



Gjilan/Gnjilane, the 20th, October, 2008

Seminar on the participation of Youth in Local Life in Gjilan/Gnjilane

During the European Local Democracy Week, the Local Democracy Agency of Kosovo co-organized a seminar on Friday, the 17th October 2008, in Gjilan/Gnjilane. The main topic was the *Participation of Young People in Local Life*, which is promoted by the *European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life*. The meeting, supported by the Council of Europe, was organized in partnership with Gjilan/Gnjilane Municipality and the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies.

More than forty-five people were present in the council room of Gjilan/Gnjilane Municipality to listen the conference and to participate to the debates. Nana Magnadottir, head of office of the Council of Europe Secretariat Office in Kosovo, was invited. In the frame of the French Presidency of the European Union, the French Embassy of Kosovo was represented by Xavier Leroux, head of the Cooperation and Cultural Service Office. Ivana Dimitrovska, who is in charge of an ALDA program in Macedonia, was also present.



Veton Nevzati, from Gjilan/Gnjilane mayor office, opened the day with a speech. After the opening, Yann Cassaro, European Voluntary Service in LDA Kosovo, spoke about the *Charter on Participation of Young People*. A documentary on the Youth Councils made in 2006 illustrated a concrete example of the participation of young people. Then, the president of the Youth Council of Gjilan/Gnjilane and Bujar Haziri, officer of Youth in Gjilan/Gnjilane

Municipality, explained their cooperation by a debate with the public, including a member of United Nations Development Programs, members of Gjilan/Gnjilane NGOs, and Gjilan/Gnjilane student organizations. The participants concluded that the activities of the Youth Council and the cooperation with Gjilan/Gnjilane Municipalities and other European municipalities are going up.

After the lunch and a brief introduction on the cooperation between LDA Kosovo and Gjilan/Gnjilane Municipality, the volunteer of LDA Kosovo started a debate on the *Youth in Action Program*, and the possibilities existing in Kosovo to conduct European Union specific projects. It was concluded that the lake of information in Decentralized areas and moreover in rural areas was the main obstacle to build projects in Kosovo. Head-speaker of handicap people spoke also about the lake of ability for the disadvantage populations. LDA Kosovo reminded the public of its *Infopoint*, a center of documentation and information, which was created to satisfy these needs. In the afternoon, a press conference closed the day, before the mayor of Gjilan/Gnjilane Qemajl Mustafa welcomed Nanna Magnadottir and the volunteer of LDA Kosovo in his office.



This event was a part of a program on the Youth in Kosovo financed by the Directorate General of Democracy and Political Affairs of the Council of Europe, and realized by ALDA and LDA Kosovo. LDA Kosovo, which is in charge of this program, will conduct during the next months a *Youth in Action* project in Gjilan/Gnjilane on the topic “*the Participation of the Young People in Local Life*”. All the interested European partners, especially local authorities supporting their own Youth Councils, are encouraged to contact LDA Kosovo by e-mail (centre_gjilan@yahoo.fr).