

## Workshop “Responsible Budgeting for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities”



On the dates 8 and 9, of October 2019, a two-day workshop was held which was organized within the framework of the project "KOSINT 2020" and RIO2020, on "Responsible Budgeting for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities". In this workshop participants were representatives from all member organizations of the KOSINT 2020 network.

During the workshop, there was discussed the budget cycle including planning mechanisms, actors, content, timelines and the possible intervals for intervention by civil society representatives that may influence the budget.

During the workshop, were also analyzed the Action Plan of the Strategy for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities 2017-2021, concrete measures of the Kosovo budget, products, objectives, allocations and indicators, and comparison with budget programs for education, employment, social welfare and housing. during this exercises there were noted many budget deficiencies related to the objectives of the Action Plan.

As products of this workshop were achieved three documents: for lower primary education, university education, and employment quota fulfillment, for which we must advocate for budget allocation based on budget cycle deadlines and strategy objectives.

## Closure of the EU SIMRAES 2 project



On October 23, 2019, a reception was organized in the event of the EU SIMRAES 2 project closure, which has been implemented for over three and a half years. There were invited representatives from central and local institutions, donor agencies, civil society organizations and project partner organizations. Following the speech of the event, a documentary was shown, which was prepared within the project and presented the course of the projects implementation, while a printed infographic with the main project achievements was made available to the participants.

## Visit of the Delegation of the EU Office to the Learning Center in Fushë Kosovë



A delegation of the EU Office in Kosovo led by the Deputy Head of the EU Office / EU Special Representative, Riccardo Serri, on Thursday, October 24, 2019, visited the Learning Center in Fushë Kosovë, which for more than three years was supported by the EU SIMRAES 2 project, funded by EU funds. In this visit were also present the Municipal Director of Education in Fushë Kosovë, Mr. Islam Shabani and EU SIMRAES 2 project management staff.

After the visit to this center, the Deputy Head of the EU Office, Riccardo Serri, expressed his satisfaction for the conversation he had with the children of these centers. "It was very nice and interesting to talk to the children from non-majority communities and explain to them that the European Union is here to invest in Kosovo's future, to invest in their future."

In the meantime, Muhamet Arifi said that the learning centers run the risk of being closed as there will be a shortage of donor funds for the centers to continue to function.

On the other hand, the Municipal Director of Education, Islam Shabani, promised that these centers would continue to operate.

### Visit of the Ambassador of Austria and Managing Director of Austrian Development Agency



The Ambassador of Austria in the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Christoph Weidinger, and Managing Director of Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Mr. Martin Ledolter, visited The Ideas Partnership Center in Fushe Kosove, funded by ADA within the EDI Project.

During the visit, Mr. Weidinger and Mr. Ledolter had the chance to visit and see the ongoing activities held within the center. They visited the numeracy and literacy classes, intensive classes and kindergarten.

They were also informed about the activities and the work done within the EDI Project, from the three implementation partners. This project has been supporting the inclusion, education and gender equality through EDI Project, for more than 6 years, contributing directly to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (Good Health, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Reduced Inequalities, Sustainable cities and communities and Partnership for goals).



## The Ideas Partnership was visited by the British Ambassador in Kosovo



Mr Nicholas Abbott, together with his wife, Mrs. Marcelle Delvaux Abbott, and the staff of the British Embassy in Pristina, met with TIP staff. During the visit they learned more about TIP's 10-year work with some of the most marginalized communities in Kosovo. They also met with the beneficiaries by visiting literacy classes offered for women, intensive learning classes for children, and the kindergarten there. We cordially thank Ambassador Abbott and the British Embassy for the dedication and support provided over the years to our work in Kosovo.

## Inauguration of creative spaces in gymnasiums by ASSET

During October 2019, the "After School Support for Teens" Program organized the inauguration ceremonies of creative spaces in the gymnasiums: the "Assembly of Arber" in Ferizaj and the "Assembly of Lezha" in Viti. The students welcomed the officials from the USAID, Municipalities representatives and Program officials. During the event the students demonstrated the use of the equipment provided by the program and expressed their ideas for their use for practical learning.



## The visit of AECOM and Weston Williamson + Partners to The Ideas Partnership



In the beginning of the month of October, the company for engineering AECOM and the company for architecture Weston Williamson + Partners from England visited The Ideas Partnership. AECOM and Weston Williamson + Partners will help the TIP organization in the process of planning and building our new community center in Fushë Kosovë.

During their visit to Kosovo, they were welcomed by former Kosovo President Ms. Atifete Jahjaga, who reconfirmed her support for our organization. The British Ambassador to Kosovo, Nicholas Abbott, also met with the representatives of these companies along with the organization's co-founder, Elizabeth Gowing. The Mayor of Fushë Kosovë, Burim Berisha, in his meeting with this team, also confirmed the support of this Municipality for the construction of the new TIP center in the 28 and 29 neighborhoods of Fushë Kosovë. The construction of this center will be funded by our private donors and the UEFA Foundation for Children.

## The employment counselor visits community families

The employment counselor that is engaged in the Prospect 3 project of Nevo Concept on October 10, 2019 has visited community families in Trnje and Leshan of Suhareka.

The purpose of these visits was to complete the questionnaires for the creation of a database of persons who need to register with the Employment Office in Suhareka, so that they later can attend the vocational training courses that are offered in Prizren.

This activity was implemented in the framework of the PROSPECT 3 project, which is funded by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society (KFOS) with the support of the German Government and the Karl Kübel Stiftung für Kind und Familie Foundation (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.





## Roundtable on "Protecting Children from Violence and Trafficking and the Role of Institutions"



The roundtable for "Protection of children from violence and trafficking and the role of institutions" was held, which was organized by Nevo Concept in cooperation with the Municipal Unit for Human Rights - Prizren.

During this roundtable there was discussed the role of the institutions for protection of children, which included representatives from: Center for Social Work, Family Medicine Center, Mental Health Institution, Shelter Center for Women and Children, Police, Victims' Advocates, Municipal Assembly of Children and Save the Children.

Among the most important issues related to this topic were reporting violations, identifying cases and that there is no separate office that specifically works on child protection.

## BRAN cooperation with the Peace Corps

On October 23, BRAN had a meeting with Peace Corps volunteer Kim Nguyen for the BRAN organization and Peace Corps program managers. At this meeting the project frameworks for the development of the organizational community were reviewed and discussed. With this partnership, BRAN expects to achieve great things in the next 2 years. BRAN is growing and empowering every day.



## Meeting with the Ashkali community



On 25 October, a meeting was held with the Consultative Council for the Ashkali Community, at the Office of the President of the Republic of Kosovo. The meeting was initiated by Mrs. Gyltene Osmani and Mr. Qerim Emini in order to let the participants know on the work and the role of the Consultative Council for Communities within the Office of the President of the Republic of Kosovo.

In this meeting were present representatives of the Ashkali community, participating in the nomination process and other civil society representatives. At the meeting Mr. Qerim Emini informed the participants of the meeting in detail about his work and commitment to the Council, as well as the Working Group on Legislation and the Working Group on Employment and Social Affairs. Also, Mrs. Gyltene Osmani briefed the participants on the mandate, role, organization and functioning of the Council and presented its work and engagement in the Education Working Group.

Afterwards the participants of the meeting were involved in a debate, with their questions and discussions on issues of importance and interest, such as education, employment, social issues and other things for the Ashkali community.

Representatives of the Ashkali community, Mr. Qerim Emini and Mrs. Gyltene Osmani, provided answers to the questions posed by the participants, at the same time thanked them for their participation and contribution to the meeting.