

Press Release

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Council of Europe announces first winners of the Dosta! Campaign' "Schools and Civil Society Awards"

Strasbourg, 16.10.2007- Five schools and three NGOs from the Western Balkans became winners of the Council of Europe "Schools and Civil Society Awards" today for their work to promote intercultural dialogue and better understanding of Roma culture.

The prizes have been awarded as part of a joint Council of Europe and European Commission awareness raising campaign: "DOSTA! Go Beyond prejudice, discover the Roma".

Launched in April 2007, the competition was open to schools and NGOs from the Dosta! campaign participating countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the Republic of Serbia, and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia".

The winners of the 2007 Schools and Civil Society Awards are:

Civil Society Award

1st Prize (a diploma and 3,000 euros): Albanian Young Women Christian Association (Albania)

2nd Prize (a diploma and 2,500 euros): Roma Community Centre DROM ("the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia")

3rd Prize (a diploma and 1,500 euros): NGO ALFA (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Schools Award

The five winning projects in this category received a diploma and 1,500 Euros each.

"Vocational high school", Maglaj (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

"Technical school for mechanical engineering and transportation", Kragujevac (Serbia)

"Elementary School 21 March", Dobož (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

"School for Elementary Education of Adults", Sombor (Serbia)

"Stručna škola Filip Kljajić", Niš (Serbia)

The Dosta! campaign "Schools and Civil Society Awards" recognises creative and innovative initiatives of schools and NGOs in the field of intercultural education, mutual understanding, tolerance and valorisation of Roma culture and history, to break down deep-rooted stereotypes and prejudices towards Roma.

For more information: www.dosta.org

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