

Report: Respect of the employment quota of members of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in public institutions

On November 7, the thematic report in the framework of the KOSINT 2020 project was presented “Respect of the employment quota of members of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in public institutions”.

This report was conducted as a study to measure the employment quota implementation Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities at central and local level. The report has selected four municipalities as a sample: Mitrovica, Fushë Kosova, Ferizaj and Gjakova.

Ministry of Administration, provides reports on the situation of employees at central and local level. During the year 2018, out of 56 central level institutions that had employed 30,635 in public service, of which only 113 of them resulted to be members of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities and they were employed only in 10 of these institutions.



Regarding the selected municipalities, according to the official data, in Mitrovica, the inclusion of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in public institutions is zero. In Fushë Kosova, the unemployment rate among these communities of this municipality is quite high. According to the official data, in 2018 there were employed 5 people from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

The municipality of Ferizaj has the largest number of officials of the Office for Communities in the country. In relation to other municipalities an advantage of this municipality may be considered the employment of members of these communities on service contracts. According to official data in 2018, 15 people from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities were employed.

In the municipality of Gjakova, the situation is slightly better, where according to the official data in 2018, there were employed 31 persons from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

The quota for employment of communities, as a measure to ensure equal inclusion of all communities living in Kosovo, has a very little application. The factors for such a situation are many and different ranging from:

- 1) The lack of economic development and general unemployment situation in the country,
- 2) Overload in the country's administration,
- 3) Privatization of socially-owned enterprises,
- 4) Politicization of employment,
- 5) The lack of staff profiling, with a particular emphasis on the age groups of over 30,
- 6) Inattention of politicians from the task of meeting demands, for needs arising from citizens.

The full report can be found published on the link below:

<http://kosint2020.net/en/news-and-events/raporti-respektimi-i-kuotes-se-punesimit-te-pjesetareve-te-komuniteteve-rom-ashkali-dhe-egjiptiane-ne-institucione-publike/>

Report: Monitoring of Sector Strategy of the MLSW on the effectiveness of ALMMs for the employment of members of -Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities

On November 7, the thematic report in the framework of the KOSINT 2020 project was presented "Monitoring of Sector Strategy of the MLSW on the effectiveness of ALMMs for the employment of members of -Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities".

The report was compiled during May and June of 2019 in Gjakova, Prizren, Fushë Kosova and Obiliq.

Based on data from the Work and Employment Report 2018 for Kosovo from EARK it is notable that in unemployment registration there are Roma (1.8%), Ashkali (2.8%) and Egyptians (0.9%).

Regarding to the employment mediation, 123 cases are reported to have benefited, from which 38 Roma, 40 Ashkali and 45 Egyptians compared to a total of 3,764 cases.

Regarding to vocational training, data show that in 2018 there were 124 cases involved, from which 26 Roma, 60 Ashkali, and 38 Egyptians compared to a total of 5,497 cases.

Regarding to ALMM there were 99 cases that benefited, from which 22 Roma, 55 Ashkali and 22 Egyptian, compared to a total of 3,000 beneficiaries.

Regarding to the municipalities selected for 2018, in Fushë Kosovë from the ALMM benefited only five cases, with four being wage subsidies and one on the job training.



In Obiliq, the number of ALMM beneficiaries was 124 in total, four of whom were Roma, one Egyptian and eight Ashkali.

In Gjakova, beneficiaries of ALMM are: on the job training two cases, wage subsidy two cases, public work three cases and seven self-employment cases. There are 14 cases in total.

In Prizren, in terms of vocational training within the VTC, during 2018 there were 1,608 persons in total, out of which 19 Roma, 3 Ashkali, and no Egyptian.

Findings of this report show that the implementation of the Sector Strategy faces many difficulties, mainly due to lack of political commitment, insufficient financial and human resources to monitor the progress, poor coordination of activities of institutions at central and local level. Furthermore, due to the limited capacities of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities on educational aspect, literacy, readiness to engage on the job, close connection with the family and unwillingness to leave the environment in which they live in and the heavy dependence on the social assistance scheme.

