



Support to the implementation of The Roma Strategy

No.3

Newsletter of the Project "Support to the Implementation of the Roma Strategy" funded by European Union and implemented by BBI Consortium

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This issue includes predominantly information on the implementation of the second project component "Support for the implementation of the Action Plans with focus on the local action plans (LAPs)". In the previous newsletter (issue 2) we described the phases of this support, but let us again highlight its main steps:

1. Assessment of the status of the progress in drafting/ implementation of the local action plans;
2. Support for the revision of existing action plans and drafting new ones;
3. Financial support to the implementation of local priority measures identified within the LAPs;
4. Assistance in the capacity building of the RICs, following the recommendations having resulted from the conducted RIC assessment;
5. Publication and dissemination of a catalogue with the best identified practices;

Support to the implementation of identified local priority measures in twelve municipalities



Bitola, 13-14 December 2011 - workshop for LAP development

The financial support of the project to the LAP implementation is already in process. 12 local priority measures have been identified with partnering municipalities and are currently under implementation. The measures address four areas for Roma inclusion (employment, education, housing and health) and selected activities within the already adopted LAPs are in process of joint implementation in the following

municipalities: Kumanovo, Kriva Palanka, Rankovce, Delchevo, Kochani, Pehchevo, Vinica, Probishtip, Shtip, Prilep, Bitola, and Gostivar. The implementation of the measures is being done by the project, in partnership with the above municipalities and local NGOs. The duration of measures is 3-4 months and should be finalized by the end of May 2012.



WORKSHOPS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL ACTION PLANS



Berovo, 22-23 December 2011 - workshop for LAP development in the fields of employment, housing, and health

Prilep, 20 January 2012 - workshop for revision of LAP for employment



Pehchevo, 23-24 February 2012 – workshop for revision of LAP for all four areas





Strengthening the operational coordination structure for implementing the Roma Strategy

As far as strengthening the operational coordination structure for implementing the Roma Strategy, the project also provides support for upgrading of documents and procedures of the UISDR and the MwP Cabinet. This process started in February 2012 and refers mostly to optimization of human resources management.



As a result, the *RIC Manual of Procedures* was drafted these days. This 14 chapter manual consists of internal rules of operation, which are expected to function as “guides” that should help the Roma Information Centers to provide better services to the Roma people.

Regarding the first component, the project also provides support to the MwP in designing specific policies, improving cooperation with

line Ministries, strengthening dialogue with civil society and promoting the Roma Strategy priorities as part of national and sectoral policies. This ongoing process includes capacity building of the Cabinet of the MwP, which - more or less - functioning as a “coaching” process should help the MwP Cabinet in provision continuous, relevant and successful relation with other national structures (i.e. National Coordinating Body, other line Ministries). Special focus will be given to the EU policies serving to promote Roma inclusion.

Future activities

In the second issue we already mentioned the next project steps. Currently the project team continues with the implementation of the planned activities coming up for the period March - July 2012:

As part of the awareness raising activities of the project, the implementation of the communication strategy continues and is coordinated by the Coordinating Team for Communication (CTC) already established by the project. The project web page will be further maintained with information on all projects results and outputs

continuously uploaded. The project newsletter will be disseminated at key project events.

The support will continue to the MwP and the UISDR for the running of the Roma Decade Presidency and the implementation of the Presidency Programme.

The activities of the project’s second component will continue with the support to the revision, development and implementation of LAPs, as well as the capacity building of the RICs, and last but not least – the joint implementation of local priority measures within LAPs.

Upcoming trainings under the project:

- Legal analysis and legal writing;
- Instruction and introduction of RIC Manual of Procedures;
- EU Social Policy;
- HR/Admin working procedures and manuals;
- Development of Terms of Reference and Project Fiches;
- Advocacy and lobbying.



Other important activities regarding the Strategy and the Decade

Worth mentioning are other ongoing crucial activities under the institutions in charge with the implementation of the Strategy and the Decade for Roma:

Working meeting: What has been done in the inclusion process?

What is the degree of realization of the priorities of the Action Plan for Roma inclusion in all four areas? – This was discussed at the working meeting of national, international institutions and nongovernmental organizations in February 2012.

The participants exchanged their views about the current policies for Roma inclusion in all priority areas.

They overviewed the effects of the plan's implementation in the areas of education, employment, housing / infrastructure, and problems related to people without identity documents.

Participants put forward their suggestions for future directions in the socio-economic integration of Roma in the country.

This meeting came as a continuation of the one organized in July 2011 at the initiative of Enlargement Directorate General of the

European Commission, with the aim to improve knowledge about the main principles of the EU policy for the Roma and the main European financial instruments.

The meeting was organized by the Delegation of the European Union, the Cabinet of the Minister without Portfolio, the Secretariat for European Affairs, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.

Project "Inclusion of Roma children in Public Institutions- Municipal Kindergartens"



The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy within the implementation of the Strategy and the Decade of Roma Inclusion implements the project "Inclusion of Roma children in Public Institutions- Municipal Kindergartens." In the academic year 2006/2007 the project started to be implemented in 14 municipalities. The project aims at increasing the numbers of children and municipalities involved. The result achieved for the period from 2006 to June 2011 is a total of 1257 children included. Additionally, in the current

2011/2012 year included were 400 children in 18 municipalities throughout the country. Within the project engaged were 17 Roma teachers, whose role in recent years has proved crucial in overcoming children's language barriers. Also, 17 local NGOs are working with the parents of participating children and the staff of the kindergartens. Their task is to monitor the project's implementation at the local level. The project is a successful example for implementation of the Strategy for Roma.



Registration of the persons without documents



Teams composed of representatives of the Ministries of Interior and Labour and Social Policy, Department of Stem records, NGOs and RIC are implementing the Action of identification and recording the people who do not have a birth registration. The results of this mission, carried out in a number of municipalities in the Eastern part of the country, will identify the persons who are not registered and their numbers, as well as provide information about their age and nationality.

According to the present database, most of the people without documents live in Skopje, Kumanovo, Tetovo, Bitola and Gostivar.

Active employment measures



In accordance with the *Operational Programme for Active Employment Measures*, drafted in January 2012, RICs are mostly involved in organizing informational meetings with the citizens in the 10 municipalities where they operate. Their role is to disseminate the information related to present and future employment announcements, in order to facilitate the “job finding” process for Roma. The main purpose of this activity (in partnership with the Employment Service Agency) is to introduce Roma community with the conditions of employment, to help increase the motivation and the number of applications regarding the active employment measures.



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For more information about the European Union visit:

www.europa.eu

Other project links:

[https://www.facebook.com/pages/Sup
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117776251680729](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Support-of-Roma-Strategy/186121741496799?sk=app_117776251680729)

<https://twitter.com/#!/RomaStrategy>

The project team consists of:

- Project Director, Nigel Shakespear
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- Assistant Team Leader, Valery Pandzarov
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- Pool of short term experts
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