



**Workshops for Municipal Officials and Members of Civil Society:  
“Working Together to Improve Minority Education in Kosovo”**

12 – 18 – 19 February 2010



On 12, 18 and 19 February 2010 the European Centre for Minority Issues Kosovo (ECMI Kosovo) conducted workshops on education for minority communities in three municipalities: Prizren/Prizren, Peja/Peć and Ferizaj/Uroševac. The workshops are part of a pilot project supported by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) on *Improving Service Delivery and Minority Rights Awareness at the Municipal and Civil Society Levels*, which aims to strengthen the capacity of municipal officials and civil society actors to address challenges in

minority education in their municipalities, while identifying mechanisms for enhanced cooperation between these stakeholders.

The workshops focused on the role of civil society organisations and municipal officials in ensuring the equal and inclusive delivery of pre-university education to minority communities, especially to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, as they continue to face the greatest challenges in education. The workshops were attended by officials from Municipal Directorates of Education (MDEs) and Municipal Communities Offices (MCOs), and members of civil society organisations of the above mentioned communities. The meetings were chaired by ECMI Project Manager Kelley Thompson and ECMI Legal Expert Katherine Nobbs, who provided an overview of the involvement of municipalities in minority education through presentations on international and Kosovo minority rights and standards, the roles of municipal government and civil society in education and models of cooperation and participation in the political decision-making process.

In the course of the workshops, the participants engaged in interactive group work, which aimed to apply the approaches to cooperation presented to their work in minority education and the challenges faced by minority communities in each municipality. They were first divided between municipal officials and civil society and asked to identify their role and responsibilities for minority education, allowing comparison and discussion. The participants were then divided into combined groups and asked to identify specific ways to enhance participation and cooperation on specific challenges in education for their communities, building dialogue between participants and promoting continued cooperation.

Following these workshops, ECMI Kosovo will be producing *Guidelines for Civil Society and Municipal Government Working Together on Minority Education*, based on the information presented in the workshop and outcomes of the discussions, to be distributed shortly.

*\*ECMI Kosovo thanks the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) for its generous contributions to these workshops, through the project “Improving the Delivery of Minority Education of the Municipal and Civil Society Levels”. For further details see [www.ecmikosovo.org](http://www.ecmikosovo.org).*