

# Senior Deputy High Representative Visits Drug Rehabilitation Centre

Senior Deputy High Representative Peter Bas-Backer today visited the Therapeutic Community "PROI", a drug rehabilitation centre in Kakanj.

During the visit, Ambassador Bas-Backer met with Samir Ibisevic, President of the NGO "UG PROI", to discuss the problem of drug addiction in BiH and the role of associations such as UG PROI in helping addicts.

He was also informed of how the Art Therapy project was helping recovering addicts, as well as of the UG PROI's opinion and amendments to the proposed *Law to Prevent and Fight Against Drug Abuse*.

The threat posed by illicit drugs is one of the greatest challenges facing modern society. Unless addicts receive appropriate support, a key element of the drugs problem will not be addressed.

"These persons need acceptance and not rejection by the society, family and friends," Ambassador Bas-Backer said.

"To help them get their lives back on track and to feel they are valued members of society we all need to engage with this problem and not to pretend that it doesn't exist."