

### Monitoring of MLSW Sector Strategy 2018-2022

Pristina, February 1, the report on the implementation of measures to promote the employment of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian community members in 2018, has been presented, which is an evaluation report of the Sector Strategy of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare 2018-2022. In this presentation were present representatives of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo, municipal officials and members of civil society.



The purpose of this report is to evaluate the level of achievement of results and the implementation of the activities and measures foreseen in the Sector Strategy of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare 2018-2020 regarding the promotion of employment of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo during 2018. For this purpose, several documents were analyzed, such as the strategic documents, annual reports and data of the relevant institutions for the recent years, with a special focus on those of 2018. Also, through the semi-structured questionnaire, were interviewed the representatives of relevant public institutions and civil society organizations.

Based on the above sources, the report summarizes the achievements of 2018 in the field of promoting employment of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo with a particular focus on the activities, measures and outcomes foreseen by the Sector Strategy of the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare 2018-2022.

Various analyzes show that the employment situation of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities is very severe. These communities have a higher unemployment rate and a lower employment rate compared to the Albanian majority as well as other minority communities in Kosovo.

During 2018 progress has been made in some of the activities of this Strategy, although some have been implemented only in part:

- For the first time in the annual report of the Employment and Workforce of EARK for 2017, the reporting of statistics from SIMP has begun to be separately reported for these three communities, which enables the monitoring of the state of indicators as the number and percentage of jobseekers,

registered jobseekers for whom employment is mediated, participants in vocational training and other active labor market measures etc.

- Although no quotas have been implemented for the participation of these communities in active labor market measures during 2018, the issue of employment of these communities has been widely addressed in the main policy making document in the field of employment promotion from MLSW, Employment Policy for the Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo 2019 - 2021. This document has set annual targets for the inclusion of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in active labor market measures provided by the EARK in the years to come. However, it should be noted that these targets are lower than those foreseen in the Strategy, aiming at a 6 percent inclusion in 2021, while the Strategy foresees inclusion of 10 percent. Also, during 2018 the attendance was only 2.6 percent. As these targets are the minimum to be achieved, it is recommended that efforts be made to overcome these targets.

### **Integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities into the education system in Kosovo in 2018**

Prishtina, on February 22, has been presented the report "Integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities into the Education System in Kosovo in 2018". Participants in this presentation were representatives of civil society who helped improve the inclusion of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students in education.

This report has been prepared as an effort to follow the implementation of the Roma and Ashkali community integration strategy in Kosovo society (2017-2021), with a clear focus on the education dimension. In addition, the monitoring report also includes measures and activities of parts of KESP 2017-2021 for the integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities for the period 2017-2021.

The methodology used for this evaluation was made based on data from statistics and reports available at national and municipal level on one side and data collected by municipalities and MEST.

Regarding the attendance of students from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, the sources show that it seems to be a very promising trend.

The number of students from Ashkali and Egyptian communities has increased in all levels of education. Meanwhile, the number of students from the Roma community has also increased at all levels, with the exception of grades 1-9 (primary and lower secondary) Të dhënat nga MASHT kanë treguar se ka pasur 75 studentë nga tre komunitetet të cilët janë regjistruar në institucionet publike të arsimit të lartë në Kosovë në vitin akademik 2017/2018.



Cases of school dropout by students reported by MEST SMIA for the last two years (2016/2017 and 2017/2018) of education have decreased for all three communities. Of the total 119 pupils who dropped out of school in 2016/2017, the number decreased to 88 in 2017/2018.

With regard of support to motivate families to send their children to school and to continue it until the end, KESP 2017-2021 has foreseen a scholarship provision for students going to secondary schools. The data from MEST show that for the students of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities who continue the secondary education, a total of 600 scholarships (300 euros each) have been made available. In the previous year (2017), MEST offered 507 scholarships. So there is a growing trend and this seems to be determined by the availability of donor funding for this scholarship fund.

The report concludes that the participation of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students is very promising and that a positive trend can be noticed. In addition to statistics, meetings and interviews with municipal authorities have shown that the situation is improving also with regard to the interest of families for their children's education.

