Public Information Workshop: Justice Complaints Mechanisms available to citizens.

During June, as a part of the campaign: Justice and the People, ATRC has organized the second series of Public Information Workshops: Justice complaints mechanisms available to citizens in 10 municipalities of Kosovo: Mitrovica, Gjakova, Prizren, Mamushë, Peje, Prizren, Gjilan, Drenas, Gracanica and Kamenica. The workshop aimed to inform all citizens complaints mechanisms in the justice system against judges, lay judges, against prosecutors, police, and against lawyers.

In these workshops, people had the opportunity to be informed about existing complaints mechanisms in the justice system and to ask questions directly to representatives from the Campaign: Justice and the People, Kosovo Judicial Council, the Office of Disciplinary Counsel, the Regional Prosecutor, Municipal Courts, Municipal Courts misdemeanor, victims' advocates, Local Councils Community Safety, Kosovo Police, etc. Citizens during these meetings were distributed brochures by which Justice and the People campaign aims to inform citizens how to file complaints about judges, lay judges, prosecutors, police, and lawyers.

The high interest of citizens to be informed in this area was testified by the high participation in all municipalities.

Imagery from these workshops

Gjakovë, 07.06.2012
Gjilan, 26.06.2012
Kamincë, 03.07 2012
Gracanice, 04.07.2012

April - June 2011
POST-ELECTION PUBLIC DEBATE WITH MAYORS OF MUNICIPALITIES

ATRC, during May-June, in cooperation with BIRN and GAP, has organized a post-election debate with 32 mayors of 32 municipalities in Kosovo. Citizens, representatives of civil society organizations, political parties and media, participants in public debates, have had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the achievements and challenges in fulfilling the promises made by their mayors, during the recent local elections. Some of the main issues discussed with mayors were: the results achieved in the municipalities, the main steps in identifying and incorporating the needs and recommendations of the citizens in the municipal budget and mechanisms of communication and consultation with citizens.

During these debates, about 4,010 citizens have used the opportunity to discuss directly with the mayors about the problems and issues they face. The main problems raised by citizens were focused more on corruption, illegal and unemployment.

Debates organized by ATRC are supported by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung-FES.

Public debate in the municipality of Vitia

Public debate in the municipality of Kamenice

Public debate in the municipality of Novo berde

Public debate in the municipality of Lipjan
As a part of the project "Active Citizens-Accountable and Transparent Municipalities", supported by the Olof Palme International Center, ATRC has established twenty (20) informal advocacy groups in four (4) municipalities in the region of Gjilan. In each of the four (4) municipalities: Gjilan, Viti, Kamenice and Novoberde there were established by five (5) advocacy groups. The purpose of the establishment of these groups is to increase the advocacy capacity of citizens in order to initiate effective and sustainable practices between citizens and their municipalities.

During the months of May-June, ATRC has organized workshops and trainings with the representatives of advocacy groups. The training focused on designing community initiative projects, involving citizens in advocacy campaigns, the role of citizens in local governance and the mechanisms of citizen involvement in decision-making processes at the local level.

ATRC will continue to support the advocacy groups and the organization of joint activities between them and municipal officials with the aim of involving citizens in decision-making processes.

Below some pictures from the meetings held with the representatives of advocacy groups in the municipality of Gjilan.
ATRC, in partnership with UNHCR, this year has continued to monitor the process of the returnees from third countries. ATRC currently engaged four (4) monitors at Pristina Airport, which in close coordination with the Kosovo Police and the representative of UNHCR in Kosovo and Pristina Airport, interview and collect the necessary data for all cases of the return of Kosovars from third countries, whether voluntary or forced return. The data collected from ATRC will consistently be given to the UNHCR’s central office.

ABOUT ATRC

ATRC MISSION

ATRC Kosovo is an independent, non-profitable organization, which aims to increase the participation of citizens in general and in particular civil society in decision-making processes through the provision of services and active cooperation with stakeholders at home and abroad as one of the basic conditions for a developed and democratic society.

KEY PROGRAMS OF ATRC

1. The program of building capacity, which aims through training and consultancy delivery to increase the capacity of NGOs in Kosovo in the field of overall organizational development, project management, development of successful advocacy campaigns etc.

2. The program of grants management, which aims to help local non-governmental organizations through small grants mainly in advocacy campaigns at local and national level.

3. The program of Advocacy, through which ATRC aims to advocate national and local institutions for various problems that are the concern and the general public concern.

4. Information, through which ATRC aims to provide information electronically on the website, in connection with public discussions and roundtables, building coalitions, mediation and cooperative partnership. ATRC also within the component library offers 1756 different titles, such as: publications on social, political and economic issues related to Kosovo and the region, analyzes, studies, research and other important documents on the scope of non-governmental organizations in general, created by non-governmental organizations within and outside Kosovo.

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