



**Workshop: Nomination of Replacement Serb Civil Society Members to the
Consultative Council for Communities**
17 September 2009



On Thursday 17 September, the Secretariat of the Consultative Council for Communities (CCC) and the European Centre for Minority Issues Kosovo (ECMI Kosovo) organised a workshop at the Ognjiste Restaurant in Gračanica to facilitate the nomination of two Serb representatives to the CCC. These nominees were to replace the two Serb members of the CCC who had recently resigned their positions. Present at the meeting were around 30 representatives from Serb civil society, the General Secretary of the CCC, Ms. Nafiye Gaš; ECMI Kosovo Director, Mr. Adrian Zeqiri; and the Deputy Head of the German Embassy in Kosovo, Mr. Eckart Balurock.

Mr. Zeqiri opened the session with an introduction to the CCC and its primary roles and functions. In particular, he drew attention to the Council as a mechanism for communities to influence decision making and policy implementation at all levels of central government. Ms. Gaš then spoke of the work undertaken by the CCC to date, notably in the areas of education and representation of the Montenegrin community. Ms. Gaš highlighted the significance of NGOs within this process, and the added value arising from cooperation and cohesion among community NGOs. Mr. Balurock then spoke briefly on behalf of the German Embassy in support of the workshop and the work of the CCC.

The participants noted the importance of nominating individuals with a real commitment to, and interest in, the work of the CCC. It was agreed that, through outreach and proper information campaigns, such candidates might improve the image of the CCC among the Serb community at large. Participants also raised the issue of the balance between representatives from civil society and those from political parties. Mr. Zeqiri stressed that, although a percentage of community representatives could be from political parties, this was entirely at the discretion of community representatives. Mr. Zeqiri then explained that the community could either put forward two nominees by agreement or, if this was not possible, more candidates could be proposed and it would be for the President to choose between them. It was noted that these two representatives must be from civil society organisations, as the CCC already counted two Serb members from the Assembly of Kosovo. All representatives from ECMI Kosovo and the CCC then retired, allowing community representatives to discuss their nominations in private. After a short break, four names were put forward. These were:

Bojana Gudzić
Nataša Radojević
Slaviša Antić
Stanica Komvačević

ECMI Kosovo will now support these nominees to submit their CV and a statement of interest to the Office of the President, after which President Sejdiu will select two representatives to serve on the Council for the remainder of this term.

*ECMI Kosovo is supporting the work of the Kosovo Consultative Council for Communities thanks to the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany. For further information, please visit www.ecmikosovo.org.