



## Information Campaign – Municipal Elections in Parteš/Partesh

April – June 2010



On 20 June municipal elections were organised in the new municipality of Parteš/Partesh. According to the preliminary results, the elections were a significant success, with a turnout of around 65 percent.

Over the last few months, at the request of the Central Election Commission of Kosovo, ECMI Kosovo has provided support for an Outreach Campaign to inform the citizens of

Parteš/Partesh on their rights in these elections. This Campaign was part of ECMI Kosovo's project to *'support minority communities during and after the decentralization process'*, financed by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. This campaign had the goal of providing the citizens of the new municipality of Parteš/Partesh with all the information necessary to successfully participate in the 20 June elections.

The campaign consisted out of three tiers: first, the broadcasting of informative radio spots on local radio station 'Radio Laser'; second, the development and distribution of informative posters; and, third, the organisation of 4 voter education meetings. ECMI Kosovo also offered to organise radio debates. However, there was not sufficient interest among the different political entities.

The campaign started on 14 April and covered all the different periods before the elections including the Voter Service Period, the Confirmation and Challenging Period and the Information Period for Voters with Special Needs. For each of these periods posters were printed and radio spots were aired. Moreover in the two weeks running up to the elections general informative radio spots were aired and posters were distributed.

During these last two weeks ECMI Kosovo also organised its 4 voter education sessions in the villages of Donja Budriga/Budrikë e Poshtme, Pasjane/Pasjan and Parteš/Partesh. These meetings were of particular importance, because most Serb community members had never participated in Kosovo local elections in their current format and were unclear about both the technical procedures and their rights.

All these activities were organised in close cooperation with the Central Elections Commission of Kosovo and in coordination with the Municipal Election Commission and the Municipal Preparation Team.