The full report can be found published on the link below:

<http://kosint2020.net/en/news-and-events/raporti-monitorimii-strategjise-sektoriale-te-mpms-nelidhje-me-efektivitetin-matp-ve-per-punesimin-e-pjesetareve-te/>

Report: Difficulties that students of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities face in education

On November 19, the thematic report in the framework of the KOSINT 2020 project was presented "Difficulties that students of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities face in education".

The purpose of this study is to provide, information and analysis, mainly qualitative on problems and challenges encountered by Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian students in schools. The data on this report have been mainly collected from documents published by MEST, NGOs that engage and monitor the development of preschool education in Kosovo, schools and focus groups in the field.

The children from Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities continue to be the least included group in primary education, and very few included in secondary and tertiary education. They also constitute the majority of children who have either dropped out of school or are at risk of dropping out.

The children from Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities continue to face challenges in accessing qualitative education and are disproportionately affected by high non-enrolment, dropouts, high illiteracy rate, and low educational achievement.

Further, the research has highlighted numerous factors and barriers that Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian students face in particular:



Economic Factors:

- Inability to secure textbooks and other materials needed for school
- Lack of clothes
- Inadequate personal hygiene
- Involvement of children at housework, in the street or other hard works

Health issues that are related to education:

- Inability to receive immediate health treatment and prolongation of recovery
- More contagious diseases due to lack of personal hygiene

Social Issues:

- Extreme poverty
- Lack of support by the parents
- Underestimation of girls' education
- The phenomenon of early marriages
- Lack of self-esteem and safety at school

Learning problems:

- Lack of basics and lagging behind in learning versus their peers
- Undiagnosed problems with eyesight, hearing and other disabilities
- Learning problems for certain subjects
- Absences in class

Discrimination:

- By the teachers: Division in classrooms, disparagement, lack of care and attention
- By their peers: harassment, exclusion, and other forms of bullying
- By their peers: harassment, exclusion, and other forms of bullying

Language:

- Education in a language other from the mother tongue (Roma community mainly)

Approach:

- Distance and other difficulties to school access

The full report can be found published on the link below:

<http://kosint2020.net/en/news-and-events/raport-veshtiresite-qe-hasin-nxenesit-e-komuniteteve-rom-ashkali-dhe-egjiptian-ne-shkollim/>

Reports that is focused on the effectiveness of PRTANs for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children

On November 19, the thematic report in the framework of the KOSINT 2020 project was presented "Reports that is focused on the effectiveness of PRTANs for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children"

The purpose of this report is to evaluate the effectiveness of PRTANs at the school, municipal and national levels, with a particular focus on their effectiveness among children of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

The right to education is one of the fundamental human rights. However, school dropouts and non-enrolment continues to remain at a concerning level, more specifically, among students of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. To



address this problem MEST has taken the initiative to establish and strengthen Prevention and Response Teams towards Abandonment and Non-Registration (PRTANs) in pre-university education.

To have a deeper understanding of the effectiveness of PRTANs, during the month of May and June 2019 was conducted in an evaluation in various schools and municipalities, as well as in MEST.

MEDs and schools have stated that these teams are already established in their institutions. However, the practical functionality of these teams is not at the adequate level. As a result, the cases that are identified are mainly handled outside the PRTAN mechanisms.

Identification of school dropout cases is mainly done by the teachers in schools. The identification of these cases is also done by the CSOs that deal with issues of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities and school dropouts. Mostly, CSOs manage to identify school dropout cases from grading reports, where students who drop out of school are reported as ungraded. The issue of reporting, referral and handling these cases remains problematic.

Information gathered in the field shows that there are cases, who are not reported for school dropout. There are also cases that are reported late as school dropout. As a consequence, these cases generally end with the loss of the school year. In the meantime, identification of non-enrolled cases at school is mainly done by CSOs.

Despite the existence of a specific module in EMIS, called the Early Warning System (EWS), registration of cases in this system is extremely minimal and no overview on the status of school nonenrollment, school dropout and the risk for school dropout can be provided.

