

Meeting of Civil Society Organizations with Members of the Assembly of Kosovo

On 16.10.2018, in the Assembly of Kosovo, representatives of civil society such as: KOSINT network, The Voice of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians, and TDH - Terre des hommes altogether with the MP of the Assembly of Kosovo held the first meeting of the constitution of the advocacy group deputies of the Assembly of Kosovo.

The purpose of the advocacy group is to help reduce the gap between different communities living in Kosovo, thus ensuring equal treatment of all through the creation of policies and advocacy for the application of current laws in force.

The advocacy group consists of these deputies: Mr. Driton Caushi, PSD, Mrs. Vjosa Osmani LDK, Mrs. Mimoza Kusari and Mr. Ilir Deda, Alternative of the King, Mrs. Donika Kada Bujupi, AAK, Mrs. Xhevahire Izmaku PDK, Mr. Glauk Konjuvca VV.

This deputy advocacy group is supported by the Ambassador of Finland in Kosovo, Pia Stjernvall and the Ambassador of Switzerland in Kosovo, Jean-Hubert Lebet.

At this meeting noted that the current situation of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities is quite alarming, and the creation of the advocacy group will help to create a more inclusive society in Kosovo.

Also, at this meeting MPs stressed that the role of the group is very important, and further more obligation to the communities.

At this meeting they agreed that the next steps will be focused primarily on the issue of education, continuing with the creation of employment opportunities for these communities and continuing with the essential issue of combating Anti-Gypsism.



Workshop organized by RIO with civil society partners from the region



The KOSINT 2020 Project Team is representing Kosovo at the regional meeting taking place in Vienna with the participation of civil society organizations working with Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities from Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and Turkey.

The meeting, organized in the form of interactive workshops, is the fourth in a row organized by the Roma Initiatives Office (RIO) under Roma Integration 2020 (RI2020) with the support of the Open Society Foundation.

This workshop was based on the work done last year and the exchange of experiences between CSOs.

Moreover, the main focus of the workshop was to develop a common understanding of elements for a new advocacy campaign based on the new RIO strategy.

The "Pandeli Sotiri" school gives BSFK gratitude for the contribution

Plemetin, October 11 - "Pandeli Sotiri" School has carried out several projects during this year, among which are the installation of security cameras, the painting of interior walls in the school and the work of some murals in the school, for which BSFK through the EDI 2 project has helped by providing the necessary materials for these actions.

Thus, for this and the continuous contribution of BSFK to improving the access and quality of education in this school, the school director Mr. Bedri Neziri gives gratitude for BSFK.

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Lectures on Breast Cancer



During October, BSFK held lectures at the BSFK Learning Center in Fushë Kosovë and Plemetin titled "The best defense is the early detection of breast cancer." In this lecture were present over 40 women of different ages.

During the lecture, the importance of early identification of this disease and further treatment was discussed. Women were very interested and were active with questions.

Also during the lecture were identified some cases that needed urgent intervention for control.

The lecture was held by Doctor Fazile Sejdiu.

Through the work of youth club and co-operation with Ardian Biçaku Coordinator of Radiology at QKUK, lectures and medical controls were made available.

This project is funded by Solidar Suisse Kosova.

Workshop to evaluate the work of learning centers

Durrës, October 17-19, 2018 - The teaching staff of learning centers that are supported by EU SIMRAES 2 and Prospect + projects has been gathered at a workshop to evaluate the work of learning centers. For three days, reflective practices and self-assessment were used to discuss the work done so far and to draw conclusions and recommendations for the work to come.

In particular, the main aspects of the work of learning centers were evaluated, such as the learning environment, methodology and monitoring process.



Regional Conference organized by the RCC - The regional conference “Economic (In)Dependence of Romani Women: Challenges and Early Causes”

On October 30 to November 1, a regional conference was held in Belgrade, on the topic "Economic (In)Dependence of Romani Women: Challenges and Early Causes" where the main objective was to explore the causes and consequences of the economic (in)dependence of Romani women in early childhood and youth, as well as the multi-dimensional discrimination based on sex and ethnicity against them, and propose ways forward for effective employment policies of Romani women in the private and public sector.

The conference reviewed data and measures to improve the situation of Roma women in employment throughout the enlargement region, addressing specifically the issue of Roma healthcare intermediaries, reflecting on the causes of economic dependence from early childhood and youth, such as obstacles to education, early marriages and pregnancies, lack of career guidance, child labor and begging. The conference also explores multidimensional discrimination based on sex and ethnicity to Roma women.

