

„Achievements and challenges of Municipality of Gracanica“ –

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Moderator: I want to say Good afternoon to all. Thank you for coming on this heat to attend his debate. Today debate organize production NEW PRESS, with support of Ministry for local self-government of Kosovo. The topic of this debate is “Achievement and challenges of Municipality of Gracanica”. About achievements, non-achievements, challenges which are expecting us, today will talk: Mr. Bojan Stojanovic, the mayor of Gracanica, Mr. Besnik Osmani, secretary general in Ministry for local self-government of Kosovo, Mr. Gazmend Salijevec, representative of European Centre for Minority Issues, and Mr. Nenand Rikalo, representative of Kosovo Strategic Action Network, the network which gathers 85 non-government organizations, Serbian prior. We will start from the authority, respectively from the mayor of Gracanica. Mr. Stojanovic, what are achievements of Municipality of Gracanica? We can see that infrastructure is improved, what else can you tell us? What are challenges, what else is waiting for us? Here you are.

Bojan Stojanović: I want to use this opportunity to greet all of you together, to thank you for organization of this debate, to thank and greet all panelists who will assist me to tell one better story, that something what I don't see as challenge they can say, and if I don't see something as result they can say and, of course, to register all lacks, because the whole story is think out to create visible and tangible and to materialize prosperity of citizens. I want to greet all present, to greet present representatives of media, representatives of KFOR, EULEX, the Embassies and other institution. I know that is really hard to talk about this topic. First to understand, Municipality of Gracanica didn't arise by decentralization process but by process of territorial reorganization of local level of authorities, it is one of new four municipalities and with fifth Novo Brdo, that also exist, but it isn't territorial reorganized.

Process of decentralization is regarding all citizens of Kosovo, all municipalities in Kosovo and represents indisputable fact that in the whole this period we present story like that decentralization is concern and brings prosperity only for Kosovo Serbs, what is not true at all. It is process which last and which is besides especial authorities for Gracanica and Strpce on hospital and cultural religion inheritance gives completely the same rights to Decane, Djakovica as well as Gracanica, Novo Brdo, Ranilug and other municipalities. The process of forming new municipalities itself was the biggest challenge in the whole story, because you know political constellation of power, you know how many were those who were against, you know which structures are there, you know what kind of political aspirations are there in the territory of middle Kosovo, i.e. municipality of Gracanica. And in one that kind of stories I think that what is managed to do, what we managed to do all together because nobody can do nothing itself, we can simply say actually I can say that it couldn't be done more. I don't want to talk a lot and I think that through interactive dialogue with media and present people we

can find out what is real essence and core. If you take in consideration that two and a half year ago you didn't have even a pen, nor a budget, nor an office to sit, not a chair, and that for two and a half year you do what employees in Municipality of Gracanica did, that management together with Government, with Ministry for local self-government from which we had a permanent support, with Government itself, with Prime Minister cabinet, with representatives of International community and, of course, I certainly don't want to forget the citizens because in that kind of story the citizens played astonish big role, because they had wisdom, bravery, patience and understanding to wait and see what is that what brings the processes. Why was the decentralization a challenge many will understand on September 12th of this year, when the Constitution of Kosovo will be changed, when it will be annul controlled independence of Kosovo, the process on which the citizens of Gracanica can't have an influence. What would be happen if the municipality wasn't formed? I responsibly claim that that process would be permanently gone as missed chance and it would never happen the forming of new municipalities, so everybody who supported this kind of process have big role and on behalf of all citizens of Municipality of Gracanica I thank them, because on the end, tomorrow, when I would be a mayor I will be a regular citizen of Municipality of Gracanica. It is visible what is done and it is about physical and socio-economic infrastructure, it is about transfer pf authorities what is not a little or naïve thing at all. That can't be seen on the first view; it should be transfer cadastral registers, registers of births, deaths, marriages, to form a system of local administration and management and system of public services of citizens. Municipality of Gracanica in that sphere achieves enviable results in municipality that mean that you can get a document right now or you can never get a document because we are not authorized. That means there are no waiting, there are no lines, we have an office for business registration, we did regulation lines, we established where globally can be built, which is the zone, in which part of Municipality of Gracanica. We worked actively on serious strategic for development of Municipality of Gracanica, we did green agenda and we are the only municipality in Kosovo which has that which means that we think about environment protection issues. It is easier to allege what we didn't do, and that is a very little, that is transfer of some authorities i.e. transfer of data base for civil state of register and issuing IDs, driving licenses from Kosovo Police Service side, actually MIA Kosovo, that is not completed, actually that process still last. We are in lack for 30 Police Officers relating to security issues in Municipality of Gracanica. In Municipality of Gracanica people start to live in one urban environment, it is created a positive energy and that shouldn't be disputable. What the fact is that everything that Municipality of Gracanica did, did it with action plan which was public and transparently presented, which was adopt in Municipal Assembly of Gracanica and which approximately came to the last page. What is now on going as process for future period it is to do survey from door to door from the 15th of July, five and a half thousand households, over 850 businesses, till the 1st of September, when it has to be finished the process, when will be published one new document "Strategic plan for Municipality of Gracanica, successes, challenges and plan for further development", which will conclude next triennial period, because we want to ask citizens what they need. I think that it can't be more transparent because sessions of