The full report can be found published on the link below:

<http://kosint2020.net/en/news-and-events/raport-i-fokusuar-ne-efektivitetin-e-eprbm-ve-te-femijet-rome-ashkali-dhe-egjiptian/>

Report: Reasons that impact the school dropout from students of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities

On November 19, the thematic report in the framework of the KOSINT 2020 project was presented “Reasons that impact the school dropout from students of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities”.

The purpose of this report is to identify the reasons that impact the school dropouts of children from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. Through analysis of the legal framework, programs and intervention projects by the institutions in charge and CSOs, as well as discussions with key stakeholders, it has been attempted to highlight the reasons behind the school dropouts.

The key common thing of all these documents and articles lies on the obligation that the state takes over to provide education to all its citizens.



Therefore, the right to education is not only guaranteed, but it is also an obligation and a duty of all. However, the inclusion of children from vulnerable and marginalized groups into education remains a constant challenge.

The findings from various reports of school dropout are:

- difficult economic situation,
- lack of desire from the side of children
- early employment of children and young people
- severe economic conditions,
- high unemployment rate,
- low level of education and awareness of parents about the importance of education,
- discrimination in school,
- access to relevant infrastructure on the way to school,
- lack of teachers of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian origin, and
- migration of families for economic reasons and return to Kosovo

Additionally, this analysis also highlights other factors that influence the school dropout and are closely related to one another:

1. Individual factors;
2. Family factors;
3. School factors, and
4. Social factors.

The full report can be found published on the link below:

<http://kosint2020.net/en/news-and-events/raport-arsyet-qe-ndikojne-ne-braktisjen-e-shkollimit/>

Multicultural Festival



On the date of 13 and 14 November 2019, VoRAE organized the Multicultural Festival and brought together various local and international representatives, including representatives of civil society organizations, representatives of public institutions, young people from different ethnic groups and various donors in Kosovo. During the festival there was discussed the importance of women in society, the consequences of hate speech and anti-gypsism, the challenges youth face in education and employment, as well as the promotion of the identity and culture of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo. Through this festival was aimed to combat prejudices and stereotypes that exist

against the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities by promoting through culture, music, art, and above all by discussing with different panellists from the country and the region issues that have a direct impact on society.

In the organized panels, among others, panelists were also leaders of several member organizations of the KOSINT network, Mr. Muhamet Arifi, Mrs. Shpresa Agushi, Mr. Dukagjin Popovci and Mr. Bajram Ilazi. Finally, the challenges and recommendations that were discussed during the Multicultural Festival will be taken into account.

Increase of educational opportunities

On November 22, 2019, the Roma Education Fund (REF) together with its three partners, KEC, RVK and VORAE through a three-year regional project "Increasing Education Opportunities for Roma Pupils, Students and Young People in the Western Balkans and Turkey" funded by the European Commission (DG NEAR) and REF launched the initiation of the second phase of project implementation.

In this event the panelists were representatives from the EU office, MEST and REF. Participants in this event were local organizations that work in the field of education of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, representatives of partner schools as well as project beneficiaries.



The event was marked by the presentation of the successes achieved by the projects for the first year of implementation, and was concluded with the presentation of plans and goals for the future of the respective projects.

Workshop on drafting the grant scheme

On December 14, in the framework of the project "Quality, Accountability, Integrity and Transparency in Higher Education (QAIN)", a workshop was held for the drafting of grant scheme for teaching based on research work, where the participants were MEST officials, representatives of public universities and the QAIN project consortium.

The QAIN project is funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) with MEST contribution. The grant scheme for teaching based on research work will be financed and administered by MEST. Through this scheme there will be allocated to grants to new lecturers in public universities, who have already been implemen



who have already been implemented or will implement in the future teaching based on research work.

Training: Preparing of young people for the development of psycho-social games

On 16 until 18 of November 2019, in Ferizaj, there was held a training for the preparation of the youth for the development of psycho-social games in the framework of the project "Involving of Returnees in Kosovo Society" which is financially supported by UNHCR and implemented by BRAN.

Over 15 young people, local and returnees from the region have gained new insights into the planning and implementation of psycho-social activity, the process of managing the activity session and interpreting the activity, the characteristics and purpose of psycho-social activities, methodological principles of activities and games, the structure and content of an activity, feedback and self recognition, the role of the animator, leadership and appropriate facilitator attitude.



