

Minister Bytyqi signed the Administrative Instruction on Establishment and Functioning of Learning Centers



Prishtina, November 15 - After several workshops organized by MEST in cooperation with GIZ and civil society participants such as BSFK, KEC, SiV, RADC, VoRAE, TDH and public hearing, the Minister of Education, Science and Technology , Shyqiri Bytyqi has signed the Administrative Instruction (AI) Nr. 17/2018 on the Establishment and Functioning of Learning Centers.

This AI defines the criteria and procedures for the establishment and operation of learning centers, providing complementary support and other educational activities.

Training on data entry in SMIA

November 2018 - Administrative Instruction (AI) Nr. 17/2018 on the Establishment and Functioning of Learning Centers obliges all learning centers to register and obtain licenses at MEST.

Therefore, the KOSINT 2020 project organized a training for coordinators of learning centers for data entry in SMIA, a system that the learning centers will be obliged to use after enrollment in MEST



Discussion on the employment policy of the EARK



During November, several workshops were held for discussing the employment policy of the EARK, which was attended by the working group within the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare as well as civil society, partner organizations of the project KOSINT 2020 network.

The purpose of these workshops was to incorporate the comments and requests of Civil Society in the framework of employment policy, respectively the inclusion of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities within this policy.

In the Strategy for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in the Kosovo Society 2017-2021, it is planned to improve the level of employment of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities (expected result 2.1). According to this result, it is planned to carry out research and implementation of affirmative action measures for employment of these communities; design and modify the (additional) employment services and Active Labour Market Programmes, including vocational training, in accordance with the needs of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, as well as organization of information campaigns on employment services and ALMPs for these communities. Until 2021 it is required that the percentage of ALMP beneficiaries belonging to these communities increase from 6% to 10% and the employment rate reach 17%.

Municipality of Mitrovica continues to provide support to minority communities

Deputy Mayor Faruk Mujka hosted a meeting with the Director of the Roma and Ashkali Documentation Center, Bekim Sylja, and the coordinator of this Center, Dritan Shaipi.

The purpose of this meeting was to realize the project "Global Program for Public Space" by the Roma and Ashkali Documentation Center (RAD Center) in cooperation with the Municipality of Mitrovica.

In this meeting was discussed about the problems and needs of Roma and the communities in general as well as opportunities to overcome them. One of the biggest problems faced by this community is unemployment, sewage and street lighting.

Deputy Mayor Faruk Mujka emphasized that the municipality is trying to be a better service for the citizens and in this regard to bring the institution closer to the communities.

Deputy Mayor Mujka also outlined some of the needs of these communities that can be realized through this project.

In the course of the conversation he mentioned the creation of several playgrounds for children that are very much needed at the Artificial Lake and the regulation of sewer pipes. Furthermore, he added that those pipes that are in place are not very professional and bring problems.

Also Deputy Mayor Mujka said that based on the communication we have had with representatives of the Roma community and defined the problems together, the Municipality of Mitrovica has assisted in the realization of projects for the construction of social houses, asphaltting of roads, functioning of the ambulance as well as the waste disposal.



Rolling Film Festival 5th Edition

Pristina, 13-16 November, was held the Rolling Film Festival, organized by Roma Versitas Kosovo and Romawood, from Pristina.

Concerning Roma culture and self-representation as a community in public and Roma inclusion in Kosovo, Rolling is the cultural event that places our capital on the international level.

Roma in Kosovo are still the most discriminated community in Kosovo, and also in the world. Around 92% of Roma in Kosovo are unemployed and the community is often exploited by other communities. Rolling aims to improve the lives of Roma at the national level by creating a broader understanding of their cultural, political, and artistic position in our country, and also to create a more open-minded society through multiculturalism.

Rolling contributes to the richness of cultural diversity and culturalism but also fights against stereotypes and injustice.

The theme of this year's festival "Change Every New Day" was inspired by Kujtim Paqaku's life achievements as an individual, artist and politician, about the selection of the films, and the invited guests.

About 25 films made by and about Roma will be screened at three different concerts that will take place during the four days of the festival.

The new festival activities promoted other Kosovo Roma artists and youth work in Kosovo through a photo contest: "The Other Side of Everything", about a short film competition and realized workshops whose results appeared on the third day of the festival, an exhibition of paintings by Bajram and Farija Mehmeti and Mirjeta Qehaja, at the Amphitheater of the National Museum and a flash-mob street performance that was screened in the ABC cinema, half an hour before the start of each festival day.



