

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MINORITY ISSUES –KOSOVO

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**Information Bulletin No:
Meeting of the Kosovo Communities Consultative Council Working Group on Education,
August, 14th 2009**

On Friday, 14 August 2009 the Kosovo Communities Consultative Council (CCC) Working Group on Education met for the third time. Present in the meeting were CCC members from the Serb, Gorani, Roma Ashkali and Egyptian communities, as well as members from the Office of the President, ICO and ECMI Kosovo¹. The agenda of the meeting centred on the approval of the recommendations to solve the problems of education in the languages of minority communities in Kosovo. The chair of the meeting, Kujtim Paçaku, opened the session by introducing a draft of recommendation that was compiled by the Secretariat based on the discussions of the previous meetings of the Working Group. The recommendations are specifically directed to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Kosovo (MEST)

The participants then raised a range of important points that are still to be discussed and included in the recommendations:

- The need to establish long-term structures of communication and cooperation between the MEST and the CCC, including the timely appointment of the permanent representative of the MEST to the CCC.
- Direct involvement of the community representatives throughout all phases of curriculum development of respective communities
- MEST to facilitate access to secondary and higher education for RAE community, ensure sufficient places for the registration of the young people from among this community in universities
- MEST to provide sufficient funds for supporting the implementation of the Strategy for the integration of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities
- proposal of setting deadlines to the fulfillment of the recommendations

The meeting was concluded by addressing the situation of Gorani school children in Dragash and Krushevo. Given that the beginning new school year is approaching, Mr Haljilji from the Gorani community requested that school attendance for the Gorani students is to be ensured, until a Kosovo curriculum in Serbian language is available.

In the end there was a special emphasis by Mr Paçaku, the Chair of the Working Group, that the work of the CCC on Education sector is not going to end with the finalization of the recommendations. He stressed the need to have an ongoing involvement of the Council in the education sector, especially as education has been selected as one of the priorities of the Council for the upcoming year.

The members of the meeting agreed to the approval of the recommendations by voting.

¹ ECMI Kosovo is supporting the work of the Kosovo Communities Consultative Council through funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany.