

### **Working meeting on issues of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities towards integration into the European Union**



On the dates of June 17 to 19, the KOSINT 2020 project team represented Kosovo at the regional meeting held in Berlin with the participation of civil society organizations working with Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. The organization were from the western Balkan, including Kosovo, Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, and Turkey.

The meeting was held in the form of an interactive workshop, which was organized by Roma Initiatives Office (RIO) under Roma Integration 2020 (RI2020).

This workshop was based on the European Union Enlargement Strategy and Progress Reports of 2019 with regard to priorities and needs in each country for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. During the workshop, the teams reflected critically on what has been done in the past two years about advocacy towards the European Union enlargement process, activities to mobilize communities and use budget and election cycles in their advocacy campaigns

## Advocacy initiative in the form of lecture "understanding and prevention of hate speech, discrimination and stereotypes "



On June 14, the KOSINT 2020 project team organized an advocacy initiative with the topic of understanding and prevention of hate speech, discrimination and stereotypes. In this event were present representatives of Municipal Education Directorates, members of school councils (teachers, students and parents).

The advocacy initiative was organized as an interactive lecture on the recognition of definitions of freedom of expression and hate speech. During the lecture the domestic and international legislation on both fields were presented, and the distinction between hate speech and hate crimes and how they are understood and interpreted by different legislative acts in different countries of the world was explained. In addition to the presentation in regards to the subject, we also read and discussed some real-life statements that were given by victims of hate speech and hate crimes. In addition, three case studies were used, where participants were divided into three groups to give their opinions each to their own group.

In order to see the participants' knowledge about freedom of expression, hate speech, initiation of hate and hate crimes before the lecture, basic questionnaires were filled out with five questions by participants.

The questionnaires revealed that the majority of the participants had lack of general knowledge regarding the topic.

- On the first question: "What is hate speech", the 80% of the responders answered wrongly and only 20% had the correct answer.
- On the second question: "What is incitement of hatred", only one of the responders partially gave a correct answer.
- On the third question: "What is freedom of speech", only 30% of the responders new what freedom of speech is, out of which only two of them interlink the definition with the legal legislation.
- On the fourth question: "What is discrimination", majority new what it is, but only two of them linked the definition with the legal infrastructure.
- On the last fifth question: "What is a hate crime", only one responder partially new what it is but couldn't specifically explain it and he couldn't connected to the existing legal legislation.

## Meeting between the group of Social Inclusion Friends and community representatives of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities

On June 18, in Pristina, the social inclusion friends organized a working breakfast between the Social Inclusion Friends and community representatives of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians communities from various groups such as:

1. Women's Network,
2. Students,
3. Businesses and
4. Civil society.

During this working breakfast were present parliament members Ms. Mimoza Kusari Lila and Glauk Konjufca, Ambassador of the Embassy of Finland,

Ms. Pia Stjernvall and the Ambassador of the Swedish Embassy Ms. Karin Hernmarck-Ahliny. During the meeting it was discussed with various groups about the challenges these groups face in their daily life and the opportunities to address these challenges.



Also during this meeting, participants had the opportunity to share their personal and professional experiences by trying to identify key issues that would need to be addressed at the central and local levels in the future.

The topics that were discussed at this meeting by all the groups were:

- a. Antigypsism,
- b. Discrimination during the studies and enrollment at the University,
- c. Challenges that women of communities face in their daily life,
- d. Unequal opportunities in employment,
- e. The difficulty of doing business in Kosovar society etc.

## Celebration of the children day in Obiliq and Fushë Kosovë

On June 1, the organization Balkan Sunflowers Kosovo, the learning center in Plemetin (PBLK), in cooperation with the Municipal Directorate for Culture, Youth and Sports organized numerous activities in the center of the town of Obiliq. In this event were gathered children from different schools and different communities living in this municipality. Various games, mascots, and music acts have been prepared to mark the children's day in this municipality.



In addition, there has been a major event at the other Balkan Sunflower Kosovo Center in Fushë Kosovë (FKLC), where more than 60 parents have gathered to attend the carefully followed the program prepared by children who attend various programs at this learning center. To honor the organization of the FKLC on this day, was also present the director of the city gymnasium, Mr. Amir Pllana.

The program was full of music, dance, acting, and other sensitizing activities for children's rights.

### **Workshop on the topic "Organizing Effective Intercultural Activities"**

The EU SIMRAES 2 project, in cooperation with the PROSPECT 3 project, had organized a three-day workshop on "Organizing Effective Intercultural Activities". Participants in this workshop were tutors,



facilitators and coordinators of learning centers operating with the help of these two projects as well as the teachers of the partner schools of these learning centers. Through this workshop, participants were introduced to the essential elements for organizing effective intercultural activities, as well as ways of

involving different target groups. Participants have also developed the skills of planning and organizing intercultural activities and summer programs. In this workshop were also present as participants few member organizations of the KOSINT 2020 project network.

