



Support to the implementation of The Roma Strategy

No.5

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

REAL SUPPORT IN REAL TIME

To assist and support the implementation of the Strategy for Roma in times of world crisis, in times when every society suffers the consequences of global problems - is not an easy task. But the challenge to do something for the Roma population has been a sincere desire and mission of the project team during last year and a half. The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the institutional capacity of the coordination structures for implementing the National Strategy for Roma and the Decade for Roma Inclusion 2005-2015, in view to contribute to improvement of the situation of the Roma in the country. In this last edition of the newsletter we present a brief retrospective of the project results, although in the previous editions each project step was described in detail:

- Developed Strategy for communication and its Operational plan;
- Coordinating team for communication (CTC) was created (4 members, 2 from the MLSP and 2 from the Cabinet of MWP)
- A study tour was conducted in Brussels – for 8 participants;
- 12 trainings were conducted on the following topics:
 - Communication and Capacity Strengthening,
 - Project Cycle Management,
 - Strategy and Decade for the Roma,
 - Monitoring and Evaluation of the National Action Plans for the Roma;
 - EU institutions and their functioning, EU enlargement policy;
 - Monitoring and Evaluation of the Local Action Plans for the Roma;
 - Web Communication;
 - Legal analysis and legal writing;
 - Legal analysis and legal writing for the RIC stuff;
 - EU social policy;
 - Writing ToR and project fiches. Drafting official correspondence;
- Information activities are implemented in accordance with the Communication Strategy. Different information materials were developed:
 - the project's web page was designed and launched within the MLSP website and the website of the Cabinet of the MWP;
 - project newsletter – 5 issues published;
 - two leaflets – one for the project and one for the RICs;
 - two manuals: for protection of the right to equal treatment of women and men and non-discrimination and manual of procedures for the RIC stuff;
 - Conducted assessment of the local action plans (LAPs);
 - The process of LAP revision/development is done in 10 municipalities – under the project organization LAP revision/development workshops were conducted in every municipality;
 - Implementation of the LAP priority measures is finished in 12 municipalities;
 - Developed Catalogue of Best Practices.

**PROJECT STEPS MAY/JUNE 2012:****LAP revision/development process finalized**

The process of revision of existing local action plans (LAPs) and development of new LAPs, which started in December 2011, was finalized in June 2012. The process included conduct of as a series of workshops in each municipality with the participation of representatives of the relevant local-level institutions and organisations.

Berovo	New LAPs finalized and delivered for education, employment, health, housing
Bitola	Revised LAPs, finalized and delivered for education, employment, housing
Delchevo	New LAPs finalized and delivered for education, employment, health, housing
Kochani	Revised LAPs, finalized and delivered for education, employment, housing and new LAP on health
Kumanovo	Finalized and delivered revised LAPs for education, employment, health
Pehchevo	Finalized and delivered new LAPs for education, employment, health, housing
Prilep	Finalized and delivered revised LAP for employment
Shtip	Finalized and delivered revised LAPs for education, housing
Shuto Orizari	Finalized and delivered revised LAP for employment and new LAPs for education and health
Sveti Nikole	Finalized and delivered new LAPs for education, employment, health, housing

This period additional workshops were conducted in Shuto Orizari and Shtip. This table presents the outcomes on LAP revision/development process in the target municipalities.



Successfully completed the joint implementation of LAP priority measures

In the last 4 months of the project, our team in partnership with 12 target municipalities and local NGOs implemented local priority measures, which addressed the four areas for Roma inclusion (employment, education, housing, and health). The measures were identified and selected within already adopted LAPs. They are presented on the next table:

Municipality	Local measure in the area of :				Cross-cutting / other
	Education	Employment	Housing	Health	
Bitola				X	Child rights
Delchevo		X			
Gostivar			X		
Kochani	X				
Kr. Palanka				X	Women rights
Kumanovo	X	X			
Pehchevo		X			Women rights
Prilep		X			
Probishtip	X		X	X	Women rights
Rankovce		X			
Shtip	X				Child rights
Vinica	X				Culture

Note: some measures addressed more than one area.

Review of National Action Plans' (NAP) status of implementation

Apart from the activities/measures referring to the LAPs, the project also made a review of the activities undertaken within the NAPs in the four Decade priority areas: housing, education, employment, and health. The main aim was to gather representatives of the ministries responsible for the NAPs, as well as representatives of the Cabinet of the Minister without Portfolio (as National Co-ordinator for the Strategy and the Decade) and to undertake a participatory assessment of the level of implementation of the 4 NAPs.

Through the NAP review process provided to the participants an overview of the NAPs implementation, as well as an understanding of the division of labour and links among institutions implicated in NAPs.



Workshop for NAP review, 14-15 June 2012



Other workshops/trainings

A considerable number of training and workshop events were carried out within the local measures related to LAP priorities described above. These events helped local beneficiaries to increase their awareness and skills on issues relevant to health (prevention; promotion of healthy lifestyle; health education for girls), education (school attendance, rights to education access), housing (right to access of decent housing) and employment (vocational skills, awareness raising on state programmes in employment). Cross-cutting issues such as gender, rights of the child, anti-discrimination – to mention some – were also ‘captured’ by our colleagues from the municipalities, NGOs, Roma Information Centres and local communities participating in these actions.

The team started the delivery of a module programme for increasing beneficiaries’ capacities to develop project/programme documents – i.e. terms of reference and project fiches. The process included 7 practical modules which covered the full cycle of programming and document writing.

