is essential to maintaining simple sentences. Always choose the simpler and most widely used terms. Avoid using jargon unfamiliar to the audience.

Keeping sentences simple will also help the journalist steer clear of misrepresentations. A clear structure prevents mistakes that others might consider ethical failures. Most ethical problems that a beginner might face are related to the use of sources. If the source is misused or certain statements have been misrepresented they can lead people to perceive ethical flaws, even if those might be innocent mistakes.

If one follows the abovementioned rules of writ-

Continued on pg. 6

## Some Advice for Good Writing

Maintain simple sentence structure. It will help you clearly convey the story and maintain a clear overall structure.

Use specifics. For example, do not write "it was a successful event with many participants learning many things". Instead write, "more than 30 participants attended the training where they learned about interviewing, writing and ethics." In other words, do not claim "success" but show it through specific facts.

Story language and writing skills can be developed through omnivorous reading and attention to detail.

When you do not like what you have written, do not edit it. Re-write it.

Always have someone else review your work before you send it to be published.

Before you start writing, it might help to think about the article's structure and the contents of each paragraph. This exercise can pay off in the long run.

If interested in more detailed information please contact us at [oord@advocacy-center.org](mailto:oord@advocacy-center.org).

## Journalistic writing Guide

ing, ethical problems will not arise, especially if the author is conscious of the relationship that he/she must have with information sources. The two most important rules in relation to sources are: do not misrepresent your sources (use quotations where possible in order to gain the reader's trust) and do not build tight ties with your sources.

### Interview Writing

Now let's focus on interviews. It is important for a publication to have some diversity in the formats it uses. An inter-

view puts a human face on what otherwise might be a boring topic. In order to conduct a good interview there are a few rules. First, you must come prepared, knowing the topic and the person you are about to interview. Not only should you have the questions ready, but you should also prepare back up and/or follow up questions. In a way, you should think of yourself as a specialist on that specific topic, just for one day. At the interview your appearance must be respectable. It is important to converse

with the subject before the actual interview starts. Once you have broken the ice, serious questions can be asked. Be prepared to do everything possible to get an answer to the questions you ask. The conversation should be recorded, and you should also take notes on the subject's appearance or the surrounding ambiance. Make sure your subject knows what will be published and what will not. It is best to be sincere to your subject and never take advantage of your sources by printing confidential information. ■

## Explaining proper inheritance documentation.



From left to right Ms. Mejrme Halili, Mr. Haki Lecaj and Ms. Razmije Brovina, panelists.

Pristina, January 27. Civil Rights Project/ Kosovo (CRP/K) organized a roundtable at "Hotel Pristina", to present and debate their project on possible obstacles to implementing the legal provisions on inheritance, made possible with an FDI grant. The purpose of the grant was to study documentation issues that come up in the process of gaining access to inheritance.

A large audience of spe-

cialists was present at this roundtable, including specialists from Praxis, Kosovo Trust Agency,

independent and free of pressures". The other two panelists were Mejrme Halili a court trainer from KJI and Remzije Brovina, a judge from the Municipal Court of Pristina.

The roundtable dealt mainly with proper documentation procedures. The judge explained the process and fielded questions or clarifications from the other specialists present. Likely mistakes in documentation were debated meticulously in a professional atmosphere that promoted information exchange. Sample cases from actual practice, provided by Brovina, demonstrated how even minute omissions can be fatal to a case.

When the roundtable concluded, participants better understood the potential problems of documentation and promised to cooperate and disseminate information in the future. ■

International Catholic Migration Commission, Danish Refugee Council and the Spanish "Movement for Peace, Disarmament and Liberty" as well as local judges and lawyers.

The roundtable was moderated by Haki Lecaj from the Kosovo Judicial Institute (KJI). He said that the project's purpose was "to help tribunals while understanding that the judicial system should be

Guest article

## ICG Crisis watch January 2005

Kosovo Alliance for the Future of Kosovo leader Ramush Haradinaj appointed prime minister 7 December under cloud of possible ICTY war crimes indictment. Belgrade furious, international community uneasy with appointment, though Haradinaj's government made confident, popular start. Indictment would likely spark dangerous political crisis, and insurgency from Haradinaj's native west Kosovo. Further economic responsibilities to be transferred to Kosovo institutions, as local media increasingly focused on rising poverty, and Kosovo Electricity Corporation (KEK) cut power to many (mostly Albanian) bill-defaulting villages. Serbian government refused to deal with Haradinaj or engage with decentralization on UNMIK's terms. Belgrade officials and media displayed agenda of provocation: made troop redeployments towards Albanian-inhabited areas of southern Serbia abutting Kosovo; wrongly portrayed KEK power cuts to non-bill-paying Serb villages as ethnic discrimination; backed threats to repeat highway-blocking protests that had attracted Albanian violence in March. ■

## ICG report on Kosovo

**Pristina, January 24.** In a presentation at the Grand Hotel Pristina, the International Crisis Group presented their latest report on Kosovo. This report followed the last crisis warning released by the group in January 2005. The report is of particular interest to civil society because it describes the role that civil society needs to play in final status talks. According to the report, civil society must be considered an ally capable of ameliorating ethnic relations. This is the most important standard that must be addressed prior to final status discussions. According to the

report, civil society must be prepared to work towards lessening ethnic tensions in case of a crisis. The second major issue is including civil society in final status talks. Some excerpts from the report are as follows:

### Inclusion in final status negotiations.

"Moreover, without some basic fiats and guarantees, the foundations for institution-building are too unstable -- Kosovo's social arena is one of slow motion warfare, not a peace-building environment. The less the international community raises its voice about final sta-

tus, the more locked into their mutually exclusive visions of Kosovo's future each of the local parties will remain. Kosovo Albanians have not produced political leadership able to unify them around a transforming vision. Broadly the society looks backwards, viewing the future through grievances about past injustice and present security worries, rather than taking a problem-solving attitude toward the Serb minority, Belgrade, and neighboring states. However, a growing, albeit small number of civil society organizations, including some women's groups,

**Continued on pg. 8**

## Banking study in process



This poster is part of the awareness raising campaign commenced by BCP

Prizren, January 16. Since October, the Business Club of Prizren (BCP) has been studying banking payment systems. Their project was made possible by a grant from FDI with support from the American people

through

USAID. According to Ymer Berisha, Project Coordinator, there is significant need for such a study because large transactions often take more than a month, instead of a couple of days, to reach their destination. The purpose of the study is to find the reason for these delays. "Is it the banks, the treasury or just bureaucratic mismanagement," Berisha said. For the study, BCP is cooperating with private

and governmental institutions that are involved in these transactions. They are also building public awareness of this so far neglected issue through TV and radio spots as well as posters. The project will terminate at the end of March. Public discussions on this issue will take place here at ATRC in March as well as at other locations. Then the study's results will be published in a report and presented in a press conference.

The project is still in its early stages, collecting data and contacting with specialists on the issue. If any of our readers have any comments, or would like to take part in the public discussion in March, they can contact ATRC for more information. ■

## ICG comments continued from pg.7

are trying to generate a more inclusive, multi-ethnic vision."

"Creation of a final status committee -- probably in the Assembly - could soften the partisanship of the first government/opposition constellation Kosovo has ever experienced. The committee should include experts from civil society, particularly from previously marginalized minorities, women and youth. It might become the Kosovo Albanians'

vehicle for producing unity around a strategy for final status. Once formed, donor funds could be solicited to equip the committee with a standing secretariat and the capacity to hire foreign experts in diplomacy and international law, and perhaps to maintain offices in New York and Brussels. This would offer a way around UN and Contact Group strictures against the PISG conducting international relations."

### Ethnic tolerance

"The PISG, political leaders and civil society need to take responsibility for and begin concerted steps toward establishing the foundations of a moral community that bridges the ethnic divide." ■

"Civil society and political networks need to be prepared to react with symbolic acts and public demonstrations when suspected ethnic attacks occur." ■

**Rr. Agim Ramadani Nr. 15**  
(formerly Ramiz Sadiku)  
2nd Floor  
Prishtina, Kosovo

Phone: +381 38 244 810  
Fax: +381 38 244 810  
Email: atrcknap@yahoo.com

### Director

**KRESHNIK BERISHA**  
keka@advocacy-center.org

### General Manager

**KIMETE KLENJA**  
kimete@advocacy-center.org

### Training Manager

**NATYRA ZHJEQI**  
natyra@advocacy-center.org

### Consultant

**NICOLE FARNSWORTH**  
nicole@advocacy-center.org

### Information and Outreach Coordinator

**OERD IMAMI**  
oerd@advocacy-center.org

### Office Administrator

**GANI ASLLANI**  
gani@advocacy-center.org

*The Foundation for Democratic Initiatives is the primary implementing partner for the Kosovo NGO Advocacy Project, which is an East-West Management Institute/USAID cooperative agreement, funded by the American people.*

## Roundtable on youth unemployment brings civil society together

December 17, Pristina. A roundtable on "Youth and Unemployment" organized by Prishtina Rea was held at Vila Lira in Germija, just outside Pristina. This roundtable was the part of a project financed by FDI with funds donated by the American people through USAID. Thirty-six local and international organizations participated in the meeting as well as government officials.

As it was described in the December 2004 issue of "The Advocate", this project was a response to the March 2004 events. The purpose of this roundtable was to discuss the impact that youth unemployment has on developments in Kosovo as well as to discuss ways to ameliorate the position of youth in Kosovar society.

The roundtable participants presented a variety of perspectives in their presentations.

The first speaker was Mr. Ken Yamashita, director of the USAID mission in Kosovo. He noted the fact that civil society and

Kosovo's institutions do not give youth enough attention.

Ahmet Jetullahu, Director of Prishtina REA, summarized the goals of the roundtable as follows:

1. Discuss solutions to sensitive issues that might drive the population towards undemocratic actions.

2. Discuss creating a network of representatives comprised of civil society, the government of Kosovo and UNMIK (KFOR-OSCE). This body should advise civil society, Kosova government and UNMIK.

Many speakers followed, including Mr. Bashkim Rrahmani, Director of the Foundation for Democratic Initiatives, who gave an overview of the Kosovo NGO Advocacy Projects activities that relate to the topic. Other speakers from government institutions focused on what their respective ministries were doing. Mr. Skender Boshtrakaj, Director of the Youth Department at the Ministry of Culture, Youth, Sports and Non Resident Issues elaborated on

issues that the department faces, such as the lack of coordination among governmental, inter-ministerial, and donor organizations regarding youth projects.

Finally, M. Winsor Lewis presented the Employment Promotion Pilot Fund and "The Prince's Trust", a British solution to a somewhat similar unemployment crisis. Following the presentations was a debate that ended with the following conclusions, presented verbatim:

- The responsibility for education should be increased and shared by all actors and stakeholders,
- Coordination should be promoted through the proper mechanisms and led by governmental bodies,- Information dissemination and negotiations regarding different project initiatives should be a common process.
- Representatives of youth and unemployed persons should be active in all processes,
- Youth should be actively involved in all societal processes. ■