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PRESS RELEASE

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TO RECOGNIZE KOSOVO OR NOT- A MACEDONIAN DILEMMA

The results of the CRPM survey show that **45% of the Macedonian citizens do not agree Macedonia to recognize Kosovo**. A smaller number of citizens, 35% would like Macedonia to recognize the northern neighbor, 4% do not care, while 15% have no opinion on this issue. **Not surprisingly 95% of the Macedonian Albanians are in favor of the recognition while 60% of the Macedonians are against**. These are the results of the survey CRPM conducted using a representative sample between 6th-8th March 2008. A majority of the citizens (56%) believe that before recognizing Kosovo the border between the two countries should be delineated. For 74% of the Macedonians this is a priority issue, while 85% of the ethnic Albanians believe that the demarcation of the border is not a priority and that it is more important that Skopje recognizes Pristina first. Macedonian citizens have a split opinion on the question whether the recognition of Kosovo will increase Macedonian security. Some 27.5% think that the Macedonian security will benefit from the recognition of Kosovo, 25% believe that the level of security will decrease, another 25% stated that the level of security will remain the same, while 22% did not answer this question. A vast majority of the Macedonian Albanians, 82% believe that the security will increase.