



**Nomination of Community Representatives to the Consultative Council for Communities:
Introductory Meetings
Graçanicë/Gracanica, Prizren, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica**

15, 16, 19 October 2009



On 15, 16 and 19 October, the Secretariat of the Consultative Council for Communities (CCC) and the European Centre for Minority Issues Kosovo (ECMI Kosovo) organised three cross-community preparatory meetings in Graçanicë/Gracanica, Prizren, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica respectively, with the aim of introducing community representatives from civil society organisations to the upcoming nominations process of community members to the CCC.

Present at the meeting in Graçanicë/Gracanica were 22 representatives from Serb, Roma and Montenegrin civil society; the General Secretary of the CCC, Ms Nafiye Gas; ECMI Kosovo Director, Mr Adrian Zeqiri; and ECMI Kosovo

representatives, Mr Gazmen Salijevec and Ms Katherine Nobbs. Present in Prizren were 20 representatives from Turkish, Bosniak and Gorani civil society; Ms Gas; CCC members Mr Veis Serif, Mr Cerim Bajrami, and Mr Tahir Luma; and ECMI Kosovo representatives, Mr Salijevec, Ms Nobbs and Ms Zihnie Gurmani. A complete list of attendees, along with a full list of invitees, is included below.

The meetings in Gracanica and Prizren adhered to the same format. Mr Salijevec welcomed the participants to the session and outlined the agenda for the meeting. He then handed the floor to Ms Gas, who gave a general overview of the legislative and institutional framework of minority rights protection in Kosovo and the role of the CCC within it. She spoke briefly about the work undertaken by the CCC to date, notably in the areas of education and representation of the Montenegrin community. In Prizren, the members of the CCC then spoke individually about their experiences with the Council.

Building on this overview, Ms Nobbs explained the process for nomination of community representatives to the Council. She explained how the procedure will differ from last year, noting in particular the need for communities to select a community representative organization (CRO) to be accredited by the Office of the President. A list of CCC nominees will then be submitted to the OP through the accredited CROs.

Ms Nobbs then outlined the next stages in the process. First, a series of community-specific workshops will be held to select a nominating CRO from within each community. During these sessions, ECMI Kosovo will provide technical assistance on NGO registration and the process of accreditation. The selected CROs will then apply for accreditation, with technical assistance provided by ECMI Kosovo as needed. Finally, a third round of community-specific follow-on sessions will be held, during which each community will submit a list of their CCC nominees to the newly accredited CROs, which in turn will submit the list to the Office of the President for final approval.

The floor was then given over to questions from participants. Below is a summary of notable issues raised:

- Attention was drawn to alleged negative experiences with the CCC; participants questioned the institution's relevance and its ability to impact tangibly on policy development. In response, Ms Gas noted that the experiences in question were the result of non-attendance by ex-Council members, and stressed the need for real commitment among incoming members. Mr Zeqiri noted that the CCC is a developing institution and that previous experiences should not constitute a reason for disengagement, but rather an incentive for community members to participate in, and improve, the work of the Council.
- The issue of the apportionment of Council representation between communities was also raised. Mr Zeqiri explained that these figures had been drawn up in 2006, without access to accurate census data. Although these figures are now legally established, it was noted that the most effective way of bringing about change would be through a Council initiative (as evidenced by the example of the Montenegrin community).
- The issue of the balance between representatives of civil society and those of political parties was also raised. Mr Zeqiri stressed that, although a percentage of community representatives *could* be from political parties, this was at the discretion of community representatives.
- One participant noted that it would be hard to develop sufficient community cohesion to select a single CRO for accreditation. Ms Nobbs explained that the CCC Statute provides a number of options in the event that no agreement is reached, but highlighted that this would weaken the position of the community vis-a-vis the President, and emphasised that community strength would be best guaranteed through unity.
- One participant expressed concern at the unequal geographical representation among existing CCC members. Ms Nobbs responded that equitable geographical representation could only be ensured if such representation was mirrored on the list of nominees.

At the end of each session, Ms Nobbs drew attention to the fact that Council nominees need to be selected by the end of the year. In light of this time pressure, participants were encouraged to mobilise informally prior to the second round of community-specific workshops. In particular, they were encouraged to think about the form that they wished their accredited CRO to take.