Municipality of Gracanica are open, we have two websites, we have monitor of Municipality of Gracanica, we have written bulletin, they are even done the bases for placing television in centre of Gracanica in dimensions of 2x3 meters for presentation everything what Municipality of Gracanica does and what will do in the next period. I don't want to take the time to speakers, I want to give a word to my speakers and space to set forth how they see the Municipality of Gracanica and, of course, to all of you present here to show what you see as lack and to get an answer how to resolve that problem. Thank you.

Moderator: Mr. Osmani, in Ministry for local self-government you probably accurately follow what is happening in municipalities in Kosovo, not only in Municipality of Gracanica. You will now tell us what is achieved and what is not achieved in Municipality of Gracanica and you will also tell us is it finished the process of transferring authorities from central level of authorities on municipalities according to process of decentralization. What else should be done, why is waiting and where are the biggest obstacles in that what is not done?

Besnik Osmani: Thank you for an invitation. First, I want to greet panelists and all journalists as well as all present here. I will talk in Albanian because that is how I express the best and to avoid obscurities.

Moderator: I apologize for interrupting you; I forget to say that there is translation in Serbian, Albanian and English language, so it has no problem. Here you are.

Besnik Osmani: President of Municipalities, in short lines introduce a few things which we are facing constantly in last five years. When we started with the process of decentralization, many asked: why this process is now and which are benefits that we will have from that process. Of course, as well as in other places where is going on the process of decentralization, the final goal was to drop the level of central authorities on citizens, on local character and that also citizens get as much as better service in short time of period as well as that responsibility be in local level. In Kosovo, what isn't some novelty, the decentralization had a goal to address that besides Albanians, there are other communities in Kosovo and that they have to make their own decisions which are regarding themselves, their families and the decisions which will provide them better life. If we compare what we achieved today with the beginning of process, that it would be very little what is not done. If we talk today about the Municipality of Gracanica, the achievements are much bigger, from the election process till the involvement of citizens in those processes of making decisions, through mechanisms which construct new municipality. The percentage of citizens who participate in process of making decisions is very high concerning the other municipalities. We can talk about three positive sides: first, management of municipality is very open for discussion about all major problems, together with citizens; second, citizens are very interested to bring problems which ail them; and third thing is that Municipality of Gracanica achieved that in this short time of existing to form structures and capacities of local legislation but also administrative capacities for managing competences of responsibilities which are on the level of municipality. If we look from today, what is that what is waiting for them, what are the

challenges, and it sure that there are a lot, but some of them are identical with other municipalities, the main challenge they are facing, is unemployment. That is an element which avoid further development and it is absolutely the biggest challenge. Also, there are funds which are insufficient to advance administrative structure on higher level, not only in Gracanica but also in other places. To advance economic development, should also give more means and increase public funds and funds for development of municipalities. There are also other challenges which we are able to agree with other institutions in the process of decentralization. It is very important if all responsibilities are overtaken and transferred on local level. Law very clear defined that regarding that aspect about what I was talking i.e. which are responsibilities of local authorities and how is done the division between central and local authorities. When we look from science point of view, it is as I previously said, but if we use practical terminology we can say that other municipalities also achieved a lot but that Municipality of Gracanica is stronger than four municipalities formed in region of Pomoravlje. It is not yet achieved that all money come in municipality and that the municipality itself dispose of it because we don't have technical possibilities for that. For example, if someone is punished by Police, that money should be paid in Municipality of Gracanica. Also, we haven't achieved to build infrastructure in sense of metropolis because it is in urban system as well as Pristina, Kosovo Polje and Obilic, with one high dynamic of economic development. There is a big need for inter-municipality cooperation in order to create stable concept of urban as well as economic development between municipalities. Also, there should be build an infrastructure for other components which are responsibility of municipalities. I gave priority to challenges and I am convinced that citizens as well as the mayor want to know what are expecting them in the future and that they want to deal with appurtenances which belong to them by law. At the end, I want to say that we do periodical reports for results of municipalities. For the first time, in 2011, in report are also included new formed municipalities. I have those reports here with me but I wouldn't bother you with that, I only want to say that these reports say that Municipality of Gracanica according to capacities is not far from those which are from earlier and which have longer experience. On the contrary, very successively is facing with all problems, equally as other. Thank you.

