### **NEWSLETTER IV APRIL 2019**



## Members of Parliament voted on the Law on NGOs according to the requirements of the Civil Society

The law on NGOs which was adopted by the Parliament on November 7, 2018, had some shortcomings that were identified by civil society, as a violation of the base principle for non-profit that threatens the future of the sector. Upon returning of the law from the President and more than five of months waiting and postponing, the Law on NGOs was on the agenda of the Kosovo Parliament on April 15th. The Members of the Parliament from all political parties voted this law. With 66 votes pro, the Parliament on 15 April 2019



voted the new NGO Law, according to civil society requirements, in line with European standards and best practices, as well as the in line with the requirements of over 300 civil society organizations. Most of the members of the KOSINT 2020 network participated in these organizations.

About 300 civil society organizations were united to prevent the risk to the civil society sector and Kosovar democracy from this law. All parliamentary groups, as well as Members of Parliament individually, were notified in detail about the problems of this unprecedented law in Europe and beyond, and the consequences that may arise if the right provisions are not returned.

Furthermore, a week before the law with amendments was up for vote, the US Ambassador to Kosovo. z. Philip Kosnett, called upon all the political parties to vote on the Law on NGOs under the amendments proposed by the President, pointing out that this issue has nothing to do with politics, but with ensuring transparency and preventing misuse of donor funds. Similar calls have been made by the ambassadors of other Quint and EU countries as well as other international organizations.

Therefore, the whole commitment of civil society was successful, as the law was voted based on their requriments.

# Members of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities have protested against early marriages in front of the Police Station in Gracanica

On April 8, 2019, a protest was organized by the NGO "The Voice of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians".

The youth of these communites in their hands were holding banners with the motto "I want to be a girl, but not also a lover," "I stand in front of the stove, instead of the faculty" etc.

Afrim Osmani official of education in this organization said that on roma

day they have come out to protest against early marriages.



Considering it a very harmful phenomenon for this community, it sought to raise awareness among family members and young people that early marriage disrupts them from life.

Sujella Garip, a young woman who was protesting, said she wants to continue schooling and be equal to everyone.

### **Informational Sessions on Business Design for Women**

RROGRAEK during April, began holding information sessions for businesses design for women of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. These activities are supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation through the "Promotion of Private Sector Employment (PPSE)" project, implemented

by Swisscontact and the Riinvest Institute and implemented by RROGRAEK.

On April 16, two meetings were held for women in Prizren and in Gjakova. The two regions provided a brilliant audience consisting of girls and women from roma, ashkali and egyptian communities with open



visions for developing and designing different ideas of encouraging activity and willing to continue towards building their competitive capacities.

### Public discussion, for the presentation of 4 study reports

On April 15, KEC held a public discussion where was done the presentation of 4 study reports, such as: "Preschool Education", "State of Education in Kosovo Municipalities", "Challenges of Implementation of the Curricular Reform in Pre-University Education in Kosovo" "Pre-University Education Management in Kosovo", "Preschool Education in Kosovo". Participants were members of various local and international organizations.



### Challenges and opportunities for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children and youth in Kosovo



The Roma Education Fund - REF with other partner organizations organized a conference on 16 April 2019 at the Sirius Hotel in Prishtina with the theme "Challenges and Opportunities for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Children and Youth in Kosovo".

The Conference regarding the policies, provided a forum for institutions, civil society organizations, international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to involve Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians, as well as to share their experiences and lessons learned from education and employment reforms in Kosovo . The conference also provided an opportunity to identify and discuss key challenges for closing gaps in equal treatment for Roma children and the easy transition from youth education to employment.

Members of the open discussion panel were:

z. Dukagjin Pupovci, KEC

Mrs. Elizabeth Gowing, TIP

z. Isak Skenderi, VoRAE

From this conference, including also other sessions, several recommendations came out as:

- More work will be done on the issue of abandoning of school by children.
- We will work to reach an adequate solution for the learning centers that are very important.
- A new Administrative Instruction will soon be drafted, which will provide secondary school students with direct support from the MEST

The Conference regarding the policies is organized under the project "Raising opportunities for education of Roma students and young people in the Western Balkans and Turkey", implemented by REF and funded by the European Union.



#### Competition "Design Challenge 2019"

On April 17, USAID's program on "After School Support for Teens" - ASSET and IPKO Foundation (IF) have organized the closing of the competiton on "Design Challenge 2019" and the educational technology exhibition.

The purpose of the event was:

- Exposure of projects created by students of the participating schools;
- Exposure of products and supply of educational technology from different local companies;
- Encouraging of schools for projects and practical work with students;

- Encourage the use of educational equipment in schools;
- Encourage the development of student skills for life and work in the 21st century.