### **Scholarship programs for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students in upper secondary education in Kosovo**

Pristina, on February 22, has been presented the thematic report "Scholarship Programs for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students in upper secondary education in Kosovo". Participants in this presentation were representatives of civil society that help to improve the inclusion of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students in education.

According to the Kosovo Education Strategic Plan 2017-2021 - Result 1.4 it is expected that through the scholarships to achieve the inclusion of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children in lower and upper secondary education with increase by 20%. The Kosovo Education Strategic Plan 2017-2021 states that: In higher education, where the participation of these communities is very low, in



addition to facilitating the census, consideration should be given to the possibility of providing scholarships for education. According to the Evaluation Report on the Implementation of the Strategy for the Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in the Kosovo Society in 2017, only 65% of children are included in the lower secondary education (one in five) of the lower secondary school age are completely out of school.

In the academic year 2017/18, the number of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students in primary and lower secondary education is 5,693, which is an increase of 2.7% compared to the academic year 2016/17, when there were 5,542 children, of whom 1,276 were Roma, 3,398 Ashkali and 868 Egyptians.

While in upper secondary education, less than one third (30%) of the children of the respective age attend secondary education, while most (60%) are completely out of school.

In 2018, 785 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students in upper secondary education in Kosovo responded to the scholarship call published by MEST. Of the 785 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students in upper secondary education who applied, 600 of them were awarded scholarships and 185 were unsuccessful.

Of the 600 scholarship winners 313 were female and 287 were males, according to ethnicity 209 were Roma, 196 Egyptians and 195 Ashkali. Most scholarships are awarded to students living in Gjakova, Prizren, Ferizaj and Istog. Only these four municipalities account for 50.1% of the total allocated stock

The current scholarship program led by MEST and supported by KFOS, VoRAE, HEKS, REF is meeting the target set in KESP 2017-2021 for involving Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students in upper secondary education. Each Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian scholarship student in upper secondary education gets 30 euros a month, 300 euros a year. The relevant actors report that this financial support for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students in upper secondary education has had a decreasing impact on the drop in school drop-out.

Scholarship support for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students in upper secondary education reaches the value of 180,000.00 euros per year. The MEST led and donor supported program has proven to be very effective. The program has started in 2014/2015 and is still active. The relevant actors and donors are in favor of such a program to continue in the years to come

### **Workshop organized by RIO with civil society organizations from the region**



On 26-28 February 2019, the KOSINT 2020 project team is representing Kosovo at the regional meeting taking place in Belgrade with the participation of the RCC action team and 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 an interactive workshop, is organized by Roma Initiatives Office (RIO) under Roma Integration 2020 (RI2020).



This workshop was based on the new phase of integration of Roma into society and the impact of improving the implementation of policies in the EU integration process. Moreover, the strategic communication for each country was discussed, and the possibilities for cooperation between states for better communication.

### **The Shtime Learning Center (SHLC) celebrated its 10th anniversary**

In the presence of numerous supporters from Shtime's municipal departments for education, culture, youth and sports, health, primary school directors, nursing director, representatives of Kosovo Police, partner organizations, volunteers and staff of our organization, as well as many other honorable guests, Balkan Sunflowers Kosovo marked the 10th anniversary of the work of our center in Shtime.

The opening of the manifestation was made by the Center Coordinator in Shtime, Diarta Vishesella, while several speeches were also held by the director of the Directorate for Education, Mensur Neziri, and the first coordinator of the center who is now the director of the school Emin Duraku, Jasmine Hysaj-Xhakli, and the Director of Balkan Sunflowers Kosovo Mr. Muhamet Arifi. At the end, a cocktail was organized for the attendees and the 10th anniversary cake was cut.



### **Workshop with students, teachers and school directors for the safe internet month**



In the course of the activities for the safe internet month for children from the Center for Advanced Studies FIT and the Kosovo Education Center KEC, a workshop was held with students, teachers and school directors of the project "Promotion and Protection of Rights child".

During the workshop, children learned about online dangers and invited everyone to join and engage with others by showing respect for providing a better digital experience. The children exhibited their various works on internet safety and posted pictures of positive messages on social networks.

The Saga for Safer Internet Day 2019 is "Together for a Better Internet", a call to all stakeholders to work on creating a better Internet for everyone, especially for younger users.