Moderator: Gazmend, you are in European Centre for Minority Issues. We know that everything about state and respect of minority rights on the central level is perfectly good and what is going on. Yesterday, we had a real example, I will make a little digression; at the meeting of Mrs. President and Mr. Gordon again there wasn't translation on Serbian language. What is attitude of your organization and your personal attitude about state of minority in Municipality of Gracanica and on what kind of relationship you are encounter in Municipality of Gracanica?

Gazmen Saljijević: Respected gentry's journalists, respected panelists and representatives of international Embassies. Thank you for given opportunity to talk today about challenges, achievements and some things concerning to Roma community especially. I only have to say that European Centre for Minority Issues on early beginning when was formed municipal team that worked on forming Municipality of

Gracanica, that we as non-government organization full assist to develop that team and I have to say that after that, when the Municipality of Gracanica was formed, we had full support with representatives of municipality as well as with mayor itself, who is present here. Regarding state of communities, respectively minorities in Municipality of Gracanica, we know that besides majority Serbian community, in Gracanica also live Albanians, Roma people and one small number of Gorani. I can say that from perspective of citizens who live and who professionally deal with community issues, that if we compare state in which minority communities lived in their streets, thanks to infrastructural investments, standard of life is improved, therefore, regarding that I can send words of thank to municipal authorities. Present problem is sewage system, not only in some parts of Gracanica but also in other places and that is maybe one of priority proposals, respectively suggestion to municipal institutions on which they should start to work. And one of the problems we are facing, not only we as citizens of Gracanica but also people of village Badovac and Susica, is lack of drinking water. I can't say that is only problem of Roma people that is problem of all citizens who live in Municipality of Gracanica. Generally, we are satisfied with state in which we are now, since there are many challenges. I hope so better cooperation, since some 10% of people who live on territory of Municipality of Gracanica are represented as Roma people, so in some consequent time we would have Roma language as official language. The whole process is durable and it is normal to have challenges. We believe and hope so that we are on agenda of municipality for resolving those problems, that are problem we are facing and municipality is probably aware of that. I believe that slowly we will resolve that problems. Once again I will repeat that we are very satisfied with infrastructure, because there is a lot of work on that, roads in Roma mahala are asphalted, now is opened that office; we are hoping that that office will take care more not only about Roma people but also about other communities: Albanian, Gorani and other who live in Municipality of Gracanica. We, as organization, are ready to offer our expertise to do development plan of that office with the Ministry, to come here again in 2-3 years and say what our achievements are. For the moment, we are very satisfied. Thank you.

Moderator: Thank you, I am glad you say that, maybe the Municipality of Gracanica could be an example to other municipalities, as well as to central Government. Mr. Rikalo, you represent 85 Serbian non-government organizations which are networked in one network and how we know you are very active. Can you tell us what kind of relationship has authorities, respectively representatives of Municipality of Gracanica with civil sector, how much the authority is aware of need for cooperation with civil sector and how much is the civil sector on the other side constructive in the whole story, in sense that is not only empty critic without concrete proposal and contribution.

Nenad Rikalo: Thank you for invite me on this debate. I would like to greet the panelists, journalists, representatives of the Embassies. Thank you for this question, this an excellent question. Relationship of municipal authorities according to civil society is something what for the difference of other environments can be characterized as very good. Process of decentralization generally, which is happened here, has many

challenges and problems, however, Municipality of Gracanica is one good example, and maybe the best example, because everything what is functioning here in many things, don't functioning in other municipalities from many reasons. First reason is that Municipality of Gracanica itself based on resources which has it is extremely reach environment and those resources are used on the best possible way in this period of two and a half year. We don't need to have an illusion that for two and a half year for some things we were physical limited, simply because of the time limit, you can't accomplish all at once, respectively we need some time.

Besides those natural resources and some social resources which we have, the management itself which is elected in 2009 if I am not wrong, took over one very proactive approach to problem solving, it is not waiting for some bad resolutions or catastrophic resolutions and than to take some measures but what citizens and civil society see, that proactive approach in management of municipality is something that brought to the remarkably good results which today we can present here. Everybody is talking about infrastructure, the infrastructure is something visible, like road, river, lightening, however, there are other things which are not so visible and they are worth to be mentioned. I think that Municipality of Gracanica became an example of good relationships between people, first of all between different communities because a few years ago there were tensions, however those relationships are today much more relaxed and I think that people from Pristina more look on Gracanica as some treath or they look it in much lesser measure as treath. Cultural life, sport life, social life of young people is much better that it used to be. That means, there are many manifestations, events, centres where that life is going on today. If you ask me is it enough, its not enough, it means there is need more but today is much better. The relationship of municipality according to civil society itself, it is really as I previously said that is proactive in problem solving, I think that today it is very open, I think that today we can go in municipality and get everything we need. And here actually, Mr. mayor mentioned one strategic document which is called the green agenda and Municipality of Gracanica is the only municipality where citizens and civil society have submitted the request that one issue and one topic should be arranged on one strategic way. We made the whole process, we submitted a proposal to Municipal Assembly and the Assembly adopted the same as official strategic. And there start some problems, not regarding civil society but municipalities. There start problems for municipalities on local level, the Government on the central level. Actually, I started to talk about that example of environment protection issues. Municipality, by law of local self-government received clear authority to deal with that issue, however, other laws that qualify that, literally tied hands to municipality. You would believe that law of environment protection gives only three authorized services, to do inspection supervision, to make action plan but there is no authority to carried it out and the third authority is to inform public and nothing more. And law of finicing local self-government didn't give any possibility to finance environment protection from local resources. Neither from the local level, nor from the central level come means in municipality budget. Practically, the municipality got legal obligation and on the other side it has tied hands to do anything. I believe that is not only an issue of environment protection that is facing with this problem. I think that mayor and representative of

