



# REPORT

## LOBBY VISITS TO KOSOVO AND EU INSTITUTIONS IN PRISTINA/KOSOVO

Priština/Prishtinë, 04/07/2008



“This project was supported by the Kosovo Community Reconciliation Project, sponsored by Freedom House, with funding provided the U.S. Agency for International Development.” Implemented and organized by/Implementacija i organizacija: The Youth Dialogue Programme, ELSA/Media Pulse Lepasovic, Zenit Prizren, Konak Strpce. [www.ydprogramme.org](http://www.ydprogramme.org)

**Report – Lobby visits to institutions in Pristina.  
Friday, 4 July 2008**

In the organization of The Youth Dialogue Programme, a group of 12 participants (representatives of all national communities) from Kosovo and Serbia visited Kosovo and EU institutions in Pristina. The purpose of these visits was to familiarize the representatives of the institutions with the biggest problems that young people from minority communities are facing throughout Kosovo, and to initiate common projects and activities in order to tackle these problems.

The participants of the lobby visits had the chance to visit and speak with the representatives of the Assembly of Kosovo, Radio Television of Kosovo, EULEX Mission, Faculty of Law and students from the organization Ligo Lex Legis.

These activities are realized as part of the third and the last phase of the project „**Lobbying and Advocacy for sustainable multiethnic societies in Kosovo**“. The project is supported by Freedom House and USAID Kosovo.

**Novi Sad, 5 July 2008**



“This project was supported by the Kosovo Community Reconciliation Project, sponsored by Freedom House, with funding provided the U.S. Agency for International Development.” Implemented and organized by/Implementacija i organizacija: The Youth Dialogue Programme, ELSA/Media Pulse Leposavic, Zenit Prizren, Konak Strpce. [www.ydprogramme.org](http://www.ydprogramme.org)

### Visit to the Assembly of Kosovo.

The first institution that the participants visited was the Assembly of Kosovo. They had a meeting with the representative of the Serbian group in the Assembly of Kosovo Mr Bojan Stojanovic (Serbian Liberal Party). The main topic of this conversation was the status and protection of minority communities in Kosovo. In addition, Mr Stojanovic presented the Assembly to the group, the principles of division of seats in Assembly to minority representatives, and process of adoption of laws. Through the dialogue, the participants and Mr Stojanovic touched upon some of the core problems that minority communities in Kosovo are dealing with. It was stated that one of the biggest problems is non-implementation of laws, namely, non-existence of mechanisms for the protection in implementation of laws.

Furthermore, the conversation was conducted in order to find common ground for cooperation and support for activities of young representatives of minority communities which would strengthen the position of minority communities in Kosovo. There were also talks about concrete problems, such as obstacles for the restitution of usurped real state, unemployment, economic instability, position of youth, and removal of main barriers among young Serbs and Albanians, so that the situation in these areas could be improved.

At the end, a project about concrete cooperation was suggested by one of the participants, which would be supported by the Assembly of Kosovo. The project is about forming the team of lawyers from the Serbian community, who would give occasional legal help to representatives of minority communities, because of their very weak legal position.

### Visit to Radio Television of Kosovo – RTK

The second institution which was visited is **Radio Television of Kosovo**. The purpose of this visit was to directly discuss the means of reporting when it comes to members of minority communities. The conversation was conducted with Mr Mentor Sala – Editor in chief, Lule Pagarush – Coordinator for production, representatives of Serbian and Turkish redaction, and journalists of RTK information redaction.

During this meeting the talks were held on the methods of reporting about minority communities, plans for realization and activation of second channel, RTK2, which would be in Serbian and other languages of minority communities, and which would have national frequency throughout the territory of Kosovo.