### Acknowledgments for BSFK in Obiliq

On June 24 in Obiliq, in honor of the Egyptian Community Day, the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Local Government Administration praised the work of BSFK and the Learning Center in Plemetin, by giving acknowledgment for the given contribution. The community has evaluated the work of BSFK in the field of education and not just for this community in the Obiliq municipality. This acknowledgment is given by the Egyptian community in the Egyptian week long event that is held throughout Kosovo.



### Young people of Kosovo as Youth Community Mapping activists



A number of students from the "Hajdar Dushi" high schools in Gjakova and "Xhevdet Doda" high school in Prishtina, thus two groups from two different cities, have in common their vigorous commitment to their duties, enthusiasm and, above all, their will to contributing to the general good, especially to that of their peers by researching their needs.

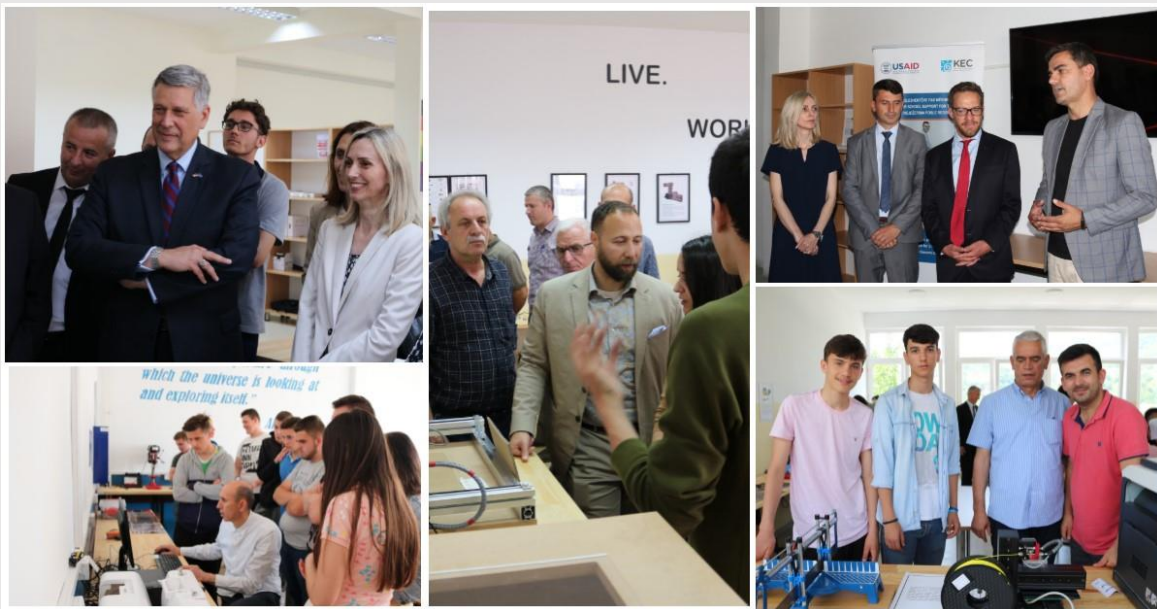
This initiative, which was undertaken by these students as part of Youth Community Mapping activities, and which is supported by the USAID-funded " After School Support for Teens" program has resulted to

be a step in pushing students to staying committed to such productive projects. It is worth mentioning also the teachers, collaborative officers as well as the respondents who were decisive factor in the satisfactory conclusion of the study.

Taking into consideration the official statistics and other living conditions, the indicators regarding the level of well-being among young Kosovars, for the members of the High School Hajdar Dushi in Gjakova was obvious that they would have to choose the very relevant topic for the project titled : "How do young people spend their free time in Gjakova?"

For the research topic, quantitative method was chosen through a questionnaire consisting of 8 selected questions and 88 respondents, pupils and students from high school and University in Gjakova . The gender ratio among respondents was roughly equal and the number of respondents from the high school was slightly higher than those of the University. The results found that young people in Gjakova spend their free time mainly in spaces such as bars, fast food restaurants, cafeterias etc. However, some of the results show that a number of young people in the city prefer to spend their free time in the library or learn about two or more hours each day. The study also finds that many young people from the Gjakova municipality would learn a foreign language or would start vocational training if they were given a chance.

### The inauguration of creative spaces in 5 municipalities



During June 2019, the "After School Support for Teens" program organized the inauguration ceremonies of 5 creative spaces in schools: "Xhavit Ahmeti" - Gjilan; "Eqrem Çabej" - Vushtrri; "Gymnasium" - Kamenica; "Hivzi Sylejmani" - Fushë Kosovë; and "Dardania" - Han i Elezit. Congratulations to the staff and students of the schools who will use these spaces to support the development of life and work skills.