Ministry for local self-government can mention much more issues where the process of decentralization cannot and should be improved. Don't look for something what cannot be find in law but simply notice and implement laws which are bring today.

Moderator: We heard representatives of civil sector and representatives of authorities as well, what they are saying about achievements and challenges of Municipality of Gracanica. Here you are. You can start with questions.

Voice of America: Question for mayor, and can also be a question for everybody who want to answer. Can the Municipality of Gracanica and all other municipalities south of Ibar be an example to people on north Kosovo?

Bojan Stojanović: I think that those things shouldn't connect one with another and as an example in specific segments certainly can be. For its own interests you have to fight alone, since you cannot always expect that someone else will give you something. You have to know what you want, and not always to hide behind something you don't want. I think that there are some specificity, I only as responsible man, no matter does someone wants to hear this story or not, have a right to say, because specificity of life of people in Leposavic, Zubin Potok, Lesak and in North Mitrovica regarding the environment where is the Municipality of Gracanica, as municipality which has capacities in many areas, and to don't talk about Klokot, Ranilug or Partez which are isolated environments, without own capacities and simply didn't have many choices, is different. I think that process on north must be resolved on one peacefull way. Through one peacefull, stable and serious dialogue where it would be fair recording which are the sides that are involved in that process and I think that process of decentralization should bring prosperity to all and that with that process they get more than they had till the moment when they entered in some process. Twelve years of pushing things under the carpet wont resolve neither an example of Municipality of Gracanica, nor Klokot, nor Partez but one serious dialogue without systematic resolution of all sides. You see, they say they have rights on that, but technically they have right relating to story on north. We are ready, here is for example, the office for North Mitrovica which is opened, on Friday will be here in Municipality of Gracanica and we will try to assist that people regarding to technical issues. But behind that is hiding a big political story which we cannot resolve in municipalities which are new formed on central level of Kosovo and in Pomoravlje.

Moderator: Thank you very much, does anyone else would like to answer? No. All right, we are going on. Are there questions?

Milić Vladimir: Question for mayor. Mr. mayor, how you look on appearance of wild building, are you facing with that problems in your municipality and what measures are you taking in order to resolve that problem?

Bojan Stojanović: On problem of wild building I look as virulent disease and I think that all of them who followed the work of Municipality of Gracanica know that is the fact and not only rhetorical phrase. One more of areas where our hands are tied is wild building. I talk all the time about that and now when law of building is adopted in Kosovo

Assembly, I personally and Municipality of Gracanica were against that because I consider that that area should be arranged through one law which will consist three sets, building, legalization and wild building. I ask that wild building should be by law characterised as crime what is practice in countries in region and in Croatia and I think even in Macedonia. Inspection bodies have no any authority and to don't talk about how jurisdiction work since you can punish someone up to a 100 euro, and what is a 100 euro for someone who build an object that worth a few thousands or couple of millions, to refer to the court, to go to the court and than go in forgetting. The process last, everything what is wild building in Municipality of Gracanica, everyhting have records, everything have clear orders for cancelation of building and that wont be possible to cancel in process of legalization and I use this opportunity to send words to everybody who build wild, that doesn't mean that the fact that they don't respect law the object will tay as it is. The things that are done before the Municipality of Gracanica was fomed could be legalized, there were building objects which are very urban and I think that nobody had intention to demolish, and I think that someone cannot do that. I think that should be legalize that law, I have a promise from central level of authorities that will pass under criminal law, I think that would real thing. From the other side, there is not synchronisation between water supply, KEK and municipality. Many times I mentioned that they can't be link to the water supply system, on electric power if they don't have confirmation of municipal authorities. Practically, on the field we are faced with big problems. We wont give up, we work our job. We have a few hundreds reports relating to demolishing and we are waiting on court implementation. Everything else besides this is one void story which is not in accordance with the truth.

