

### Challenges in the University

The KOSINT 2020 Project Team held a public discussion on the challenges faced by students of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities at the Kosovo Public University. This public discussion was attended by representatives of civil society, municipal officials and students from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. Also, in this public discussion the research on the challenges of students at the university by Roma Versitas that presents this situation has been discussed.

During the public discussion, the following topics were discussed:

University discrimination and discrimination by professors. For this issue will be also discussion during 2019, as well as reviewing the Administrative Instruction.

To have students from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities as representatives of student communities.

It should be researched that where the graduates of the communities are employed and presented their successes. This information to become public so that it encourages others to pursue their studies.

Make a fact sheet about the number of students enrolled in universities.

With regard to scholarships, have socio-economic scholarships and not just high grades, to give access also to other students' to pursue their studies. Any project related to scholarships is based on merit, but there should also be given opportunities for those with an average grade of 7.00. Since, the University and MEST do not allow the grade to drop for scholarships, the NGOs may sent a request to MEST to at least decrease the average grade at 7.00.

Political parties should not be involved in sending student lists to get scholarships, as they also include Albanians, and denie the right of community students to benefit.

To propose that the scholarship commissions also have members of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities for greater transparency.

Verify persons declared as members of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities to not abuse the quota.

Students from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities who regularly register with merit in the public university, to not be as part of the quota fulfillment, so that the opportunity is given to other students who want to register based on the quota number.

Related to career guidance it is discussed that the 12th grade students to be targeted. However, it is suggested that career orientation also begins in earlier classes. Also to have career guidance for students of 7-9 grades for vocational secondary schools, as not all choose to go to the university.



## **Municipality of Prizren approved the Local Plan for Inclusion of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities**

On 31 January, members of the Municipal Assembly of Prizren unanimously approved the Local Action Plan for the Inclusion of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities for the period 2019-2023.

Representatives of these communities have made it clear that this public policy must have an affirmative character. While certain members of the Municipal Council have emphasized that this plan should be implemented and not remain just one more document on paper.

The Action Plan foresees that for a five-year period of implementation, a total budget of approximately 1.3 million Euro should be allocated to improve the overall situation of these communities in the Municipality of Prizren, especially in the fields of education, employment and social welfare, health, housing and culture, media and information.

The drafting of this policy was supported by the Kosovo Education and Employment Network (KEEN) project implemented by the consortium of organizations led by the Kosovo Education Center (KEC), while the process of drafting the Local Action Plan for the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian was led by the partner organization of this Balkan Sunfloor Kosova (BSFK) consortium.



## ICT education for youth of Ashkali, Egyptian and Roma communities

During January, the NGO BRAN – Union of Youth Enlightened Future, within the project "ICT Education for Roma, Egyptian and Roma Communities Youths", which is being financially supported by the Ministry of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, has organized workshops with young people in Shtime for topics:

- Innovation
- Use of technology in social life
- Entrepreneur
- Using technology in entrepreneurship

The purpose of this project is to raise the capacities of young people in the field of technology and entrepreneurship.

After the completion of the workshop cycle, over 30 young people in the municipality of Shtime were certified.

The youth stressed that such training encourages and motivates them to be Young Entrepreneurs in the future. They also expressed their satisfaction with the trainers, the materials and the conditions offered during the training, and stressed out the high need for such training.



## Trainings against deviant phenomena



On January 19th and 20th, in Prizren, Nevo Konvepti organized two days training for children and guardians against deviant phenomena. On the first day of training, on January 19, 2019, children and tutors were trained on the topic: "Communication". On the second day, on January 20, 2019, the theme of the training was "Dependence Diseases". The purpose of the training was to raise awareness among children about the non-use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco and to be aware of proper communication. In the framework of the youth training, they also developed psycho-social activities related to the topics and to have an impact for growth of greater awareness.

The two-day training was realized between two projects "Supporting the European Union for the implementation of the Strategy for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities - Integration Education" (EU SIMRAES II) funded by the Kosovo Education Center (KEC) and the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS) as well as PROSPEKT +, funded by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS) with the support of the German Government and the German Foundation Karl Kübel Stiftung für Kind und Familie (KKS).



## Peace through Co-operation, Competencies, and Knowledge in Macedonia and Kosovo

The new PEACOCK project (Peace through Co-operation, Competencies, and Knowledge in Macedonia and Kosovo) was launched at PHZH- Pädagogische Hochschule Zürich. The meeting was attended by representatives of KEC and our colleagues from PHZH from Zurich and MCEC from Macedonia.



## Continuing the project for early childhood education

Kosovo Education Center - KEC is one of 13 organizations selected by the Roma Education Fund to continue with the project for early childhood education. Grant Ceremony was organized in Budapest, where representatives of KEC participated.



## Distribution of 5 annual awards for best stories in the media



Kosovo Education Center - KEC in co-operation with the Coalition of NGOs for the Protection of Children in Kosovo - KOMF, and the ZFD Forum, through projects funded by the European Union and managed by the European Union Office in Kosovo, has distributed 5 annual awards for best media stories in the field of protection and children's rights in Kosovo for 2018.

## Meeting with parents and children

On January 16, 2019, in Prizren Nevo Concept held a meeting with parents and children who are subscribed to Online Education.

From November 2018, for 20 children, a registration was made on the education portal Education.net, in which web site the children are able to learn from their home for all school subjects as in the classroom. Included here are children who, due to different conditions, are not able to attend regular school education such as: children with disabilities and children who have dropped out of school.