Western Balkans Roma Summit

More than 100 activists for human rights and Roma rights from the Balkans, Turkey and the EU gathered at the Western Balkans Roma Summit in Pristina to discuss the issues faced by Roma in Europe and the need for policy change.

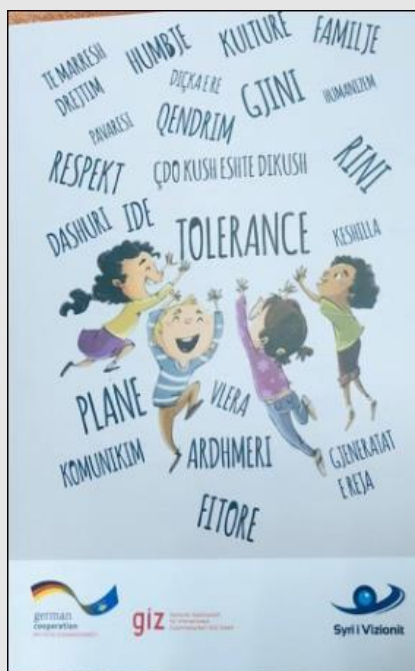
"There is no doubt that the Roma community is among the most discriminated in the history of mankind, and we see it in the fact that Roma are never a priority, and I find this to be the betrayal of our collective humanity, that we can not see what we have made [for the Roma], "said Karin Hernmarck Ahliny, Sweden's ambassador to Pristina, opening the summit.

Representatives of the KOSINT network participated in this summit.



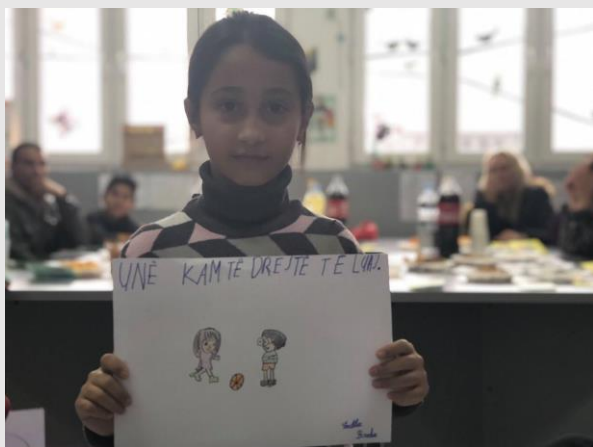
International Day of Tolerance

November 16 - Drawings, songs, poems and brochures, but above all, with powerful messages of understanding and love, the International Day of Tolerance was also marked by the children of the learning centers in the primary schools of the municipalities of Peja, Istog and Klina. The purpose of these activities is that in this day and every other day the tolerance to prevail in us, and especially in children, so that everyone can feel equal as a child.



International Day of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

20 November - This date was marked by 10 learning centers in primary schools of Ciga, Zahaq, Kliqinë, Zallq and in two primary schools in Klina and two primary schools in Istog municipality. During the diverse activities with children, parents and teachers, the importance of respecting the rights of the children that are articulated in this Convention was discussed, how much they are respected and what should we all do to implement even more in practice their rights. Fairly, children yesterday were the main voice for their rights.



Round Table on Strategy Implementation in the Municipality of Istog

23 November / Istog a Round Table was organized on the implementation of the Strategy for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in Kosovo society, and also was presented the monitoring report of the strategy that was drafted by KOSINT. The purpose of this roundtable was to measure the implementation of the strategy at the local level, where during this round table was discussed mainly on the achievements in education and social issues in the municipality of Istog. Present at this roundtable were representatives of the DKA, school representatives, and representatives of the Center for Social Work, and officials for community and return.