While on the last day the young participants had the opportunity to apply what they have learned during the three days of training. Each one of the participant had the opportunity to be in the role of animator and participate in different psycho-social games, to learn from each other and listen to the trainer's suggestions in order to be better at facilitating psycho-social activities in the future.

Discussion table: cases of school dropouts

On November 29, in Peja, within the framework of the project "Prospect 3", which is implemented by the "Syri i Vizionit" there was organized a discussion table on the school dropout cases as a common phenomenon among the Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities in the locations where the project is implemented.

In this discussion table, there were present officials from the Department of Education, Prevention and Response Teams towards Abandonment and Non-Registration in compulsory education from "Xhemajl Kada" Peja and "7 September" schools in Vitomiric, the parents and students from the communities. During the meeting there were disclosed the problems of both schools that lead to the irregular attendance or event to the school dropout. At the same time from this discussion table, there were taken measures and decisions to be taken in the future to address the issues identified.



The teachers that are responsible for the whole month in the school will identify students who do not attend regular classes and they will be reported monthly. The first step will be a family visit by the PRTAN team to discuss with the student's family the reasons of absence or for the non-attendance at school. Parents must send their child to school regularly within 15 days, if the attendance of the identified pupil is not improved within 15 days, there will be implement the second step which is the a meeting in the school with the PRTAN team and with the municipality, specifically the Municipal Department of Education.

This decision was made in conversation and cooperation with MED officials for prevention and abandonment, school principals and parents of students.

Information meeting: The role of the CSW and the Employment Agency

On November 29, in Peja the Syri i Vizionit, within the project "Prospekt +" organized an informative meeting with residents of Roma and Egyptian communities from neighborhood "7 September" and "Vitimirice", and institutions such as Center for Social Work - CSW and the Employment Agency.

At this meeting there were discussed and clarified one more time, the role of the CSW and the Employment Agency, the categories of social assistance, the obligation of citizens and the importance of registering with the Employment Service and the Vocational Training Center.



The purpose of the meeting was for the communities to notified with the registration procedures of the employment office, liaising with professional training centers and for the possibilities of social assistance benefit

Mini-maratona "Run 4 Youth"

On November 5, TIP and PLAY International organized a running mini-marathon for children of ages 10-15 for all the communities in Janjeva. More than 120 children took part in this event, by becoming part of the race and festive spirit that dominated the Janjeva town.

The mini-marathon was organized in the framework of the project "Empowering Change for Women



and Youth", which is part of the Regional Program on Local Democracy in the Western Balkans (ReLOaD). ReLOaD is funded by the European Union in cooperation with the Municipality of Lipjan, and is implemented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Professional trainings

15 women from the town of Janjeva have already been professionally trained and prepared in tailoring and handicrafts by employees of social business Sa-pune. Part of the preparation were also trainings on entrepreneurship and business.

This training program, implemented as part of the ReLOaD project, aims, among other things, to empower Janjeva's women in business by supporting the advancement of knowledge and skills to start their own business or find a job.

The Regional Program on Local Democracy in the Western Balkans, part of which is a project being implemented by The Ideas Partnership in Janjeva, funded by the European Union in cooperation with the Municipality of Lipjan, and implemented by the United Nations Development Program - UNDP Kosovo.



The KKS representative visited the villages where the Prospect 3 project is being implemented

On November 13, Mrs. Singrid Maurer from the organization "Karl Kübel Stiftung für Kind und Familie" (KKS) visited the villages of Gelance, Trnje and Leshan, where the PROSPECT 3 project is implemented by NVK.

She visited the school in the village of Leshan and the classroom where additional learning is provided for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students and other students. Part of this visit was also the Municipal Director of Education, Mr. Remzi Bytyqi. Maurer and Bytyqi and project staff discussed the situation of education of these communities.

Also, the KKS representative visited five community families regarding their socio-economic and psychological status.



In addition, Mrs. Maurer visited the village of Gelance, where a psychosocial group session was held with mothers and daughters of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.