## Change-Makers campers have begun their journey

During the first days of the camp, campers emerged from their daily lives, created new societies and dived into the unique experiences this camp offered.

40 young people from the municipalities of: Prishtina, Gjakova, Vushtrri, Viti, Gjiilan, Hani i Elezit, Fushë Kosovë and Ferizaj have gathered to develop diverse educational activities at the Gërmia Recreation Center in Prishtina.



The "Change-Makers" Camp is funded by the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports and the "After School Support for Teens" (ASSET) Program, funded by USAID Kosovo, and implemented by the Kosovo Education Center (KEC) in partnership with FHI 360 and Crimson Capital Corp.

## Adoption of the Law on Child Protection



On 27 June, the Law on Child Protection was approved, which passed with 76 votes in the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo.

Syri i Vizionit has consistently been an inseparable part of the work on child protection in Kosovo, specifically the organization has helped the process of drafting and approving this Law. In cooperation with our strategic partner - Save the Children, Syri i Vizionit has sponsored the Amendment of the

Prohibition and Punishment of the Body and Violence against Children not only in school environments, but also in the family, streets, and anywhere else.

SiV has repeatedly called for and has organized numerous activities for this purpose, among which is the "Grow with Love" campaign, which started a year ago and will continue further.

Within the framework of this campaign, the march of the few days ago was held with the theme "Slipper is to wear, not to hit" where citizens, children, members of civil society and deputies have marched from Kosovo Assembly to the " Zahir Pajaziti" square, seeking the quickest adoption of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of the Child.

With the adoption of this Law, our campaign will be intensified even more to ensure the implementation of this Law.

### **Vaccinations of children from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities**

Through the Memorandum of Understanding, on 21 June, in a primary school in the village of Cigë of Peja was carried out the vaccination of children from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities returnees to this village. This vaccine action was followed by the medical checkup that was delivered to the students of this school days ago, by the medical team of QKMF - Peja. The action was organized within the educational activity of the Learning Centers program which is implemented by Syri i Vizionit and supported by the German Agency for International Cooperation – GIZ.



### **The awareness campaign activities in Kliqinë, Zahaq and Zallq**

In the framework of awareness raising activities, in the Learning Centers of the primary schools in the villages of Cigë, Kliqinë, Zahaq and Zallq, 12 June the World Day against Child Labor was marked. Pupils of these schools through discussions group, art-works and other artistic moments shared clear messages about the reality of engaging children in different jobs and for the purpose of raising awareness of society against this phenomenon which is present in our country.



## Study visit in ICK

On 21 June, the non-governmental organization "Voice of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians" organized a study visit to the Innovation Center Kosovo for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian community graduates. The purpose of the visit was for young people to get acquainted with ICK, looking closely at the job and the potential opportunities offered to them.



## Youth Discovering Erasmus+ Project LAB

On the dates of June 18 to 22, in Dublin, Ireland, Roma Versitas has participated in the organization for "Youth Discovers Erasmus + Project LAB ". The main aim of "Youth Discovering Erasmus+ Project LAB" was to encourage youth workers to use Erasmus+ within their local contexts and increase the participation of young people in international youth work through the Erasmus+: youth in action programm.

Coordinator / Program Manager Mr. Genc Broqi has represented RV Kosovo during all activities held in Dublin. RV Kosovo is exploring new projects to develop the skills of Kosovo RV students and prepare them for the labor market. The issue of diversity is very important and RV works for it.



## Trainings for RV students

Roma Versitas Kosovo with funds by the Roma Education Fund - REF in partnership with the EU during June developed many activities for the benefit of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students.

One of the activities was various trainings, where each training topic was developed with a one-day job. The topics of the training were:

- Motivation Letter
- Writing a CV and applying for a job
- Job Interviews
- Academic Writing
- Advocacy

In addition to training, RV students had working groups and preparation for the Roma Versitas Kosova exam.



### Community Scorecard

RROGRAEK has started implementing the Community Scorecard process in SHFMU "Vezir Jashari" Ferizaj. The process is underway in the framework of the project "Social Mobilization of Social Accountability" in partnership with Save the Children Kosovo.



### Memorandum of cooperation of NVK with the Municipality of Prizren

NGO "Nevo Concept", under the second phase of the project "Reintegration of returnees from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities from Western Europe to the Municipality of Prizren, Kosovo (REACH II)", signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Municipality of Prizren.

Through this memorandum, the Nevo Concept NGO and Prizren Municipality pledge for co-operation over the years of implementation of the project, specifically in the field of education and employment.