Three-day training with students

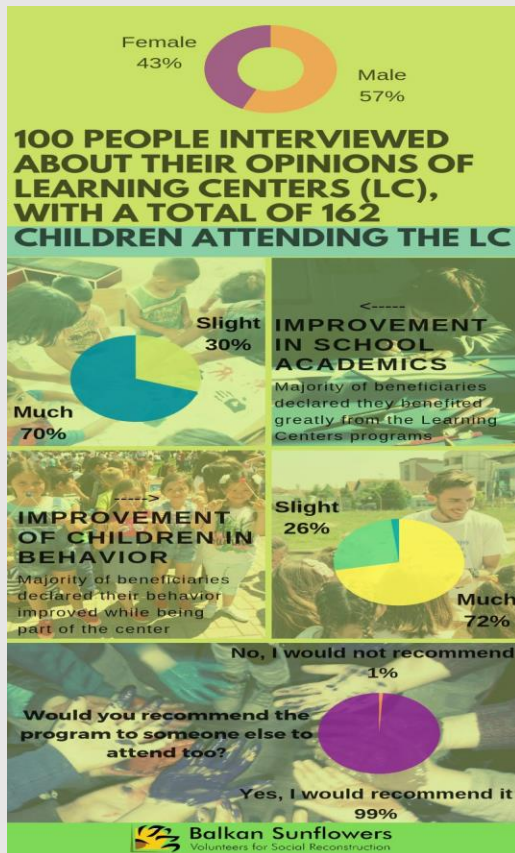
On November 09-11, 2018, three day training with students of five lower secondary schools "Anton Z. Cajupo" Mitrovica, "Emin Duraku" Prishtina, "Tefik Canga" Ferizaj, "Ramiz Sadiku" Pejë and Vuk Karadzic "Gjilan" was held. Topics that were developed were "Domestic Violence," "Children's Rights and Advocacy," and "The Psychosocial Consequences of Illegal Migration and Self-Confidence". This activity was organized under the project of the "Promotion of inclusiveness in Kosovo" project implemented by RROGRAEK in partnership with Save the Children.



Reaction to the song of Kastriot Grajqevci entitled "Gabelica Ime"

The network of Kosovo Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian women's organizations (RROGRAEK) strongly responds to the song of Kastriot Grajqevci entitled "Gabelica Ime", which was launched on the Kosovar music market a day ago. For "RROGRAEK", the text of this song, which contains offensive, denigrating and racist language for the Roma community is unacceptable." RROGRAEK " considers that all this is in contravention of human rights and freedoms as well as the constitutional system of Kosovo, according to which all individuals have the right to enjoy these fundamental rights and freedoms without being subjected to any form of discrimination based on race, color, gender, language, religion, political opinion or any other opinion, national origin or social, or any other community, property, family background, or other status.

Infographics from the BSFK research



The Infographics from the research conducted during spring 2018, at the five Balkan Sunflowers Kosovo Learning Centers, has been published. This research was designed to measure the level of the satisfaction of BSFK work by the children as direct beneficiaries, and by the parents as indirect beneficiaries. It also measured their perception of the impact that research has on the academic development of the beneficiaries.

This infographic is related to the level of satisfaction of BSFK beneficiaries, and evaluates their development in terms of academic and behavioral aspects.

99% of the beneficiaries stated that they would recommend our programs to other potential beneficiaries.

Conference for Website launch "Green Pages"

At the beginning of November, The Ideas Partnership organized a press conference for the launch of the "Green Pages" website. This website was originally created by the co-founder of our organization, Elizabeth Gowing, in collaboration with UNV years ago. This year, four of our volunteers from the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands worked on updating this website with data on sustainable living and living habits in Kosovo, with an emphasis on the importance of protecting the environment.

We thank our volunteers Guido Janssen, Juliet Quint, Tarik Scherrenburg and Olivia Riksen for their work on this website as well as for her presentation at the conference. We also thank Blerim Aziz from UNV who was present in the panel and for his discussion on the importance of volunteering and environmental protection.

Website: www.sustainablelivingprishtina.wordpress.com

Story from Klan Kosova: <http://bit.ly/2Ap2tMz>



The visit of the British Ambassador on the day of kindergarten birthday in Fushë Kosovë

In November, our kindergarten in Fushë Kosovë reached 4 years of establishment. Since our establishment, our kindergarten, which is the only kindergarten in neighborhoods 28 and 29 in Fushë Kosovë, offers daily educational services for about 60 children of 3-5 years of age of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. The Ideas Partnership is grateful to the dedicated staff and our volunteers who throughout the years have made the kindergarten an invigorating learning site for children enrolled there. Many thanks also to the British Ambassador for Kosovo, Ruairi O'Connell, who came to celebrate with us and for his support to make next year a wonderful year for these children. We also thank the Mayor of Fushë Kosovë, Mr. Burim Berisha, who also visited us that day.



The objective of The Ideas Partnership - Story by T7



T7 Television was in our center this month in order to realize a story about our work in Fushë Kosovë with Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, with a special focus on our efforts in the fields of education and health, volunteer work and Saturday learning activities . Follow the story done by T7 on this link: <http://bit.ly/2TLHDjs>