The project team launched a process of developing a Strategy for the Cabinet of the Minister without Portfolio which should guide the team in the course of the next 3 years. The strategy deals with issues such as institutional cooperation and coordination with line Ministries, donor coordination, lobbying and assistance for realisation of state policies in the field of Roma inclusion and – last but not least – organisational development of the Cabinet, including communication and visibility.

Strategy planning workshop

The Aim of the workshop was to ensure proper and successful strategy planning process for the MwP Cabinet, based on the human resource documents and procedures, which have been recently upgraded under the same project.

Otherwise, the upgrading of the documents and procedures of the UISDR and the MwP Cabinet was done in the period January – June 2012. On the basis of the findings from the assessment of the existing needs for upgrading of internal documents and after comprehensive discussion of the specified priority areas of documents and procedures to be upgraded, a list of tasks was set for optimisation of work processes within the beneficiary institutions. An agreement was also reached on the types of documents to be upgraded. The internal documents delivered to the MwP Cabinet included:

- Guideline for Preparation of Meetings and Operational Plans;
- Guideline for Introduction Training (orientation) and Mentorship;
- Guideline for Personal Professional Development;
- Guideline for Communication;
- Guideline for Capacity Development;
- Guideline for Individual Appraisal and Performance Measurement.

Writing terms of references (TOR) and project fiches

The Aim of this training is to improve the skills of the beneficiary institutions’ staff in preparation of terms of reference and project fiches in the context of the implementation of the Strategy and Decade for the Roma Inclusion, and particularly the national action plans in the priority areas. The training will increase the participants’ capacity for ensuring additional financial resources necessary for implementing Roma policy related activities.

The staff from the MwP Cabinet ante UISDR will improve their knowledge regarding the necessary steps for the preparation of such documents, regarding their structure and content.



Activities within the Roma Decade Presidency

International conference: Early childhood development and Quality Education for Roma

14 - 15 May 2012, Skopje



The main aims of this conference were to intensify efforts, ensure cooperation and exchange of good practices and measures through which current projects and activities in the field of education could contribute to developing a systematic approach to early childhood development and quality education for Roma.

The focus of the discussion of the participants (people specialized the field of human rights protection, NGOs, relevant ministries and institutions) was the systematic approach to early childhood development, regional initiatives, relevant researches and progress made in the field of education as the most obvious result. Among other important issues concerning Roma discussed was the projection of sustainable programs for quality education for Roma, then the capacity of the institutional mechanisms for including development of child-focused programmes, as well as cooperation with institutions and civil society to overcome gaps in educational outcomes between Roma and non-Roma.



International Conference: Improving Housing Conditions of Roma

21-22 May 2012, Skopje



The objectives of the event were to: share housing policies, legal frameworks, models and practices in realizing the housing rights; share positive measures that simplify the process of subsequent registration of illegal property and reduce the documentation requirements for legalization process; identify areas of action for improving the housing conditions in Roma settlements; build and foster partnership in funding and initiating an international project for cross-border and transnational cooperation among member states of the Decade and identify policy steps for social housing.

22nd International Steering Committee of the Decade for Roma inclusion: Croatia assumed the Presidency of the Decade (June 25-26, 2012)



The Protocol on handing over the chairmanship of the Decade was signed by the Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs, Teuta Arifi, and the Croatian Deputy Prime Minister, Neven Mimica. Mr. Mimica underlined that realizing the country's example of a dedicated presidency they would have another difficult task to meet the standards set out here.



At the 22nd International Steering Committee meeting the country officially handed over the Presidency of the Decade to Croatia. Substantial results from the implementation of the objectives of Roma Decade in four key areas - education, housing, health and employment - have been attained. The country's Decade Presidency will remain in memory by the fact that for the first time in the region one country finances high school education of Roma – first to fourth year. As the Minister Nezhdet Mustafa confirmed, the solution of the problem of Roma children in the street was under way. 18 kindergartens are opened to accept these children. Equally important is the fact that by opening the RIC in 10 municipalities, the MLSP has become more visible to the real problems of the Roma. He pointed out the importance of the significant achievements in terms of addressing the infrastructure issues such as Investments in water supply and sewerage network in 18 municipalities.



Final wrap-up event of the project



The project organised a final wrap-up event in order to present its final results to representatives of the beneficiary institutions and other relevant stakeholders, embassies, as well as donors, and the media.

The event took place on 2 July 2012 at the EU Info Centre of the European Union Delegation in Skopje. There opening speeches were made by Aivo Orav, Head of EU Delegation to Skopje, the Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Ibrahim Ibrahimi, the Minister without Portfolio and National Coordinator of Roma Strategy and Decade, Nezdet Mustafa. Then the project's Team Leader, Ognian Drumev, presented the project results. Beneficiaries' views on the project were shared by Mabera Kamberi, Head of Sector for Coordination and Technical Support at the MLSP, and Jase Sefer, Chief of the MwP Cabinet.

For the purpose of increased publicity of the wrap-up event, a press release and a project fact sheet were prepared, printed and disseminated among media and participants. The event was attended by 43 representatives of institutions and organizations having participated in or been linked with the project.



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Other links about the project:

<http://www.mbr-ds.gov.mk/?q=node/7>

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Support-of-Roma-Strategy/186121741496799?sk=app_117776251680729

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

For more information about the European Union visit:

www.europa.eu

The project team consists of:

- Project Director – Nigel Shakespear
- Team Leader – Ognian Drumev
- Key Expert – Fernando Villarreal
- Assistant Team Leader - Valery Pandzharov
- Pool of short term experts
- Project support staff - Tatjana Mijovska, Srgjan Rashiti, Marija Ilievska, Enida Sadulova

European Year for **Active Ageing**
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