

Public discussion on the issue related to housing policies for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosova



In Pristina, on 29 May 2019 was organized a public discussion by the KOSINT 2020 project on housing policy issues related to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo.

Members of the panel to discuss this matter were good acquaintances of the field that included:

- Znj. Keriman Sadikaj, Office of Good Governance within the Prime Minister's Office;
- Znj. Merita Dalipi, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning;
- Znj. Violeta Thaqi, leader of the housing program VoRAE.

Other participants were members of civil society organizations working in the field of housing and municipal officials.

The panelists presented the situation on the field based on their experience and what difficulties the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities face in terms of housing, accompanying infrastructure and documentation. In addition, the legal situation and the various strategies that affect the housing issue were introduced.

Each of the points was discussed also by the other participants, and one of them each gave information from their experience.

At the end of the public discussion, the participants came up with a common approach to the next steps and recommendations to be undertaken to advocate in this area.

- To work on the functionalization of an intergovernmental database, which exists already. In this database all the housing cases are required to be registered, all the cases where they have already built houses / flats in each municipality. This database will help in identifying different cases, reducing manipulations, not letting duplication of claims, and based on the criteria to be filled, it would help in identifying priority cases. The database would be completed by municipalities and ministries dealing with this issue
- Another important issue that has been discussed was that it would be necessary that each municipality appoints a housing officer, who would be bridge between the municipality, the government and the CSO, and would also complement the database if it would be functionalized.
- Discuss with the Ministry of Finance to add a budget sub-code for social housing.
- To have the municipalities draft a three-year residential plan.
- To increase the cooperation between ministries, municipalities and CSOs that deal with housing in reporting the construction cases.
- Property documentation remains one of the most problematic issues, as many cases do not have property documents, or the property is purchased without the transfer of owners, etc.

Housing is one of the most important issues, as if a family does not live well, it affects family welfare and health, education and employment. Therefore, there is a need for greater co-operation for housing to be provided for all the citizens of Kosovo.

Meeting of CSO and Friends of Social Inclusion

On May 21, 2019, it was held a meeting with the member organizations of the network KOSINT 2020 with the group "Friends of Social Inclusion" represented by the Ambassador of the Finnish Embassy and the deputy of the Assembly of Kosovo. During the meeting were discussed about joint plans for inclusion of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo society and engagement of friends in promoting equal access to employment and education and other important issues for these three communities.



Meeting with the Minister of Education Science and Technology Mr. Shyqyri Bytyqi

On May 28, in Pristina, the civil society organizations met with the Minister of Education Science and Technology, Shyqyri Bytyqi and Deputy Minister of Communities in the Ministry of Education, Mr. Artan Berisha. In this meeting, two main issues were discussed, which are very important for the education of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.



These issues included the new developments in the Guidelines for Administrative Instruction and Provision of Scholarships for students in lower and upper secondary schools.

From this meeting they agreed that:

1. That there will be used the best models to create funds that are sustainable for the national high school scholarship program for the students from communities.
2. To postpone the process of finalizing the guidelines and start the registration learning centers for additional learnings.

The Minister thanked the civil society organizations for the hard work and has guaranteed that they will always have his support in of the each process that is being developed for the benefit of these three communities.

Training on Budget for Civil Servants of Kosovo by RCC

Regional Co-operation Council - The RCC Roma Integration 2020 team continues to train civil servants of governments in the western Balkan region and Turkey. Capacity building training on piloting responsible Roma budgeting was held in Mavrovo for Kosovo civil servants, where participants analyzed different solutions for sectors where they highlighted the gap between the needs and funds. Successful budget should be planned in a way that it would deliver results to those in need. Civil servants from



Kosovo stressed out the lack of adequate measures for housing for Roma, education and low employment rates. The accountable Roma budget should address these issues in the future more effectively.

BSFK has started the process for informing and assisting for first class registration

Balkan Sunflowers Kosovo Staff and Mediators, during May in all learning centers has started the process of enrolling the children in the first grade. Mediators and staff are informing parents and children about the importance of first class education and enrollment. This is the beginning of the campaign and announcements are being made across all neighborhoods.