Starting as an initiative of the EU Safe Borders project in 2004 and then continuing with the Insafe Network in 2005, the Safer Internet Day has grown beyond the initial geographic area and is now being marked in more than 140 countries around the world. With the support of the European Commission, the Safer Internet Day aims to increase awareness of online threats and choose a topic that reflects current issues.

### **Training "Community Mapping by Young People"**



Within the framework of the USAID-funded Program ASSET, a one-day "Youth Community Mapping" for pupils and teachers of the school is being held at the 'Eqrem Çabej' high school in Vushtrri.

"Youth Mapping Community" provides young people with skills in gathering, analyzing, reporting and disseminating community resource information, and using these skills in the labor market. They are also equipped with soft skills such as problem solving skills, critical thinking skills, active listening skills, and teamwork.

The ASSET program is implemented by the Kosovo Education Center (KEC) in partnership with Fhi360 and Crimson Capital Corp.

## U lansiru projekti i ri PEACOCK



At the PHZH- Pädagogische Hochschule Zürich, the new PEACOCK project was launched (Peace through Cooperation, Competences and Knowledge in Macedonia and Kosovo).

The meeting was attended by representatives of KEC and our colleagues from PHZH from Zurich and MCEC from Macedonia.

## International Safer Internet Day

On 06 February 2019, in Shtime, BRAN, within the framework of the International Safer Internet Day, conducted a round table on: Youth acquaintances for the safe use of internet with over 30 young people in the municipality of Shtime.

Where the front panelists spoke about Internet safety, with particular emphasis on the safety of virtual money and the impact of the internet on social life, dependence and dangers.

Then, with the young people, they discussed how well they are aware of Internet protection and how much has been done so far to raise awareness of the potential dangers they may encounter while using the Internet.

Also, regarding ICT education, BRAN has organized training on the Microsoft Office package with 15 young people in Shtime / Štimlje municipality.





The roundtable and training were carried out within the project "ICT Education for Ashkali, Egyptian and Roma Communities Youth" funded by the Ministry of Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

### **Fushata Vetëdijësuese Shëndetësore “ Virusët dhe gripët”**

On 20 and 26 February 2019 - in the neighborhoods "7 Shtatori" in Peja and Vitomiric, inhabited by the Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities "Syri i Vizionit" within the project "PROSPECT +" has organized awareness campaigns for "Viruses and Flu ". Given the concerns and cases identified by these viruses, we have seen it as reasonable to arrange such campaigns to inform the community about the risks, consequences and symptoms of the virus and the flu in question, thus



explaining how to protect it from this viruses what to do in such cases, and what are the categories or ages that are most easily affected by these viruses and swine flu. Participation in such campaigns and events is always enjoyable and community members are curious about the topics that will be discussed or discussed and are constantly making inquiries about the topics that are being discussed.

### **Intercultural activity "17 February"**

On 19.02.2019 - In the primary school "Xhemajl Kada" in Peja and "7 September" in Vitomiric" Syri i Vizionit within the project PROSPECT + organized intercultural activity" 17Shkurti" with children of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities , who attend additional classes in these centers. The children of these learning centers have prepared literary classes and have also worked on various themes with poems and drawings devoted to the "17Shkurtit" day with which the works have been decorated and the class.



The purpose of this activity has been to enable children to recognize the important dates they have recorded and mark history in their place of living and to understand their importance.



## The awareness campaign "Hygiene of students in schools"



In the framework of the project "Supporting integration and empowerment for Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali returnees through primary education capacities" implemented by Syri i Vizionit and supported by the German Agency for International Cooperation - GIZ, on February 14, in the 6 of the learning centers that operate in the respective primary schools of the municipalities of Peja, Klinë and Istog, an awareness raising campaign was organized for the pupils of additional learning on the topic "Hygiene of Students in Schools". During this activity with lower and upper class students, the educators explained to the children the importance of having proper personal hygiene, clothing and the proper environment for their health. In addition to lectures and conversations with students, the theme was also addressed through creative and entertaining forms during which the

students themselves were the protagonists of the transfer of advice and messages about Personal Hygiene to classmates and friends. An important part of this activity was also the provision of explanatory and illustrative brochures on the hygiene of students in schools. To further stimulate the sense of maintaining regular personal hygiene, supplementary school students were also given packs with the necessary elements for maintaining daily hygiene.

