

NEWSLETTER IX SEPTEMBER 2019



#MyVoteCounts

On September 23, 2019, the #MyVoteCounts campaign has started to be implemented. This campaign is organized by KOSINT 2020 Network, which is a network of civil society organizations working for the inclusive participation of members of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in the Kosovo society.



The #MyVoteCounts campaign aims:

1. to encourage Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian voters to participate in the elections and be part of the decision-making process.
2. to take the pledge of candidates for deputy to meet the requirements that will affect the welfare of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

It is important to note that the #VotImeKaWare campaign is focused on increasing the number of voters from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities but is not biased towards any particular party.

The increase in the number of voters will be done through conversations with members of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, which will also include the signatures of the statement, which we all unanimously request to meet the following requirements:

- Increase the employment rate of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in the local and central public sectors by at least 10% and proportionately to their share of the general population by 2022;
- Increase the enrollment and completion rate of primary (90%) and secondary (50%) education of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities by 2022;
- Budget allocation with specific codes in the local and central government to address the problems and priorities of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities by 2022.

By participating in the elections, communities increase the likelihood of fulfilling their collective interests, which will at the same time be part of the requirements for political parties in general and candidates for MPs in particular.

The greater the number of statements signed, that much more echoes this campaign will have, which can put more pressure on meeting these requirements from any of the candidates who win the election.

It does not matter who we vote for, but it is very important that we go out and vote. In addition to not allowing our vote to be abused, we have an obligation, a duty, but also a right to express our will and desire on October 06 on who should govern in Kosovo.

This campaign will continue the implementation also after the election, by demanding accountability from candidates who will govern the country to meet those requirements. With this we do not promise that these requirements will be met, but we will try to put as much pressure on them as possible in order for these requirements to be met.

Training for MDE related to EMIS

On the date of September 5, the that is project funded by the European Union "Kosovo Education and Employment Network - KEEN" in cooperation with MEST organized a training on collection and reporting data related to the school dropouts in Education Information Management System - EMIS. Participants in this traning were from the following municipalities: Prizren, Gjakova, Decani, Istog, Dragash, Vushtria, Ferizaj, Sterpce, Rahovec, Drenas, Dragash, Podujeva, Mamusha, Lipjan, Vitia, Novobrda.



Among others, there were presented the modules of EMIS and the website of EMIS, generating various reports from the EMIS and their importance. Also, the key point of this training was to identify the parameters as the risk of dropping out of school and details for them.

All officials from the MDE expressed great interest in this training, and each presented their experiences regarding the use of EMIS, and the challenges that arise during use. It was recommended that the main representative for access in EMIS system to be any civil servant official, and not the directors, as the positions of directors are changed according to political parties, and when they go the municipality may be left without access to EMIS.

Furthermore, during this training, a guide was presented for the management staff of Kosovo's educational and training institutions related to the reporting of data on EMIS.

You can download the guide in the following link:

http://www.keen-ks.net/site/assets/files/1472/udhezues_per_perdorim_te_smia_final.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2pkm5q4iGeH89YDSdRNOMUDBo4_zWYkC1wFUhHojA2kbF3aSwt6FtpByg

Preparation for teachers



On the date of September 4, a group of students and professors from the University of Zurich for the preparation of PHZH teachers (Pädagogische Hochschule) visited the Kosovo Education Center. During the visit to KEC, the students had the opportunity to get information on the education system in Kosovo and were introduced to the work and achievements of KEC, especially the projects that support Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

Renovation of preparatory class in Prizren

“Everyone should have an opportunity to learn in a positive environment, enjoy the learning process and feel at ease and comfortable within it” (Barry Saide, School Principal at “Roosevelt School”)

During September, in the framework of the project "Increasing inclusion in preschool and primary education" supported by the Roma Education Fund - REF and the European Commission through the regional project "Increasing educational opportunities for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian pupils, students and youth in the Western Balkans and Turkey" and implemented by the Kosovo Education Center - KEC, renovated the preparatory class at the elementary school "Lekë Dukagjini" in Prizren.



Learning based on projects

On the date of September 22, the "Learning based on projects" course was organized within the framework of the USAID-funded ASSET Program. During this course, the teachers from different areas of the gymnasiums of the partner municipalities were introduced to the concept of learning based on projects through: examples, ideas, and methods that can involve students in school projects.



The program ASSET ("After School Support for Teens") implemented by the Kosovo Education Center (KEC) in partnership with FHI 360 and Crimson Capital Corp.

Regional Conference "Promoting and Protecting the Rights of the Child"

The results of the project, "Promoting and Protecting the Rights of the Child", an EU funded project implemented by the Kosovo Education Center- KEC in partnership with the ZFD forum, were presented on the September 26 with the organization of the Regional Conference which was held at the hotel "Sirius" in Pristina. The conference brought together representatives of the

Institutions, representatives from the region, respectively, from Tirana and Macedonia, the 40 beneficiary schools of the project and the Non Governmental Organizations that were implementing various projects in the beneficiary schools. The project "Promoting and Protecting the Rights of the Child" aimed at empowering local



communities to improve the child protection measures through raising of awareness, mediation and peaceful conflict resolution. Through this, the project aimed to contribute to the creation of friendly and non-violent environments for the children in Kosovo's schools through targeted actions of civil society organizations and local communities to promote the rights of the children.