Municipality of Prizren has expressed readiness to provide support for various activities that will assist the project's journey and the integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian community returnees.



### Workshop with documentary films

In Suharekë, on 10 June 2019, a documentary film workshop was held. This activity was attended by MED officials, school teachers "Drita" in Gelance and "Vaso Pasha Shkodrani" in Leshan, as well as students and tutors.

This workshop was organized in cooperation with the KRAEYN network, where two documentary films with social themes of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities were shown.

After the screening of the films, there were discussions about the topic of documentary films. One of the aims of



this workshop was to learn from others' experiences and to exchange experiences among network members, teachers and students.

This activity was carried out within the framework of the project PROSPECT 3, 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.

### Three day training with tutors

Within the project "Reintegration of returnees from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities from Western Europe to the Municipality of Prizren, Kosovo - REACH II", a three day training course was held with tutors engaged in this project. This training was organized with a view to capacity building on the topic of Communication and its forms.



In this training, tutors through coach Denis Galushi were profoundly and professionally informed what communication was, how he is used and how important he is in their work as tutors in the respective schools.

This activity also contributed to the newtorking among of tutors themselves, discussions, various activities and accompaniment.

### Youth Camp "Social Inclusion of Returning Youth"



During the last week of June, the local NGO BRAN “Youth Unity Bright Future” organized youth camp as part of the UNHCR Youth Initiative Fund for Social Inclusion of Returning Youth.

The project aims to increase the social inclusion of returnees through the provision of educational opportunities and cultural activities together with the youth of the Municipality of Ferizaj.

### Visit to People's Advocate

On June 24, TDH organized a visit of twenty children from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities of the Municipality of Podujeva to the People's Advocate Office in Pristina. During the visit, children had the opportunity to see their work and to ask questions and submit their concerns like: the heavy weight of school bags, the stray dogs in their neighborhoods, and about a lot of waste in their neighborhoods and people irresponsible throw them down.

In the end, the People's Advocate promised that these concerns will be considered by his institution and there will be a visit also in the municipality of Podujeva



## **The Ideas Partnership is selected as the winner of the grant from the UEFA Children's Foundation**

We are pleased to inform you that The Ideas Partnership is selected as the winner of the € 45,500 grant from the UEFA Children's Foundation.

We are just one of the twenty charitable organizations in Europe that have been awarded this prize by the UEFA Children's Foundation, which aims to support children with unequal opportunities across Europe.

We are very grateful to the Kosovo Football Federation for nominating our organization for this award, and the UEFA Children's Foundation for the selection.

The fund earned from this foundation will be used for the construction of the new facility of our learning center in Fushë Kosovë , serving the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian minority communities.



## **Interactive teaching training for The Ideas Partnership volunteers is held**

During the month of June, The Ideas Partnership volunteers had the opportunity to attend a training organized by TIP staff on interactive teaching and lesson planning, new teaching improvement techniques, classroom stages during the lesson, and interactive learning methods.

This training was attended by volunteers who regularly engage in our teaching activities with children and adults. We thank the trainers Fitore Polloshka, Valentina Osmani and Lida Fejza, who held the training by providing our volunteers with new knowledge about the work in extracurricular activities we regularly organize in our centers in Fushë Kosovë, Janjeva and Obiliq.



## Children of Fushe Kosova learn about oral health

During the month of June, we had the pleasure to cooperate and welcome Mrs. Besa Begu, Ambassador of the Humble Smile Foundation, as well as her team at our learning center in Fushë Kosovë.

For about a few hours, Mrs. Begu gave lessons in front of more than 50 children from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities who attend the regular learning activities of the Saturday. The lessons and practices were more focused on the oral health, advice on regular teeth care, and the importance of health.



## Peer educators

TDH has a program with peer educators in different municipalities in Kosovo, who were active with different campaigns during the month of June.

Peer educators in the elementary school Hilmi Rakovica in Pristina held the consequent awareness campaign about bullying in schools. In the framework of this campaign, students had the opportunity to see an awareness video about bullying and discuss about it.

In addition, Peer educators of the Primary School "Xheladin Rekalju" in Podujevo held the next awareness campaign on school bullying. Over the past two days the students completed the project "Do not hesitate" by presenting the phenomenon of school bullying as a growing phenomenon in society and educational institutions. During this activity, the students presented the work they had done with the "Micro Bit" device, thus creating the message for the "Do not harass me" initiative. The students also



provided additional information on the capabilities offered by the Microbit device such as: counting steps during movement, various calculations, temperature measurements etc.

These activities and ongoing awareness campaigns in all other targeted schools are supported by the project "Improving access and reintegration into basic migrant and returnee children and families in Kosovo" supported by GIZ CDBE.