Also, students who have the poorest learning success are registered so that through access and regular use of this site will be impacted on achieving the best learning success.

At the meeting there was also Mr. Vigan Dervishaj from MDE and a member of the Working Group in the project who spoke about the importance of using this site, what impact it can have on increasing the success of children, but also the role and impact of parents in this regard.

At the meeting, the children had the opportunity to access the site through their TV and mobile phones and have been tested in several subjects.

The activity was carried out within the SoRi project, which is supported by GIZ.



## Empowering the child protection system



Within the project "Safe Child Protection Network - Phase 3", which aims to strengthen the child protection system, Terre des hommes in Kosovo is implementing the specialized services for children in street situation in Prishtina and Prizren.

For this reason, a focus group with parents and children in street situation in the Prizren municipality has been held to discuss and understand even better the main issues and causes that make parents and children to go out in the streets.

More than 50 people, mostly Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities have gathered in Prizren to express concerns about their economic situation.

These families have been identified by the organization after being first observed for a long time, then interviewed and also referred to the Center for Social Work.

Only in Pristina and Prizren, the organization's mobile teams have identified 153 children with street situation.

The idea of the project is that, apart from direct aid, families in this situation, learn different crafts, in order to secure jobs and leave the streets.

TDH also has co-operation and tries that even through other institutions, to assist children and ensuring that they do not stop schooling.

## Lecture on the negative impact of tobacco, alcohol, drugs and early marriages

The BSKF youth club in Fushë Kosovë has organized a lecture activity for youth of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Fushe Kosova for negative phenomena such as smoking, alcohol, drugs and early marriages. During the lecture for each topic their negative impact on the lives of young people were discussed. The lectures were interactive, where the interest of young people was shown to learn more about these phenomena.

This activity was financially supported by Solidar Suisse.





## Memorial Marsh for Roma Victims of the Holocaust



In Pristina on January 27, a memorial Marsh for Roma Victims of the Holocaust was organized.

With the melancholy and pain that were accompanied with Roma song, people ranked as number 27 in the stairs of the Kosovo National Theater, with candles lit in the hands, members of the Roma community and other communities commemorated 500,000 Roma victims of the Holocaust. Each step represented a pain, a figure of death, all together a story. The melody of roma songs was deepening as the candles melt and emotions were added. Hitler's call was reminded: "You are a Roma and you have no right to live", which resulted in thousands of graves.

Denis Galushi, the organizer of the Memorial Marsh, said that while the tragedy of the Roma community is being commemorated, there are no reminders of victims, but heroes, thanks to whom a story has been written.

"We are not numbers neither statistics. When others did injustice to us, we gave them justice, above all, gave them art, gave them the songs that you are very much singing today and are part of you," Galushi said. He further emphasized that the Roma did not retaliate, but gave their love and today they are giving the love of art to the state of Kosovo, which although not part of the European Union, is an example of how to respect a community.

## **Former Kosovo President, Atifete Jahjaga and Jahjaga Foundation visit The Ideas Partnership**

In January, the staff of The Ideas Partnership in Fushe Kosove met with the former President of the Republic of Kosovo, Atifete Jahjaga, and the Director of Jahjaga Foundation, Alban Bokshi. In this visit, Mrs. Jahjaga expressed her readiness to help organizations such as The Ideas Partnership on joint projects aimed at empowering women and girls, educating children, and career guidance programs for young people from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. They had the opportunity to visit our literacy activity, which is offered each week in our center in Fushë Kosovë for women from these communities where, on this occasion, Jahjaga once again reiterated her stance on the work that should be done to support and empower women in Kosovo society. She put special emphasis on the risks of early marriages highlighting TIP's work in raising awareness of new generations around this phenomenon and providing support to such projects. Former Kosovo President also visited the kindergarten of The Ideas Partnership in Fushë Kosovë by meeting with children and kindergarten staff.



## **Health systematic controls for kindergarten children by a QKMF team were carried out**

In January, a medical team from the Main Family Medicine Center in Fushë Kosovë visited the TIP kindergarten in their center in Fushë Kosovë, carrying out systematic checks for children there. We would like to thank the medical staff who most willingly carry out these health check ups for our children as well as the management of the Main Family Medicine Center in Fushë Kosovë who gladly accepted our request to visit us. Our garden is offered free of charge to children aged 3-5 years who come from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, and works in two shifts each day with about 60 children.





## **The Head of the Luxembourg Embassy in Kosovo visits The Ideas Partnership**

Luxembourg's Head of Mission in Kosovo, Anne Dostert visited the center of the non-governmental organization in Fushe Kosove, The Ideas Partnership (TIP) in January. This visit was carried out in order to find ways of co-operation to build the capacity of the The Ideas Partnership center and potentially to support the activities being carried out at this center. The Embassy of Luxembourg staff was willing to provide support in finding alternative ways to help the work of our organization. They stressed out that it is essential to liaise with the relevant institutions and organizations in pooling forces for cooperation in enhancing the well-being of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities and providing equal opportunities for all communities in Kosovo. The Head of the Luxembourg Embassy in Kosovo highly praised the 10-year TIP work and stressed out the importance of trust created by these communities in the work of this organization, with emphasis on volunteering culture, advocacy work, community support in the social field, employment , health, mediation and capacity building with local and state institutions.