Visit of students at the firefighting center in Shtime



At the beginning of May, Balkan Sunflowers Kosovo through its learning center in Shtime organized a visit of pupils of this center to the Shtime firefighting center. This visit was organized within the framework of the regular program, under the topic of community-based work.

Pupils were briefly informed about the work of firefighters, the risks they have at work, the cases in which they intervene, and their working tools.

Kosova we want – the second congress

In Prishtina, on May 23, 2019 the second congress of civil society organizations was held, where there were presented to the citizens and politicians the work conducted by the working groups in 5 areas that represents the pillars of the democratic, prosperous, developing society with social justice and decent work and life conditions for all.

The presentation were done in these topics:

- Education for development and employability
- Economic development and job creation
- Health and social welfare policies
- Decent work and live
- Civic activism for good governance.



The KOSINT 2020 project team was participating in this congress. The project leader, KOSINT 2020, presented the identified priorities and actions to be undertaken for their achievement as part of the Education and Training panel for the development of skills for employment.

Supporting adolescents after regular teaching

On the date of May 23, the program for "Supporting adolescents after regular teaching" has reached a cooperation agreement with the municipalities of: Rahovec, Prizren, Peja, Istog, Obiliq, Lipjan and Suharekë.

In the introductory speech, the responsible person with work at the US embassy in Kosovo, Colen Hyland stressed the importance of developing life and work skills for young people, who make up the bulk of the population in Kosovo.

The "Supporting adolescents after regular teaching" is a five-year program that is funded by the USAID and led by the Kosovo Education Center (KEC) in partnership with FHI 360 and Crimson Capital Corp. This program, aims to develop the skills of work and entrepreneurship among the young people in Kosovo.

This activity currently operates in the municipalities of Prishtina, Gjakova, Hani i Elezit, Vushtrri, Fushe Kosova, Gjiilan, Vitia, Ferizaj and Kamenica.



Summer camps for upper secondary school students

Through the Memorandum of Understanding, signed on the date of May 14, between the "Supporting adolescents after regular teaching" Program, the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, and the TOKA organization will be able to hold summer camps for the students of upper secondary schools, with the aim to develop their skills for life and work.

The "Supporting adolescents after regular teaching" program is funded by USAID, and is implemented by the Kosovo Education Center (KEC) in partnership with FHI 360 and Crimson Capital Corp.



The show of two documentary films on social issues of communities

On the date of May 23, the KRAEYN network organized a workshop where two documentary movies were shown on social issues of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

The movies that were shown were:

1. Ceija Stojka – Karin Berger
2. Three Rooms of Hope - Denis Mustafa

After the screening of the movies, discussions were held about movie messages through debating sessions. The purpose of the workshop was to learn from others' experiences, and exchange of experiences among members of the network.



Training for business development for women

During the month of May, training for business development for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian women continued. These activities are supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation through the project "Promotion of Private Sector Employment (PPSE)", implemented by the Swisscontact and the Riinvest Institute and implemented by RROGRAEK. Trainings were held in Peja, Prizren, Gjakova and Pristina.

During the training session, the participants were involved in various activities and showed interest in widening their scope of work.



The program for practical work

The Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MLSW), the Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo (EARK), in cooperation with NGOs "Voice of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians", launched open calls for applications for youth of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian for the Practical Work Program.

This was an opportunity for young people of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities to benefit by creating work experience from the practical work program. The program is specifically designed for young people of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, from ages (18) eighteen years of age and above.

The Practical Work Program is for a term of up to 6 (six) months with employment opportunities.



All jobseekers registered with the Employment Office can benefit from the Practical Work Program. During the selection process, priority will be given to those that were unemployed or the longest time.

The purpose of the Practical Work Program is to create employment opportunities for jobseekers in Kosovo by subsidizing employers who are willing to employ them in the long run. In order to benefit from this program, the employer must sign a 6 months employment contract with jobseekers of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, the The employer will receive a 4 month subsidy for employees from this program, while 2 months must be covered by the employer. The amount of this subsidy can not be higher than 150 euros per month. Employment Offices will support companies in identifying the best candidates registered as jobseekers, according to the specific needs of the employer.