“This project was supported by the Kosovo Community Reconciliation Project, sponsored by Freedom House, with funding provided the U.S. Agency for International Development.” Implemented and organized by/Implementacija i organizacija: The Youth Dialogue Programme, ELSA/Media Pulse Leposavic, Zenit Prizren, Konak Strpce. [www.ydprogramme.org](http://www.ydprogramme.org)



During these visits the participants had the chance to discuss and share information and experiences of other televisions in the region, specifically about Radio Television of Vojvodina, which also has a television program in the languages of minority communities that live in Vojvodina. During these talks, an initiative was put forward to organize a meeting of journalists from RTK and RTV, redactions that edit programs in minorities' languages with the aim to exchange the experiences in this area.



It was also agreed with the editorial staff of RTK to actively pursue initiatives in the following period, which would be realized by young people, and which would have as an aim to revive multiethnic cooperation in the territory of Kosovo and Serbia, so that a broader civil community be informed about positive initiatives among youth. After the discussion, the editorial staff and journalist took the participants of the lobby group for a tour of their television premises.



“This project was supported by the Kosovo Community Reconciliation Project, sponsored by Freedom House, with funding provided the U.S. Agency for International Development.” Implemented and organized by/Implementacija i organizacija: The Youth Dialogue Programme, ELSA/Media Pulse Leposavic, Zenit Prizren, Konak Strpce. [www.ydprogramme.org](http://www.ydprogramme.org)

### Visit to EULEX mission in Pristina

The third visit was to EULEX mission in Pristina. The purpose of this visit was to get acquainted with the functions of EULEX mission in Kosovo.



The conversation was conducted with the representatives of EULEX, Mr Dominique Orsini - Chief Policy Advisor of European Union Planning Team for Kosovo (EUPIT), Mr Victor Reuter, Head of Press and Public Information Office, and Mrs Tanja Viikki.



Along with the acknowledgment that EULEX mission started very recently, the main topic of conversation was about their program, and the purpose of their mission in Kosovo. The EULEX



“This project was supported by the Kosovo Community Reconciliation Project, sponsored by Freedom House, with funding provided the U.S. Agency for International Development.” Implemented and organized by/Implementacija i organizacija: The Youth Dialogue Programme, ELSA/Media Pulse Leposavic, Zenit Prizren, Konak Strpce. [www.ydprogramme.org](http://www.ydprogramme.org)

representatives explained the main objectives of their work in Kosovo. In the beginning, most of the questions of the participants were directed at the legal ground of the mission.

The representatives of EULEX were informed about concrete problems that minority communities are facing with on a daily basis. During the conversation, the participants of the lobby visit and the representatives of EULEX also agreed to cooperate towards the common goals of improving the overall situation in Kosovo.



At the end, the conclusion was that, in order to normalize and improve the situation in Kosovo, one of the most important things is to establish and implement the principle of rule of law, and making legislative institutions neutral and fair towards all communities living in Kosovo.

### Visit to Law Faculty

The fourth visit was to the Law Faculty of University of Pristina. On that occasion, the law students met with the NGO Ligo Lex Legis. During this visit, the talks included the means and modalities of common activities in order to promote multiethnic cooperation. The meeting was also attended by the representatives of the Youth center, which is located at the Law Faculty, and which offered their logistic and technical support for our activities.

At the end of this visit, the **“Agreement of cooperation between the organizations The Youth Dialogue Programme and Ligo Lex Legis”** was signed. This Agreement enables an easier and more intensive cooperation among students of law faculties in Serbia and Kosovo, because these two organizations would be working together on this initiative in the period to come. This initiative would also be used as an alternative channel of communication between students, due to the absence of official cooperation between the managements of law faculties in Kosovo and Serbia.



“This project was supported by the Kosovo Community Reconciliation Project, sponsored by Freedom House, with funding provided the U.S. Agency for International Development.” Implemented and organized by/Implementacija i organizacija: The Youth Dialogue Programme, ELSA/Media Pulse Leposavic, Zenit Prizren, Konak Strpce. [www.ydprogramme.org](http://www.ydprogramme.org)