With regard to the meeting in Mitrovica, attendance was extremely poor. In addition to ECMI Kosovo representatives Mr Salijevec, Ms Nobbs and Ms Azemina Culum, only one invitee was able to attend. This was in spite of a comparatively extensive list of invitees (see below).

Consequently, the meeting was reformatted as an informal information-gathering discussion. ECMI representatives explained briefly the functions and mandate of the CCC, and outlined the upcoming nominations process for Council members. The participant was then asked what they felt could be done to better engage communities in Mitrovica. They answered that, due to political constraints operating in the region, civil society representatives would be reluctant to participate in high-profile group sessions and that a better strategy might be to embark upon a more informal information disseminating campaign, in collaboration with local NGOs. This view was supported by ECMI Kosovo representative, Ms Culum, an inhabitant of Mitrovica.

ECMI Kosovo is currently in the process of reassessing its strategy for engagement with the region, so as to take account more fully of the particularities of the area. Collaboration with one or more local NGO in this area is anticipated, and more details will be made available presently.

ANNEX: List of Invitees/Participants*Gračanicë/Gracanica, 15 October 2009*

Invitees	Organization	Present
Jelena Antic	Activist from Ranilug	
Marija Antic	ECMI	Yes
Slavisa Antic	Troja	Yes
Momcilo Arlov	CCSD	
Elizabeta Bajrami	Voice of Roma Women Mitrovica	
Milena Bojkovic	Ruka Ruci	Yes
Orhan Butic	Roma Activist Gracanica	
Goran Cuetkovic	Troja	Yes
Andjelka Cup	Source	Yes
Goran Dekic	Troja	Yes
Natalija Dekic	Ruka + Ruci	Yes
Nenad Denic		Yes
Gordana Djoric	Avenija	
Brankica Dordovic	Troja	Yes
Segatin Emini	RA	Yes
Atlan Gidzic	NGO "Voice of Roma"	
Petrovic Goran	ECMI	Yes
Bojana Gudzic	CSD	Yes
Verica Ilic	Mitrovica women activist	
Zarko Joksimovic	Link Production	
Dragan Josifovic	OON Gracanica	
Snezana Karzdzic	KZZLJP	
Szana Kovacevic	Luna	Yes
Zoran Krcmarevic	Gornja Morava	
Zoran Maksimovic	Decija Radost	
Zoran Marikovic	Klokot	
Milan Milovanovic		
Fatoh Mustafa	RRES	Yes
Aleksandar Natic		Yes
Budimir Nitic	Media Centra Cagalvica	
Ivan Nikolic	CSD Gracanica	
Olivera Nikolic	Kosovska Devojka	
Vesna Ordic	Resorse Hub Mitrovica	
Afrim Osmani	BSF	Yes
Filip Pavlovic	Fractal	
Nesko Peric	Vidovdan	Yes
Natasa Radojevic	Nas Dom	Yes
Sinisa Radojevic	Nas Dom	
Milan Radulovic	CIM	
Nevenka Rikslo	Ruka Ruci	
Suzana Saliji	ICO PR	
Ristic Slavisa		Yes
Milos Simic	AS	
Zoran Stajic	Troja	Yes
Vesna Stajic	Udruzenje Zena Nas Dom	
Branislav Stojanovic	Nase Sutra	
Blagica Radovanovic	Santa Marija	
Nevenka Rikalo	Ruka+Ruci	
Mladen Vukicevic	CBM	

ECMI Kosovo's work with the Kosovo Consultative Council for Communities is supported by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs. For further information, please visit www.ecmikosovo.org.

Prizren, 16 October 2009

Invitees	Organization	Present
Camal Aidjini	Ozon	Yes
Abdi Alija	Humana Ekologija Dragash	Yes
Refki Alija	PZP	
Ferhat Asekferki	Kosova Turk Öğretmeler Dernegi	
Jeijka Azizovic	Dete Biser Drustva	Yes
Abdula Backa	Shar	
Ethem Bajmak	Kosova Türk Sanatçılar Dernegi	
Sabrije Bajra	Bosna	Yes
Cerim Bajrami	Selam	Yes
Mustafa Balje	Kosovski Avaz	
Zeynel Beksac	Kosova Turk Yazarlar Dernegi	
Taner Boynic	ICO	Yes
Zejno Brenoli	Gora-Vizija	
Levent Bush	MESK - Çok Ul. Kos. De.	
Mehmet Butuc	Yeni Donem	
Mehmet Ceman	Zaman	
Şarik Cibo	Isadamlari ve Esnaf	
Ferhat Dervis	Filizler, Kosovo Turk Aydinlar Ocagi	
Mevlida Dervis	Zybeyde hanim	
Suad Destani	Demokratska Iniciativa Gore	
Zaim Elezi	Bolja Perpektiva	Yes
Gani Elshani	Iniciativa 6	
Resma Fazlija	Edukator	Yes
Birsen Gota	Zybeyde Hanim	Yes
Arif Haliti	Bosna	Yes
Mehmet Hamza	MCO – Dragash/Dragas	Yes
Eljvir Ilijazi	Centar Civilnog Drushtva	
Ahmet Jamini	Nektar	
Nuridin Jonuz	Sharski Behar	Yes
Fejzo Kamberi	Atlantic Klub	
Sencar Karamuco	Yeni Donem	
Etem Kazaz	Rumeli tiatrosu	
Raif Kirkul	Kosova internet Gazetesi	Yes
Arif Kushi	Vatan	Yes
Tahir Luma	Dogru yol	Yes
Xhemil Luma	Esnaf	Yes
Nusret Mazrek	Alperenler Genclik Dernegi	
Nexhip Menekshe	Durmish Asllano	
Zvezdan Moravcevic	Konak	
Agim Muftiju	Çesme Kultur Ve Spor Dernegi	Yes
Samir Mujo	Relax	
Maudin Mushka	Restelica	
Naim Mushka	Lepota Shara	
Naim Mustafa	Gora	
Alev Nus	Türk Müziği Konservatoru	
Osman Osmani	Iniciativa 6	
Kujtim Paçaku	Romani Baxt	
Emilija Rexhepi	Equality	Yes
Adem Sagdani	Zaman	
Mejdin Salih	VKBIK	Yes

Veis Serifi	Goran	Yes
Gjyzele Shaljani	Foleja	
Behri Shazivari	Sofra	Yes
Tasim Shasivari	Sofra	
Admir Sola	Demokratska Iniciativa Gore	
Ramadan Taç	Alperenler Genclik Dernegi	
Gazmend Tairovci	Memljeqet	
Orhan Tosuni	Renesansa	
Shemsija Xhaferi	Zena za Zenu	

Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, 19 October 2009

Invitees	Organization	Present
Verica Ilić	NGO Zdravlje	
Blagica Radovanović	NGO Santa Maria	
Saša Gvozdić	NGO Misija Ljudi Dobre Volje	
Veljko Vučetić	NGO Spas	
Aleksandar Stojanović	NGO CCSD	
Lazar Ampovski	NGO CCSD	
Momčilo Arlov	NGO CCSD	
Tijana Mihajlović	NGO Caritas Kosovo	
Zorica Jovanović	NGO AFP Kosovo	
Vesna Golubović	NGO D&G Solutions	
Marina Bogojević	NGO Maras	
Sanja Lazarević	NGO Ojzas	
Milena Dabetić	NGO Ojzas	
Jelena Dabetić	NGO DEA - PADEM	
Andrija Mijanović	CBEI Adviser	
Olivera Milosevic	NGO Women's Business Association	
Nevenka Nedic	NGO 'Jelena Azujska'	
Elizabeta Bajrami	NGO 'Romske Zene'	
Srbijak Nebojsa	NGO 'Angel Mercy Association'	
Gordana Aleksic	NGO 'Friends of Zvecan'	
Tatjana Jaksic	IDP Informative Center	
Bojan Todorovic	NGO 'Horizonti'	
Rade Spasojevic	Uduzenje Raseljenih Kosovo	
Snezana Orlovic	Cynological society 'Sfension'	
Tatjana Jaksic	Ecology	
Nebojsa Antic	Centre for Children and Youth	
Gordana Jerotovic	All Together	
Vladica Jakovljevic	Association of the Blind	
Dragan Pejic	Trust Hope and Love	
Vojislavka Milic	Call Me	
Goran Lazic	Oaza star	
Marko Dancetovic	Castle	
Milivoje Smikic	Oscar	
Sovilc Maja	Mikrona	
Ruzica Simic	Red Cross	