In this conference the member organizations RROGRAEK and BRAN of the KOSINT 2020 Network were also present.

Assesment of the needs of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians students in Kosovo

On October 15, Roma Versitas Kosovo organized a presentation of the findings of the assesment of the needs of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians students in Kosovo” a program supported by US Embassy in Prishtina.

RVK whose mission is to increase the retention rate and academic capacities of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian university students, was established in 2013. Since it was established, RVK successfully carried out many programs. This time RV Kosovo organize a presentatio for the findings of the assesment needs for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians sutdents in Kosoov. The assesment document was done by the studens where by RV Kosovo staff conducted 300 quetionaries in all Kosovo level.

Education of Roma, Ashkalia and Egyptian communities is of paramount importance in order to overcome socio-economic barriers that they encounter in everyday life. There have been many initiatives to increase the education of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities and we can safely say that the number of students coming from these three communities are slowly increasing as are the barriers that the students face.

The main goal of the project is to increase the capacities of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian university students in order to develop knowledge on the possibilities and tools to influence their communities’ everyday educational, employment, civil rights and advocacy challenges.

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International girl's day

To mark the International Girl's Day, 30 girls from 5 Kosovo municipalities are being supported, empowered and motivated by today's activities that break the stereotype of a gender-dominated occupation.

The visit to the Air Navigation Services Agency gave girls a practical experience of the work that is done to takeoff and land a plane safe!

This activity was made possible by IPKO Foundation, UNICEF Kosovo Program, USAID Kosovo / ASSET Program / Kosovo Education Center (KEC) and Air Navigation Services Agency (ASHNA).



International girl's day

The Kosovo Academy for Democracy and Human Rights was held, with a training program aimed at strengthening democratic culture in Kosovo schools by training education professionals and community actors, and further developing their capacity to implement and promote EDC / HRE in their schools and communities.

The first part of the Academy's program took place from 28 to 30 September 2018, while the second part was held on October 13-14. The participating schools also delegated two students to a tailor-made training for students to promote democratic culture in schools through the use of the media.

School teams will work with the parties in school in implementing school projects in the area of education for democratic citizenship and human rights education and will share the practices in implementing these projects.

The Academy is implemented by the Kosovo Education Center (KEC), while funded by the European Center for Wergeland (Wergeland Center) and the University of Education of Zurich.



The Good Practice Handbook was published in the area of early childhood

On the International Teacher's Day, the Good Practice Handbook was published in the area of early childhood.

This good practice handbook is a result of the work of educators from pre-school institutions in Kosovo and Albania.

The implementation of this publication was supported by the International Step by Step Association - ISSA through the inter-regional initiative "Peer Learning Activities" implemented by the Kosovo Education Center - KEC, SOS Kindergarten Center in Prishtina, Balkan Sunflowers Kosovo as and Step by Step Center, Albania.

Through this cooperation, 10 pre-school institutions from Kosovo and 4 from Albania were part of the activities aimed at gathering good practices resulting from projects for educators competencies and their documentation in the handbook.

The handbook provides good practices and experiences from educators which are based on the competencies of educators in the Qualitative Assessment Tool for Early Childhood Services for Children 3 to 6 years.

The good practices provided in this handbook are written with dedication and responsibility by the educators and therefore the originality of the practices received by the educator's account has been preserved and has not been interfered with in the way of interpretation.



The "Rose Month of Cancer" awareness campaign

October 25, 2018 - Pejë, awareness campaign "The Rose Month of Cancer" was organized to raise the awareness of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities of Pejë, respectively neighborhoods of 7 Shtatori and Vitomiric, and all society in preventing, identifying and Breast Cancer Treatment. This campaign is in the framework of the Prospect + project "Promoting Sustainable Integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians in Peja and Suhareka, Kosovo" supported by the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Karl Kübel Stiftung für Kind und Familie (KKS) and Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS), which is implemented in Syri i Vizionit in Peja.

In the campaign the lecturers were Dr. Roza Kola Hajdari - Mamografe, Rina Berisha -Technical of Radiology and Dr. Adem Eminaj - family doctor of QMF in the fidanishte neighborhood.