Neđeljko Zejak: I believe that you agree with me, if we conclude this moment this your appeal before your last statement, and I think on statement of mayor that in the territory of Municipality of Gracanica everything blooming. Municipality of Gracanica has completely all authorities, all authorities are transferred on municipality, has an inspection, has police, has court, has control in education, health, etc. I would only ask you next: I start with those what happened, before, about and after Vidovdan, when everyhting with Serbian marks were removing, trample, and even children were rocked. Question for mayor: Do you shy of September 12th, of annulment of supervised independence? And, question for Mr. Rikalo: Very interesting statement on something what is calling environment protection, respectively ecology. From your angle, how you look on use of language and alphabet on territory of new formed Municipality of Gracanica, respectively looking from that angle on the territory of central Kosovo, i.e. on territory south of Ibar?

Bojan Stojanović: Well, of course, I was very revolt for that what happened and like is known I gave statement for media, I think that is a tragedy and it is tragic that what happened. We didn't have time to talk about everything, that's why I wanted to make interactive dialogue and I think that what is done till now it is absolutely not enough. I agree with all speakers who were talking here in panel and with Mr. Gazmend, I know that not only communities but also there are Serbs who don't have how to overfeed themselves, with hunger wait every morning relating to survival issue and to don't talk

about security issue. We will do the best to fix that. I know that cooperation with civil sector is not on enviable level, I know we can do big shift forward, and I agree that absolutely is not enough this what we work, neither with youth, nor with culture, and every day work more and more. Tomorrow starts building theatre but the municipality with its sixty seven employees can't lobby that story itself; there are need capacities, to advert, to participate through different sight of involvement concerning all of us. What happened on Vidovdan is a warning to everybody who deals with serious story that devil never sleeps, and that is a horrible story. After that, we had even more horrible story in Talinovac, then we come to the ethnic motivation or no motivation, there are always doubts because you always have NN person, who has no nationality. Why are not brought in front of the face of justice, all those people who did all these what happened, because it is about families and about lives who are endanger. If you have less Serbs not safe, or in inverse process, there are vexation in Gracanica, it is not safe even the one in Klokot. Attack on children in the middle of day on one key traffic road where there is video surveillance, there cameras with presence of two Kosovo Police Service patrols, without recording, the attack with Molotov cocktails on children!? Horrible! Is it direct on someone? No, it isn't. It is direct to assist government and international community to identify problem, to face with that. It is irresponsible to be a victim in twenty first century just because you think different about specific things, that you celebrate different certain things, that you think different, that you behave different. They say it is 11:55 h, and I think it is 00:05 h, we got late a lot about many things, of course, there are processes on which we can influence and on which we can't. We will always advert on all problems we have and I am the first who adverted and wanted to thank Ministry and Government for their assistance where they could because there were large challenges. There are many collisions in law, many processes which are the victims of political activity because here is everything a politic. Void of practical resolution for any issue, we catch for politics and then we are all busy, and me and minister for local self-government and Prime Minister and someone in Government but that doesn't mean that we shouldn't seriously deal with this story. I wish everybody to advert that it would be damage if Municipality of Gracanica with this kind of ethnic structure, won't be developed, modern, one of more developed municipality in this region in a hundred or two hundred years, because I think that the effort which we all made would be useless if we don't success and we shouldn't let fog but we have to say clearly that tendency which say that this will finish it isn't some the most positive story for Kosovo Serbs. I say this only to assist every one of you, to deal seriously with this issue, to advert international community to take responsibility regarding to state and position of Serbian people on territory of Kosovo. However, if I am not the optimist I surely would do this job and I wouldn't participate in these processes.

Nenad Rikalo: An example of green agenda and environment protection is only an example which we should present, how seemingly not so much important thing can be a serious problem in functioning of municipality. We are already witnesses that today we are in one process, it is not important that September when official will be end of supervised independence of Kosovo, and we, people who live here already feel that new phase which appeared in Kosovo, the phase which simply says that Kosovo