## Intercultural activity for the anniversary of Kosovo Independence

Another activity that usually rises students' curiosity is the celebration of February 17th - the anniversary of Kosovo's independence. Also in the six learning centers of Ciga, Zahaq, Kliqina, Klinë and Zallqit, this important historical date was marked.

The students of additional teaching with the organization and support of tutors, held various festive and entertainment activities in honor of the 11th anniversary of the declaration of independence. Through drawings, designs, poems and other artistic works, students of various communities reminded of February 17th. These works of the students, besides the artistic and entertainment side, are more and more surprising to the children, they also carry powerful messages that they have in their minds and hearts: for a more fair society, a better school and a beautiful Kosovo.



## Rugby activity starts for the children of Fushe Kosova

Since February, children of Fushë Kosovë have the opportunity to play rugby (rugby). The Ideas Partnership staff in cooperation with Balkan Lynx Rugby Club has started organizing rugby sessions every Saturday for children of all communities in Fushë Kosovë 6-12 years of age. This activity is held in the school yard of "Selman Riza", and is facilitated by our volunteers and Balkan Lynx Rugby Club volunteers. At the first session, more than 100 girls and boys participated in the rugby lessons. We thank the British Ambassador, Ruairi O'Connell, for supporting the organization of this activity.



## Youth of Janjeva are trained in programming and coding

Ten young people from the Albanian and Roma community from Janjeva have started intensive three-week training for programming and coding within the Tech Heroes project, thanks to the cooperation with the jCoders Academy in Pristina. This training aims at preparing these young people to identify a problem in the community where they live and to recommend solutions through the use of technology.

We thank the jCoders Academy and the staff of our center in Janjeva for initiating this cooperation and providing this opportunity for Janjeva youth.



## TIP staff holds training on "Sexual harassment at work and childbearing"



During February, The Ideas Partnership staff participated in EDI Project-enabled training on "Sexual harassment at work and harassment against children", where they talked more about identifying these cases and steps to address them.

Representatives from the Center for Social Work and Selman Riza school in Fushë Kosovë, as well as the partner organization Balkans Sunflowers Kosovo, participated in this training.

EDI Project is a project funded by the Austrian Development Agency aimed at empowering minority communities in Kosovo through education, dialogue and involvement in local decision-making processes. The Ideas Partnership is the implementing partner of this project.

## Lectures on children's rights and gender-based violence / domestic violence

During February, two lectures on children's rights and gender-based violence / domestic violence, in the Commune of Deçan, in SH.F.M.U "Rexhep Kadria", in the village of Pemishte and in SH.F.M.U. "DRITA", the village of Gramaqel. Both schools were an example for the youth part of Kosovo's multiethnic society! In the presence of school responsible staff has been taught for about 50 secondary elementary school



students. The students were very curious about the topics of the lectures and contributed with their frequent questions and comments to make this activity high expectations.

This activity is carried out by RROGRAEK with the support of the E4E Commitment for Equity Program, funded by the United

States Agency for International Development - USAID and implemented by the Advocacy Training and Resource Center – ATRC.



## Meeting with the Deputy Mayor of Suhareka Municipality and activities in this municipality



During February, the project staff PROSPEKT + implemented by NGO Nevo Concept held a meeting with Deputy Mayor of Suhareka Municipality, Mihrije Suka. The purpose of the meeting was to notify the municipal authorities about the work of the organization in the villages Leshan, Trnje, Gelance as well as the cooperation to be part of the monitoring team for the Strategy for the Integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities. At the meeting, mutual cooperation was evaluated.

Some of the activities in the village of Leshan and Tërrne of Suhareka were the meeting with the team of teachers and prevention groups within the "Vaso Pasha Shkodrani" school for preventing and responding to abandonment of education, reporting of student absences on time and identification of students with the potential risk of dropping out of school. Also in this school, activities with peers were made to help each other with homework, socializing among children and increasing their educational performance.

These activities are realized within the project 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). The project is implemented in the Municipality of Suhareka and aims to contribute to the Promotion and Integration of Children of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities in Kosovo.