The event has ended with the award of prizes for winning schools.

### Workshop "How to accept the communities in schools"

On 18 April, the KRAEEYN network held a workshop "How to accept the communities at school". The purpose of the workshop was to prepare school mediators for accessing teachers in schools. The workshop was led by Driton Berisha, who is a member of the Network Steering Committee. Participants were



members of various organizations, which support the education of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children.

### The volunteers of the BRAN NGO were winners at the UP SHIFT workshop!

During the period 19 to 21 April 2019, Irfani, Makfiretja, Shaha, Shqipdona and Valentina from the village of Vojnoci of the municipality of Shtime with the assistance of the BRAN NGO participated in the 3 day workshop at UP SHIFT organized and supported by PEN and UNICEF Innovation Lab Kosovo.

These young people were concerned about the fact that in their village there was rubbish, the river

pollution was growing and the green spaces were only shrinking, so they applied ideas for solving these problems, which were initially the establishment recycling bins in the village then creating a green group that will consist of young people who will be trained and then will also create different artwork from different materials and so on. These young



people called their group "KaPak KaPak"

Of the 10 participating groups, the KaPak KaPak group was among the 5 winning groups that will be financially supported for the realization of their idea by UP SHIFT.

The BRAN NGO is extremely happy and proud that our volunteers are constantly contributing to the community and their country.

### **Cooperation Agreement between EARK and VoRAE**

On the 23 April, a Cooperation Agreement was signed between the Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo and the NGO "The Voice of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians".

The purpose of this Cooperation Agreement is to create a spirit of cooperation in the inclusion of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities in the employment programs and active labor market measures which are offered by the Employment Agency through Employment Offices by providing equal opportunities in

compliance with the applicable legislation..

The Cooperation Agreement is based on the priorities which aim that through the Employment Offices and VoRAE, to promote advocate and finding people that are interested to employed and potential employers for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities.

The signing of the agreement was made



by the Executive Director of VoRAE NGO Mr. Isak Skenderi and U.D. General Director of EARK Mr. Muhamet Klinaku.

## Visit in the TIP Center by Mr. Habit Hajredini, Director of the Office for Good Governance

Director of the Office for Good Governance within the Office of the Prime Minister of Kosovo, Mr. Habit Hajredini visited the TIP learning center in Fushë Kosovë. Mr. Hajredini was welcomed by Elizabeth Gowing, co-founder and at the same time executive director of The Ideas Partnership, and our staff at the center, where they have presented Mr. Hajredini more extensively with their work with the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.



He also visited our Saturday Activities, which activities are characterized with educational elements that are conducted on a weekly basis and offered to more than 100 children of ages 6-15.

# Team "10K for the 10th Anniversary of TIP" completes the Half Marathon of Prishtina

In honor of the 10th anniversary of the founding of The Ideas Partnership, over 20 volunteer runners successfully completed the Pristina Half Marathon run on Sunday. We are very grateful to the "10K for the 10th Anniversary of the TIP" team who completed the first challenge we set for the celebration of a decade of work with the marginalized most



communities in Kosovo, and we thank all our supporters who donated funds in support of our initiative.

### **Two-day Training for Assistant Teachers**

In the framework of the project "Social Inclusion of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians and other vulnerable groups in Kosovo" supported by SDC, Tdh organized a two-day training for Assistant Teachers from 10 municipalities committed supporting to Complementary Learning Classes.



The purpose of this training is

to increase the capacities of Assistant Teachers in the implementation of qualitative supplementary learning, contributing to the main purpose of this project - the institutionalization of supplementary classrooms.

### Debate on career orientation / high school graduates studies



SHL-Kosova in cooperation with MED in Rahovec organized a debate on career orientation / studies for high school students of Rahovec.

Initially, SHL Kosovo conducted a small research through a short questionnaire, and then in the debate through the chart in percentage it published the orientation of graduates with statistics.

For a better orientation for the high school graduates, SHL-K also had a debate with panelists Valon Feka and Xhihad Vucitrna, who gave their opinion on the possible directions for the studies that graduates can pursue.

In the second part of the debate were speakers from the SMART Bits project, which provided information on this project.

SHL-Kosovo thanks MED's Director Mr. Avni Morina as well as all directors of Primary and Secondary Schools in the Municipality of Rahovec for Good Co-operation.

### Information about preparatory courses unfolds on TV debate

On 3 April 2019, a debate on TV Prizren was held on informing citizens on the start of one-month

preparatory courses for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian pupils of the 9th grade for the Achievement Test and for the 12th grade students the high school graduation test.

In the studio guests were: Nesret Gashi, a teacher and Fatmir Menekshe field coordinator in the project.



