



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MINORITY ISSUES – ECMI KOSOVO

Str. Rexhep Luci, No. 16/3 Prishtina, Kosovo, Tel. +381-(0) 38 224 161

Web: www.ecmikosovo.org

Round Table on Decentralisation and Youth – Ranilug

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On Monday 10 August the European Centre for Minority Issues Kosovo (ECMI Kosovo) organised a round table on Decentralisation and Youth in the future municipality of Ranilug/Ranillug. This round table was part of the ECMI Kosovo project on decentralisation funded by the Finnish government, for which ECMI Kosovo is organising a series of round tables in all six future municipalities. The round table was intended to provide information on the decentralisation process and encourage participants to become actively involved in the process. The meeting was attended by young people from the Ranilug/Ranillug region, Ms. Jelena Antic (local activist) and ECMI representatives. Ministry of Local Government Administration leaflets on decentralisation were distributed.

The round table was opened by Ms. Antic, who welcomed the participants and explained the aim of the meeting. After establishing that the participants had a very limited knowledge on the decentralisation process, Mr. Lars Burema, ECMI representative, provided a short presentation on decentralisation and the benefits that this process will have for the Serb community in Kosovo, and young people in particular. He explained the competencies of the new municipality and he provided the latest update on the creation of the Municipal Preparation Teams (MPTs).

The floor was then opened up to remarks from the participants. Questions were raised about the role of the parallel institutions after the elections. Mr. Burema explained that the new municipality had no relation to the parallel institutions and that decentralisation would give them the chance to show that they could improve the lives of citizens. It was also stressed that in order for the rights and interests of youth to be protected, young people need to take an active role.

The participants were then asked to consult among themselves and come up with five priorities they wanted the new municipality to address:

- A football pitch
- An internet café
- A swimming pool
- Improved roads
- Improved school infrastructure

ECMI Kosovo expressed their wish to return to talk with the participants after the MPT was established in order to assist the youth of Ranilug/Ranillug in advocating for their interest to the new municipality.

ECMI Kosovo closed the meeting and thanked all participants for their presence and input.