



EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MINORITY ISSUES – ECMI KOSOVO

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Round Table on Local Self Government in Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North

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On Wednesday 08 July the European Centre for Minority Issues Kosovo (ECMI Kosovo) organised, in cooperation with the Serb NGO ‘Center for Migration Studies’ (CIM), a round table on Local Self Government in Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North. 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 new municipalities. The round table took place in the office of CIM in Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North and was intended to promote an open and informed discussion on local self government and decentralisation. The meeting was attended by representatives of NGOs, activists and representatives of ECMI Kosovo.

The round table was opened by CIM representative, Mr. Pavle Dimitrijevic, who welcomed the participants and explained the aim of the meeting, after which ECMI Kosovo representative Mr. Lars Burema introduced himself. The floor was then opened for discussion, which was intended to touch upon the different aspects that play a role with regard to local self government in Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North. Particular attention was given to the need for the civil society sector to organise and claim a more important role in local self government. Moreover, the decentralisation process was discussed, with Mr. Burema providing an explanation on the decentralisation process as envisioned by the Kosovo government. A lively debate followed in which some of the participants rejected the Prishtinë/Pristina proposal outright, since it would require the municipality to function according to Kosovo law. Others were more cautious in their comments and argued that at the very least the community in Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North should stay aware of the decentralisation proposal and of the benefits it could offer to the community. Regardless of the differences in opinion it was agreed that round tables like this one were important to and should continue in order to facilitate an open discussion on this and other topics.

Mr. Dimitrijevic and Mr. Burema thanked all participants for their presence and input and closed the meeting.

ECMI Kosovo is providing support to the MLGA on how to effectively implement decentralization whilst including and considering the needs and recommendations of local communities. The project is funded by the Finnish Government.

For further information, please visit www.ecmikosovo.org