Regular community visits for measuring blood pressure and blood sugar

During the month of May in the villages of Gelancë and Leshan of Suhareka, regular community visits were made to measure blood pressure and blood sugar.

The purpose of the activity was the implementation of home visits for the community and the elderly, who fail to receive services at the QKMF. Visits have been made at home by a nurse of QKMF, where she provided services of blood pressure and blood sugar measuring.

This activity is 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



Fushatë për regjistrimin e fëmijëve në shkolla fillore

The campaign for the enrollment of children in elementary schools was realized on May 23, 2019 in Piran of Prizren. Tutors, facilitators and volunteers are involved in mobilizing the community through information on the registration of children on time, on pre-primary and first grade education, and on preventing eventual abandonment cases.

There were awareness raising meetings with parents as well as were distributed leaflets and posters on the importance of education and registration of children on time in schools, along with information on the necessary documents for registration.

The information campaign was implemented within the framework of the project implemented by Nevo Concept "EU Support for the Implementation of the Strategy for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities" - EU SIMRAES-II.



A visit for regional exchange of experiences



On the date of 2nd and 3rd May, a regional visit was realized for exchange of experience between the Working Group of the Municipality of Prizren and the Working Groups of Albania in the cities in which the SoRi project was implemented, Kukës, Elbasan and Librazhd, as well as civil society organizations who are implementing project partners..

In the first day the working groups visited the Municipality of Kukës respectively the Center for Social Services. On the second day, they visited the Municipality of Elbasan and Librazhd, as well as the "Other Vision" organization.

The purpose of this visit was the exchange of good practices between the institutions of Kosovo and Albania as well as of the organizations, whereby much information was exchanged regarding the social services, social rights for returnees and the possibilities of their benefit, so in general about the rights of vulnerable groups that are the target of the SoRi project.

During the visit were also visited the following centers: Regional Center for Autism and the Information and Orientation Center for Social Rights, Migration, Vocational and Career Education in Kukes, Elbasan visited the Center for Free Professional Courses for Disabled Persons, while in Librazhd Center Daily for the elderly and for people with disabilities.

This visit was carried out within the framework of the SoRi project "Social Inclusion of Marginalized Groups in Prizren Municipality" implemented by the Nevo Concept, supported by the German Government through the German Agency for International Cooperation, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

Advocacy Campaign "The Need to Activate Informal Learning"

In Zallq on 20 May, within the framework of the GIZ project implemented by the non-governmental organization "Syri i Vizionit", advocacy campaigns with Egyptian community members and elementary school teachers in Zallq village of Istog were held. The topic that was addressed was the need to activate informal learning in this locality, as a result of a significant number of adults interested in continuing elementary school disruption over the years. The needs and questions of communities on this issue will be addressed to Istog municipality institutions in order to identify opportunities for initiating the informal education process for adults of this locality.



Fushata e Imunizimit - Pejë "7 Shtatori"

On May 27, in the frame of the project PROSPECT +, a project funded by KFOS and implemented by "Syri i Vizionit", is taking the children for vaccination in the "7 Shtatori" neighborhood in Peja, an activity which will continued several days. The purpose of this campaign is to vaccinate all children with vaccines to prevent various chronic illnesses. After the end of the vaccination for the children, the activity will continue to vaccinate the elderly.



Janjeva's students' exhibition is held with OSCE support

The Ideas Partnership staff in Janjeva organized an exhibition with the paintings of students from the school "Shtjefën Gjeçovi" at the end of the project "Promoting Cultural Diversity through Art", funded fundamentally by the OSCE Mission in Kosovo. About 40 students presented their works to those present, works that show harmony and cultural diversity in



their community. The event was held at the opening of the exhibition by the school director, Mr. Gafurr Bytyçi, Director of the Directorate for Education and Culture in the Municipality of Lipjan, Rasim Hasani, as well as our local coordinator, Shkëlqim Bahtiri, who thank them for their cooperation.

The project "Promoting Cultural Diversity through Art" was facilitated by OSCE support and was implemented by The Ideas Partnership Center in Janjevë.