institutions are completely, i.e. that have complete authority on everything that is going on here. Minister of Police, Mr. Bajram Redzepi, in his statement clearly said that neither OSCE, nor EULEX have no right to interfere and that Kosovo authorities have that executive power, that no one has right to tell them what should they work and that he wouldn't start any procedure against his police officers who performed institutional repression toward Serbian people during Vidovdan events. And it is, that should be named with real name, what was doing for Vidovdan is institutional repression of Kosovo Police, Police didn't have rights, it is violation of Constitution, the Law on which is called and which is obliged to implement. Here is, today, the topic the Municipality of Gracanica and it is not possible to look on Municipality of Gracanica above context of people lives. On Vidovdan were present citizens who live on territory of Municipality of Gracanica, they are victims of that incident which happened in the bus, and that is one total situation in which Serbian community is in Kosovo, and we really should be afraid of everything what is waiting for us. If now, at the beginning, in initial stage when Kosovo institutions took over complete responsibility and if they behave like that now, what will be for a few years, and your statement that in Municipality of Gracanica everything is blooming and that literally is flowing honey and milk, is not correct. There are problems for sure, but my presentation was to say that one part approach in life and work of municipal structure it is positive, proactive, for people who want to resolve problems. The next question is probably what's wrong with that, and I can very shortly say what the biggest concern of civil society is. The biggest concern and challenge which Municipality of Gracanica should worry and about which will be talking in the next period, is change of demographic structure. In Ahtisaari's plan is clearly said that forming of municipalities decentralized in Kosovo, is an instrument in order to avoid change of demographic structure. Someone don't know that data and don't catch me for a word but it seems to me that in Municipality of Gracanica that demographic structure is changed, that is settled around two thousands Albanians who didn't live there two and a half years ago. It is very important issue, political issue. How we will resolve that? If that brand continue to last, in five to ten years Serbs won't be majority in Municipality of Gracanica.

Moderator: Thank you very much. Here you are, Mr. Osmani.

Besnik Osmani: I, as secretary of Ministry, don't want to give any political comments, it would be against the law but I can talk about some things as a citizen as well. I will say something about mentioned end of supervised independence and that is related to decentralization. I consider that it should be fear from two reasons. First, by end of supervised independence we automatically enter in one other aspect which is related to partnership with European Union. Kosovo wants to empower legal country and wants to be a functional country which protect citizens fifteen times better that did the third part of Ahtisaari's plan, which was talking about rights of communities and other issues which are related to that from legal aspect. Those are obligations which only strengthen all of us and it will be strong supervision by Brussels, having in mind that Kosovo want to be part of that Europe. Although is finishing the process of supervised independence, the main laws which states about decentralization can be changed only Parliament of Kosovo.

If someone has pretension to do that, it has to have two thirds in Parliament and two thirds of minority voice, what make two majorities. There is the key which is very safe and which guarantee that this change can't bring to the retroactive move in process of decentralization and can't come to the reduction of responsibilities and authorities which now has local self-government. I think there is no place for anxiety. It should be thinking about quality of public services and about what should we do on local and on central level as well in order to fulfill all those obligations that we have in order to come closer to European Union.

Voice of America: Mr. Osmani answered on that question, so I will ask other panelists, how will that annul of supervised independence respectively "ISO" influence on further course of process of decentralization respectively, as Nenad said, improvement of that process?

Nenad Rikalo: To be honest, International Civil Office had a big role in forming at the beginning of work as well. Then that was transformed in some monitoring and in last couple of months of last year didn't have so important role in work of decentralized municipalities. When it would be closed that office, nobody will feel that, it would be only minor presence of international representatives who will deal with that issue. However, what is important to say and I am glad to hear that from Mr. Osmani and I would like to have that alive in practice, is that is strong sense of responsibilities of people who deal with this issue on central level, especially from majority community. Sense of responsibility to implement what legal resolution in full capacities and that legal practice really starts to work. We don't feel that in this moment or we don't feel in sufficient measure.

Bojan Stojanović: I agree with Nenad, we don't feel that responsibility in sufficient measure. All that will resolve future Constitution, law of elections and set of laws which will be implied by this package. I am not sure is there a will about that double two-third majority because it is about that from the Constitution is exempt the law of elections and then many things you can change simply with majority. I think that mechanism of control and protection rights and interests of minority communities in Kosovo tries to lose somewhere in these processes and I think that is not accidentally. Those will be serious things, serious problems because if don't stay that king of law and Constitution and if change on damage of minority communities... We are simply faced that any new Parliament in new assembly can do that whenever it wants. Whenever you have new Government, you also have change of Constitution and I think that can be dangerous processes. God help me if I am not right, but however there are not optimists, there are only non-informed people. I think that I am informed enough therefore I am not so optimist regarding that story. It's sure that it won't be able to do whatever you want on territory of Kosovo, I believe in that, because it won't be situations where you won't have international presence. Kosovo must wait for much more processes, it has to show clearly expressed will and it has to fulfill much more parameters. Now there are many tasks, starting from visa liberation and forward, there are correct road maps where is

