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New funding opportunities, news, events, trainings, etc

can be found on
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ATRC Awards Prizes to Two Journalists for Covering Domestic Violence

The Infopress journalist Antigona Uka was awarded for the best published story, and the Radio Kosova journalist Hyrë Tejeci for the best aired story for covering the topic of gender equality and domestic violence. The prizes, awarded by Advocacy Training and Resource Center (ATRC) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP), were announced at an award ceremony held at ATRC on December 12, aiming to publicly recognize the contributions of journalists who through their stories tackle violence against women/domestic violence.

"These awards are given knowing the financial situation in media, knowing that journalists don't always get the salaries they deserve. We want to support journalists in covering these issues of interest for Kosovo people, issues sometimes forgotten", Frode Muring, UNDP resident representative, said at the ceremony.

Eleven journalists through 13 stories participated on the competition for the best

journalistic story on gender equality, violence against women and domestic violence, published or broadcasted in Kosovo media during the period of October 7

and December 7, 2007.

Thirteen municipal gender officers and 11 journalists received certificates at the ceremony by Rreze Duli, ATRC director, for having successfully participated in trainings provided by ATRC in October and November on the topic of gender equality, violence against women and domestic violence. The two training workshops covered components of human rights, women rights, gender equality, violence against women (VAW), current legislation against VAW in Kosovo, etc. They aimed to raise awareness of journalists and their responsibility in



Municipal gender officers and journalists at the certificates and awards ceremony on December 12

promoting non-stereotyped images of women and men and train gender municipal officers on lobbying, advocacy, fundraising, and liaising with other actors on the municipal level to improve coordination with women's NGOs and become their voice.

The initiative was implemented by ATRC and Women's Safety and Security Initiative, supported by UNDP.

For more information, contact info@advocacy-center.org

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ATRC Trains Municipal Officials and NGOs on Negotiations

ATRC trainers conducted seven training workshops on negotiations in Prishtina, Gjilan, Peja, Prizren, Mitrovica, Gjakova and Ferizaj regions during the period of September - December 2007. "Multilevel Social Conflict Resolution - negotiations and networking" training workshops, attended by municipal officials

and NGOs, merged these two sectors into one group in every Kosovo region. The initiative aimed to assist local government and civil society in fostering and strengthening their relationships in order to foresee and better respond to the needs of their communities through conflict resolution/negotiations tools and techniques. The workshops included sessions on the preparation and results of negotiations, asymmetric negotiations, mediation, delegation, etc.

ATRC believes that building and strengthening the relationships between these two sectors would also act as a supportive base for other projects linked to democracy and peace preservation in Kosovo. The seven training workshops on negotiations followed fourteen such workshops to local government and NGO representatives during the first half of 2007 which focused on understanding and working with conflict, communication, social conflict, change and democracy, development cooperation, etc.

The initiative was supported by Olof Palme International Center, etc.



A training session on negotiations on November 7

The results of Association of Blind and Partially Sighted People of Kosovo

Two Political Parties Present Electoral Programs on Braille Language to Provide Sufficient Information for Blind People

The Association of Blind and Partially Sighted People of Kosovo advocated during October - No

vember to obtain full access of people with disabilities, in particular blind people, in the election process.

The Association undertook several initiatives to inform the community of blind and partially sighted people about the elections and voting procedures, paying particular attention of involving the Braille language on platforms and documents related to general and local elections, which were held on November 17.

As a result of meetings with representatives of political parties running on these elections, the Reformatory Party "Ora" and the Alliance for Future of Kosovo "AAK" presented their political platforms and programs on the

Braille language.

Aiming to ensure sufficient information for blind people about the election process and political parties' programs, in October and November the Association organized a training workshop for people with disabilities about the voting process, seven

roundtable discussions and radio debates in seven Kosovo regions participated by representatives of secretariat of Central Election Commission, political parties, NGOs and disabled persons.

"Our initiative served to raise awareness among disabled persons of Kosovo about the importance of casting their votes in this democratic process, despite the lack of proper conditions for voting without assistance," Bujar Kadriu, Director of the Association of Blind and Partially Sighted People of Kosovo, stated.

The initiative was part of the project "My Right to Vote" supported by ATRC and IREX Kosovo Civil Society Program.

For more information, visit www.shoqataeteverbervee-kosoves.org



"Independent Voting" for blind people