During the show, the Field Coordinator provided information on the course progress, when they started, how long will they last, the premises where these courses are held, how many students are identified by all primary and secondary schools, how many is the number of course attendants, the results that were shown last year and their impact on the reorganization of courses, etc.

While the teacher who is engaged in lecturing the courses, Nesret Gashi showed about the tools, methods and techniques of work as well as the material used to give students the best results on achievement and high school graduation tests.

The TV debate was conducted within the framework of the SoRi project, which is supported by the German Government through the German Agency for International Cooperation, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

#### Aktivitete në shkollën fillore Drita





In the framework of the lower secondary elementary school "Drita" in Gelanta of Suharekë on April 15, 2019 was organized football tournament.

In this event nine grade students from both school communities participated. The purpose of the activity was to equip the students with sportswear and to involve children from the communities on the tour.

In the framework of the lower secondary elementary school "Drita" in Gelance of Suharekë on 16 April 2019 vaccination of unvaccinated students was carried out.

The purpose of the activity was the vaccination of 24 students, who were unvaccinated. After the meeting with the vaccination team, it was decided to jointly initiate this initiative to include all children in the vaccination.

The vaccination was performed by the staff of AMF of Gjinoc.

Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Suhareka, Mrs. Mihrije Suka on April 8, 2019 visited the village of Gelancë, namely the lower secondary elementary school "Drita".

She made this visit in the framework of developments for the various activities of regular teaching and the project PROSPECT+, which is implemented by NGO Nevo Concept. After that Deputy Mayor Mrs. Suka has also visited a neighborhood that is inhabited by the communities. She has closely watched the bridge of this neighborhood, while during a meeting with a family Mrs. Suka has promised and pledged that all communities will be treated the same and will have increased care by the institutions, informs the Municipality of Suhareka.

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.

### Promotional material on children's rights is compiled

The Children's Assembly in Prizren has organized a workshop on the development of promotional material on children's rights. Representatives from Prizren Municipal Primary Schools are compiling this material,

in cooperation with illustrator Hana Arapi.

The workshop was held on April 4 and 5, 2019, where the children contributed by illustrating and writing some of the articles of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child.

This activity is held within the framework of the "Children's Rights Governance" project aimed at informing and



empowering the position of children in decision-making processes and implemented by Nevo Concept in partnership with Save the Children / Kosovo, supported by the Swedish International Development Agency.

### Awarness Campaigns held by the "Football School for Communities" in regard to "Environmental Protection" and "Lead In Blood Contamination"

Within the project "Football School for Communities" supported by the Danish Refugee Council, two awareness-raising campaigns were "Environmental held on Protection" and the other on "Blood Lead Contamination" in community for the children of both neighborhoods inhabited communities roma, ashkali and Egyptian, "Roma Mahalla" and "2 Korriku". These two awareness campaigns were implemented by the PRAM NGO staff cooperation with the project beneficiary children who met the citizens of both neighborhoods and



provided leaflets with information and recommendations on two campaign themes.

The campaign was held for two consecutive days on 4 and 5 April 2019 with the two children's groups of "Football School for Communities". The citizens welcomed the children as the presentation of the campaign was done also by children who were prepared in advance by the PRAM NGO staff.

### **Eorkshop of 4 days for jewelery production from recycling plastic bottles**



During April, BRAN - The Youth Union of the Bright Future and Nouvel Est / New Birth organized a workshop, which was held by the expert Mrs. Veronika Sdub from France. For the arrival of the expert, Ms. Marie-Christine Maja Egger from the Franko-Kosovar organization "Nouvel est" orginezed everything.

10 girls from the Ferizaj municipality were trained by the expert Ms. Veronika Stub from France on how to recycle plastic materials and create beautiful things such as jewelry and so on, and even these materials could serve to the participants as an idead to create a business individual.

In the days ahead, 14 participants participated in the workshop and among them 5 boys from the technical secondary school "Pjetër Bogdani" from Ferizaj.

The participants were very impressed and interested in the training, as well as very thankful for the opportunity given to attend this workshop.

Indeed, the recycling of materials is a good step for protecting the environment and is a good opportunity to generate revenue and create a small individual business.

The workshop was organized in the framework of close cooperation between the organizations "BRAN - Youth Union of Bright Future" and "Nouvel Est / New Birth"



### The Ideas Partnership with activities in honor of Earth Day

In honor of Earth Day, our staff in Fushë Kosovë organized several activities aimed at educating children on environmental protection. Our children, volunteers and our staff participated in the cleaning of neighborhoods 28 and 29 in Fushë Kosovë, contributing to the preservation of the environment.

In addition to cleaning the neighborhoods, children in our center in Fushë Kosovë also had the opportunity to express their creativity for the protection of the environment through art, an activity that was made possible by the engagement of our volunteers.