Roundtable "Implementing the Strategy for the Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in Kosovo Society"



26 October, Pejë, in the framework of activities of the community integration program, today was held a round table discussion on "Implementing the Strategy for the inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in Kosovo society", where was also presented the monitoring report of the Strategy implemented by KOSINT. In conversation with municipal officials for Communities and Returns, of the Directorate of Education, officials from the Ministry of Interior, OSCE representatives, civil society and media, as well as subjects of relevant communities, various aspects of the Strategy were addressed, with emphasis in education sector, and were provided suggestions and recommendations to be taken into account during the implementation process.

Publication of the Report "Inclusion of Girls and Persons with Disabilities from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities, in Education and Employment in Kosovo"

On October 4, in Prishtina was published the Report "Inclusion of Girls and Persons with Disabilities from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities, in Education and Employment in Kosovo".

According to the report, only 20% of girls surveyed have completed only a few years of school, 7% have never attended school, and only 7% have completed university.

The phenomenon of dropping out of school by respondents of this group is significantly affected by the lack of parent / family support in terms of education, lack of interest in schooling, lack of time due to other family responsibilities, early marriage etc. 85% never participated in vocational training.

The employment rate of girls shows that only 88% have not been employed, while only 12% are. The unemployment rate of this target group is very high; a worrying issue remains ethnic and gender discrimination during the recruitment process.

Regarding persons with disabilities from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, it turns out that 45% have never attended school, 20% have been in special classes, and only 20% have completed elementary education, of which 20% have been in special classes in others in all-inclusive classes. The level of unemployment of persons with disabilities from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in this study is extremely high, 93% of respondents are not currently employed; the main problem in this regard is finding a job appropriate to their limited abilities. That's why it discourages this group to look for jobs where 95% are not looking. The overwhelming majority of girls are not currently looking for work; a worrying matter are considered the obstacles such as family responsibilities, lack of knowledge to seek work, lack of support of spouses and family over the decision to work.

The phenomenon of school dropouts is noticed in this group, mainly due to learning difficulties, poor health, lack of interest in schooling, lack of transportation, language barriers, lack of support from their parents / family.



Terre des hommes and Istog municipality support the establishment of two learning centers

On the 09.10.2018, a cooperation agreement was signed between Terre des hommes and Istog municipality for the establishment of two learning centers in the "Bajram Curri" school in Istog and the school "Trepca" in Banja, the municipality of Istog. Beneficiaries of this form of support will be children who need improvement in learning outcomes - learning and prevention of abandonment with particular emphasis on children of Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian and other vulnerable groups in Kosovo.

Particular attention was paid to the process by the Municipality of Istog by providing co-financing of the model built by Terre des hommes as an important step towards the institutionalization of learning centers as part of the project "Social Inclusion for Roma, Ashkalies, Egyptians and other vulnerable groups in Kosovo "supported by the Swiss Cooperation Office for SDC.



TIP in the British Parliament

In September, the British Inter-Parliamentary Union (BGIPU) organized the annual charity quiz in the United Kingdom. The Ideas Partnership was the organization that BGIPU chose to support this year through this annual event. We are very grateful to BGIPU, British MPs, parliamentary staff, and all those who have made a donation in support of our work in Kosovo. In the annual quiz, The Ideas Partnership was represented by our supporter and volunteer, Keith Hill, whom we thank for promoting our work.



Mobilization of community on social accountability

RROGRAEK held a meeting with the parents of "Tefik Çanga" and "Ahmet Hoxha" primary schools from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities as well as the primary school staff of "Tefik Çanga". This meeting was part of the process of community file under the project "Mobilization of community on social accountability", which is being held in partnership with Save the Children. After five meetings with the parents of these schools, and after identifying the problematic issues together with the parents and the school staff, we created an action plan in the fourth phase to address and improve the problematic issues.



Learning about money

October 26, Kosovo Bankers Association in the framework of the World Savings Day has visited TIP center in Fushë Kosovë and has distributed leaflets on financial education and money saving as well as school material for children of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities with who we work. Thanks to this collaboration, The Ideas Partnership has been able to integrate in the school curriculum lectures on money and saving culture, encouraging children to save and be accountable to their finances.



Event for raising funds to support the communities we work with



At the beginning of October, The Ideas Partnership organized a fundraising event to support the children and families of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Fushë Kosovë and Janjevë. All proceeds from the sale of books at this event will be used for the benefit of children's education in these communities. This event was organized in cooperation with Termokiss and was generously supported by the Rugova Corporation.