recording the whole story. In order to assist everybody who lives in Kosovo, we have to clearly indicate permanently on problems how to have better resolved situation where nothing can be hidden before we catch the handle for any process. I think that we have a situation related to decentralization, where declaratively we admit and respect decentralization and practically by laws we centralize things. Besnik is my friend, he knows very good what are problems regarding to market inspection that they are trying to take them on central level. From Ministry for agriculture come someone to make some agency, to take our employees for agriculture, which means that authority is also overtaken, and building inspections also, instead to improve monitoring of municipality related to wild building. Concerning to change of demographic structure, I return on Ahtisaari's package. It was written that three years won't be changed. When was doing Ahtisaari's plan, Serbs didn't want to participate, like it doesn't exist. Then when there is no that Ahtisaari's package, we retrieve on that story. It isn't that 2.000 Albanians are settled in Municipality of Gracanica, and that data isn't like that, simply the territory is larger for that number of 2.000. That is so called Hemsir settlement near spinning mill which has no physical contact with Municipality of Gracanica but belong us. If they take that authority from municipalities, we will be as representatives of municipality adjusted on that Government buy us new copy machines and that citizens can issue ID and to we deal with toners. That is situation that is happening in Kosovo. That is related to Serbs but it related to all citizens in Kosovo. All representatives of municipalities have unique attitude, and I know that we have support of Ministry for local self-government, because we discussed with minister Petrovic and with you Mr. Osmani, how that process has to take its own place in full form and that citizens decides. Those institutions deal with interests of citizens and it shouldn't jump from local on central level. I will use this opportunity to say that you have one situation where is defeating that citizens expect from you water, electricity. And we don't have authorities on those companies at all. I have two distributions on territory of Municipality of Gracanica. With Pristina I have good cooperation, Urosevac doesn't want to communicate and all the time turns off the power, we had a fire yesterday, we had floods. Municipalities don't have authorities, although it is brought new law of public companies, there are not manual for Article three and four. You still don't have authority; you don't have authority on communal services as well. We are doing this with force, we nearly improvise the law and we arrange environment, parks, we clear garbage, etc. That far is going process of taking away authorities and some regional reorganization in practical function, and declarative we are for process of decentralization. I think that September, when will bring the Constitution and when will change the law of elections, is the day "D" for the future of communities in Kosovo. I think that we have to open four eyes and that there is nothing like a price which we mustn't pay in order to secure Serbian prosperity. We will continue to build side-walks and hospital, culturally fun summers, to work in interests of citizens and that should never be disputable. I am glad that people recognize all that but if someone tied our hands and make us, as Ceda Jovanovic said "to play water-polo with crocodiles", I really don't know how we will do.

Besnik Osmani: Only to confirm what mayor said. It is very important to understand that not only in Kosovo but in other countries there is some war between local and

central level about taking over responsibilities and of course that leave consequences. If we worked on primary law, if they worked on secondary law and made mistake on damage of local institutions that it is bad what is done. These tendencies, no matter about what municipality is going on, are positive and all municipalities together gave their own proposals which are written in the way that municipalities are protected from taking away competencies by central level. There are few concrete results which came as result of all these. For example, Law of companies is returned by Assembly on request of municipalities, without differences which community is majority. The law is a little bit improved. Maybe not in sufficient measure but it is still get to some joined concept regarding to public services, water and other components. It should be mentioned the Law of market inspection as well. Again, I am not talking only about Gracanica but about all municipalities which insist to be written again that law in order to be in accordance of Law for local self-government. We actively work to define what is that and which competencies cannot be touched on local level.

Gazmend Salijević: I only want to supervene on what we were talking when in September ends that supervised independence about process of decentralization. We from the European centre through the discussions with representatives of ICO are elected as organization which deals with minority issues. The things which Mr. Besnik Osmani said that there are some paragraphs in Constitution of Kosovo which guarantee some laws to minority communities, and I would say that maybe we should work more on strengthening minority political parties which are in Assembly of Kosovo, so they can more and actively fight for things concerning to communities in Kosovo, because we have political parties which representatives are members of minority communities, who are totally passive, who are in Assembly and they don't talk and maybe that is the problem. It means that Constitution of Kosovo guarantees that how I said, when it is bringing some laws, to be heard voice of delegates of minority communities as well. At one previous conference here, we said, since we talk about that, about problems with language, translations, that we shouldn't have only a man who will seat in Assembly, but who will fight for interests of its own community, and what really encourage me, I think that representatives of EU office in Pristina would be more active about and after September.

Moderator: Are there more questions?

Nedeljko Zejak: Most of these, what you were talking don't have any sense to me anymore, so I will make one paradigm. My ID is finished but is placed somewhere down in MIA and I cannot reach it at all. Until I take over the ID, many trains go to Belgrade or to Berlin or Brussels. What you concretely expect, which are those concrete mechanisms in order to Serbian, respectively Municipality of Gracanica have constitutional and legal guarantees as well that its authorities won't be canceled and to be kept on central level?