The support of Fushë Kosovë Municipality for TIP continues

Në fillim të muajit shtator, Kryetari i Komunës së Fushë Kosovës, z.Burim Berisha, priti në një takim zyrtar bashkëthemeluesen e The Ideas Partnership, Elizabeth Gowing, dhe menaxheren e programeve në TIP, Anita Plakolli, ku dhe e rikonfirmoi vazhdimin e përkrahjes së kësaj komune për organizatën tonë.

Kësaj radhe, z. Berisha, e riforcoi premtimin për përkrahjen e The Ideas Partnership në punën me komunitetet pakicë Rom, Ashkali e Egjiptian në këtë komunë, duke kontribuar në projektin për ndërtimin e qendrës sonë të re në Fushë Kosovë.

Ndërtimi i qendrës sonë të re në lagjet 28 dhe 29 në Fushë Kosovë do të bëhet i mundur falë bashkëpunimit me këtë komunë, grantit të Fondacionit të UEFA-së për Fëmijët, si dhe përkrahjes të donatorëve privat.



Students from the University of Bern visited The Ideas Partnership

A group of Swiss students from the Applied Sciences visited the University of Bern visited the TIP center in Janjeva, where they were introduced to the work of the staff there. The coordinator, Majlinda Krasniqi also introduced them to the regular activities with children, and also introduced them with the history of the town of Janjeva.

During their study visit, this group of students had the opportunity to also meet and talk with the TIP staff in Pristina where they were briefed on the organization's 10-year work with Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian minority communities. They also had the opportunity to learn about TIP social work practices with these communities and share experiences and ideas with our staff.



During their visit, the students also brought donations to be used for purchasing school supplies for children in needy families with whom TIP works.

Project with the blind children in Gjakova resumes

During the month of September 2019 the project "See Me" in Gjakova has started again, thus continuing its collaboration with the Association of Blind People in Gjakova in providing Braille alphabet classes and space orientation for visually impaired children.

The restart of this project is financially supported by the Rotary Club of Keystone-District 7280 and private donors.



NGO VoRAE is presented at the Congress on Discrimination in New Jersey of the USA



The participants in this congress were activists and representatives of various institutions from around the world, with also the participation of Vesa Batalli who represented NGO VoRAE from the state of the Republic of Kosovo.

During the congress, Mrs. Batalli had the opportunity to present the situation of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo with a particular emphasis on the role of women from these three communities and the discrimination they face on a daily basis.

What is more, during the congress, also were discussed the challenges of different communities around the world and more importantly it was emphasized the situation of denial of our states over the situation in which the most marginalized communities live.

BRAN as a good role model for the youth of Kamenica and Gjilan



On September 12, 2019, at the request of the OSCE, the BRAN representatives were in a meeting with young people from the municipalities of Kamenica and Gjilan. The representatives gave to the youth a good role model and examples of youth activism in Ferizaj by establishing the non governmental organization BRAN - Youth Union Future Bright, which for 7 years until now has done activities of different sort for the benefit of citizens of different communities in Kosovo.

At the beginning of the meeting, the BRAN representatives presented how they started as an informal group, the increase of the number of young volunteers and members of BRAN, the challenges they had, the achievement of establishing an office the necessary equipment for the functioning of the organization, the capacity building of their staff, volunteer work, contributing to the development of various strategic documents, promoting of BRAN to its growth through projects and activities, and also with the challenges that they are still facing.

Furthermore, BRAN representatives also informed young people that today thanks to youth engagement and volunteer work at BRAN we have many BRAN members who serve as role models not only to the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities but beyond them.

The young participants were very excited and grateful to BRAN and the OSCE for being given the opportunity to see a good role model in terms of youth organization and that they were informed on the steps that should be followed until the creation, management and promotion of the organization and in particular of the youth activism.

At the end of the meeting, the BRAN representatives promised that they would not be left only with this meeting, but would do their best to help them organize the youth and create an informal group, but why not also an organization.

Trajnim për të rinjtë të interesuar në bujqësi

Me 30 Shtator 2019, në Ferizaj është organizuar punëtorja nga BRAN e trajnimeve me temat: udhëheqja e bizneseve bujqësore, Marketingu dhe format e saja, Informimin e bujqëve për mundësit, grantet dhe subvencionet që ofrohen për bujqit.

Punëtorja është organizuar në kuadër të projektit "Nxitja e të rinjëve të komuniteteve Ashkali, Egjiptian dhe Rom të merren me bujqësi" që mbështetet nga Ministria e Bujqësisë, Pylltarisë dhe Zhvillimit Rural.



Takime për parandalimin e reagim ndaj braktisjes së shkollimit



On the date of August 20 in Prizren, NGO Nevo Concept organized a joint meeting with parents and students of primary lower secondary schools..

During the meeting, brochures were distributed to the seniors regarding their enrollment in upper secondary schools. In addition to the brochures, additional information was provided regarding the second term of enrollment in the upper secondary schools. During the meeting with the students, they were informed about the majors that are offered by the upper secondary schools and the options they have to choose voluntarily.

The organization of the meeting was held in the framework of the EU Support Project for the Implementation of the Strategy for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities, EU SIMRAES II, implemented by the Nevo Concept.