The Way Organization collaborates with The Ideas Partnership

During the month of May, artists from The Way organization for three consecutive days painted mural in The Ideas Partnership center in Fushë Kosova beautifying the walls of the center for our children and our beneficiaries. Wall paintings focus on our regular activities with children and adults, starting from the kindergarten for children ages 3-5, additional tuition for children ages 6-15, parenting classes, literacy classes increased, health classes etc.

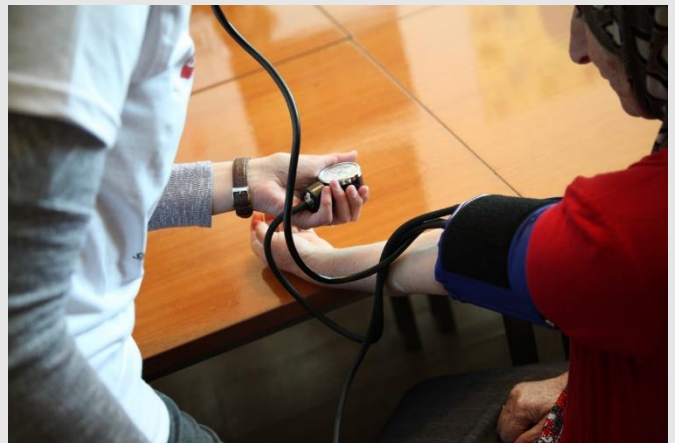
TIP appreciates the staff and volunteers of The Way organization for initiating this cooperation and tireless work on completing the mural in our center serving the most marginalized groups in our society, Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.



The Cardiology Association visits The Ideas Partnership

On the third day of the Heart Awareness Awareness Week, the Association of Cardiologists of Kosovo visited the center of The Ideas Partnership in Fushe Kosove. They met closely with members of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities and discussed about the importance of medical controls in preventing and curing various diseases, thus providing valuable health advice.

We thank the Association of Cardiologists in Kosovo for this visit to our center and the lessons learned there. The Ideas Partnership organizes regular weekly classes for health counseling in Fushë Kosova and Janjeva, and enables transportation to perform various examinations during the pregnancy period for mothers as well as delivering to the hospital for delivery.



VoRAE held an Information Session for Career Orientation for students

On May 24, a briefing session was held for the high school students, who are graduates with the topic on "Career Orientation", in 18 locations in Kosovo.

The topic of discussion was about "Transition from high school to youth enrollment in university", where all young people need to be able to respond to what they want in life. It is impossible to make progress if we do not know where we want to reach.



Participants who attended the information sessions were more than 313 high school students from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

Visit to the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo



In the framework of the project "Improving Access and (Re) Integration in Basic Education of Migrant and Returning Children and Families in Kosovo", funded by Giz Cdb and implemented by Tdh, with random micro-initiatives, about 35 children of the Learning After School Classes (LASC) to primary school "Enver Maloku" and Xheladin Rekaliu of the municipality of Podujevo visited the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo. Through this visit, children have learned about the Assembly of Kosovo, about the events that have taken place during these 11 years.

Two Day Training on "Risk Assessment for Children At Risk and in Need of Protection "

During the beginning of the month of May, the officials for Return and Communities, Social Workers and Community Counseling Group Members from Prishtina, Dragash, Gjakova, Novoherda were attending the two day training on “Risk Assessment for children at risk or in need of protection”

This training is being held in the framework of Child Protection Hub Project, supported Austrian Development Agency, aiming to contribute to the realization of children’s fundamental rights across the region, in particular the rights to be protected from abuse and violence.

Terre des hommes and its partners plan to continue building and improving an interconnected community of multidisciplinary professionals in the country and region with the aim of improving knowledge and understanding of child protection, developing capacities and innovative approaches to better prevent and respond to various forms of violence.



Activities for International Children's Day

On Thursday, May 30, RADC celebrated the International Children's Day which is on June 1st.

The staff of the Learning Center in Mitrovica organized sports activities, various games for children and art that started at 9:30.

The children were provided with food and refreshments for all planned activities that were held in the yard of the Learning Center. About 100 children from roma neighborhood, age from 5 to 15 years old, participated in these activities.