Bojan Stojanović: What I expect it won't never happen. I am joking. Of course, I am also talking about that demographic structure, and that is the key of the whole story. Why would we make one more municipality, and to be honest, where majority will be

Kosovo Albanians? We have to create some mechanism which will prevent that, and at the moment there is neither law nor legal form, and I think that it would correctly from international community in Pristina to face with that problem, that municipality will have mechanisms which will prevent that, we work according to laws, there is no legal form so we have to think about social companies on territory of Municipality of Gracanica, about management of municipal public property and law about one story related to privatization in this kind of form. We know very well that social companies are made in such a manner where mostly public property is turn into agricultural land and given on use to on that time cooperatives. Nobody returns that municipality now, you can't privatize it until you don't return municipality what is municipal and what you bought to come in order to privatize. Kosovo Privatization Agency can sell social property but not public. Local authority is part of public system and property has to be returned in order to make serious development plans. Municipality of Gracanica has the biggest potential in its geographical position, international road, railway, airport, capital, and I think that nobody is aware what development potentials are as far as we don't return, I think, about 400-450 hectares of land. It is about fairground, about Kosovo business centre, about one technological park for which we have investors but we don't have a land. Our land is privatizing underpriced, we don't have what it should be return to us, it belongs to Laplje Selo, Caglavica, Dobrocin, Gusterica and all other places and which is confiscated from citizens and transfer it in social company. Nobody thinks about that, I have a pain in my throat of that story. All these things I mentioned are not systematic resolution but they are one possibility where Government in Pristina can say that you as Serbs didn't know to use the chance; not Bojan Stojanovic as mayor, if Bojan Stojanovic doesn't know, he will go home, there will come a new man who will be new president of Gracanica and who will resolving this story. Without that it is very hard. Constituion, guaranteed places or reserved, there is no word game, it will be like this or like that, nevertheless let's call the thing with real name. The law of elections to be returned in constitutional process, and those things to change with two-third majority and minority communities to be asked because now we don't have resolved story with north and I don't emphasize to resolve that and we don't know do we conform one election zone or more election zones. Do we have natural threshold or we have census with guaranteed places. There are many thing and I think that about every of these topics we can make special panel, I am always ready but I think that in challenges, of course, lie the chance but if the challenge is related to stick with carrots, then excuse me if I think that we recognized the process.

Moderator: I want once again to thank Ministry for local self-government on support, I want to promise everybody that we as media and as civil sector will be very constructive in cooperation with Government on central and local level as well. I want to thank everybody. We have one more question.

Journalist of RTK: How much are Roma people involved in building and planning infrastructure in Gracanica?

Bojan Stojanović: Do you mean how much we work for infrastructure for Roma people?

Bojan Stojanović: They are partially involved, yet not enough. With this new action plan they are include completely 100% because teams of survey-makers will visit all doors, I even think that is not necessary to indicate nationality in survey, they shouldn't write what are their nationality. Those who are surveyed always can better. Now we work on preparation which is related to sport and recreation centre. They are invited to participate in all processes. I know that we have problems with ownership and with land and some of them built parts of their house, a house on public land. What is responsible? To demolish house poor people and take them everything they have. We are ready to find financial means in to resolve and urbanize that settlement where is Roma mahala, to enter in one process that if the Government abstract means to build some smaller house, which beneath, not to high because in village shouldn't live in high building and it is not really popular but to resolve problem together. We are open for sure. They are not citizens of second class. Nether I personally, no anyone else, none Serb consider Roma people as some who are not part of that story. You can meet Roma people everywhere, on the pool, on concerts, in coffee bars; wherever you turn you have people, on tennis or on basketball, football. That ethnic conflict between Roma people and Serbs on territory of Municipality of Gracanica is not expressed and never was in crisis because that is something that last for decades, and to don't talk about some patriot stories how we lived near one to the others for centuries; there are always some problems but I think that everything will be resolved. It is true that they are in bad position and I first of all say that as a human. It happens to me to see Roma children at two o'clock in the morning or half past twelve on the street. That is not good, they work on underground capacities. But what I can do is to don't give them 10 dinars which they ask and instead that to buy them a hamburger, and for sure every time I do that and many Serbs as well. And I am not happy if someone doesn't have for basic life conditions. I can't be happy as a president of municipality and as a human as well.

Journalist of RTK: Why didn't resolved issue of job for deputy mayor?

Bojan Stojanović: That issue is forwarded to Committee for communities. I didn't want to take that responsibility. I forwarded memo to president of Committee for communities, and Gazment was talking about that earlier, about demographic structure, how many people are in Municipality of Gracanica, Nobody has correct records about that who actually have right to work one that place, whether are Kosovo Albanians or Roma people. After that, in Committee for communities, majority represent communities in Municipality of Gracanica, about those who would come as a proposal by Municipal Committee for communities, I as a mayor will propose to vote on Municipal Assembly session. We know that delegate from minority community, Mr. Agim Krasnici, has also to give agreement to Committee for communities if comes to resolving that problem inside the Committee. For me as a president of municipality and other municipal structures is not a problem to resolve that problem.

Moderator: Thank you very much. Once again I would like to thank everybody. Thank you to panelists, I hope so that things which are good in Gracanica will serve as an example on central level as well. Things which are bad we will try to correct together. Thank you once again.