



Support to the implementation of The Roma Strategy

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Coordination and cooperation - a sure path to success



Working meeting "RICs and the municipalities", 27-28 March 2012

Improving all coordination aspects of the working relations between the 10 existing RICs, on the one hand, and the MLSP and the respective municipal administrations (local self-government units), on the other - this is the purpose of the *RIC Manual of Procedures* prepared with the support of the project. As mentioned in the previous issue, the Manual, consisting of internal rules of operation, is designed to function as a guide for RICs on how to improve the services that they provide to the Roma people. At a workshop, conducted on 1 March 2012, the Manual was presented to the MLSP and RIC staff where they had a chance to discuss performance indicators, job

descriptions and the forms and templates included in the Manual. After that its contents were further fine-tuned with feedback and recommendations from the participants.

Noteworthy is the low level of participation of municipality representatives in the RIC-related project activities – indeed, only 3 (of invited 10) municipal officers appeared at the joint RIC - municipality meeting at the end of March.

At present, the Manual has been finalized and set on a piloting phase until mid June 2012. Now it is up to the RIC staff to find how to put all procedures into successful practice.

Protection of Roma women against discrimination and unequal treatment



How to support the country-level efforts for ensuring equal approach and opportunities for Roma women in the process

of realization of their human rights? The project team responds with a measure helping relevant factors, mainly NGO's working for and with Roma women, to find and apply the right mechanisms for protection against discrimination and unequal treatment.

This measure supports the implementation of the *National Action Plan (NAP) for the Advancement of the Social Status of the Roma Women 2011- 2013*. The specific objective of the measure is: by organizing two one-day trainings for a total of 40 representatives of Roma women NGOs and organizations working on human rights to present the concept of non-discrimination and equal treatment in the context of human rights protection mechanisms envisaged in the legislation of the country. The civil sector is the target group due to the fact that Roma gender activists are experienced with how to assist Roma, particularly Roma women, in approaching relevant institutions. The civil sector is capable of proactive involvement in case of alleged discrimination.

The result that is expected to be achieved with the training is





acquired capability of the participants to recognize instances of discrimination and unequal treatment. As part of the same measure, financial support will be also ensured for preparation and printing of a guide intended for NGOs and a manual designed for the

Roma, particularly women, with instructions on how to access services provided by institutions.

With regard to the NAPs, it is important to mention that the project will make a review of the activities undertaken within NAPs in all four areas:

housing, education, employment, and health.

Joint implementation of LAP priority measures continues

The process of joint implementation of priority measures identified within local action plans (LAP) continues. Let us remind that:

- The measures address the four areas of the Decade of Roma Inclusion (employment, education, housing, and health).
- The measures contain selected activities within already adopted LAPs, which are being implemented jointly by the project team and the following municipalities: Kumanovo, Kriva Palanka, Rankovce, Delchevo, Kochani, Pehchevo, Vinica, Probishtip, Shtip, Prilep, Bitola, and Gostivar. Some measures include also partnerships with local NGOs.
- The duration of the measures is 3-4 months and should be finalized by mid June 2012.

The project team ensures continuous support to these municipalities for proper implementation of all the requirements, including the activities' time schedules, the financial procedures and for observing the visibility requirements.

Catalogue of good practices

In the framework of Component 2, one of the activities includes publication of a catalogue with indentified good practices as well as its dissemination among all relevant actors and institutions. This activity is planned to be performed following these steps:

- Conceptualization and description of the final output discussed and agreed with the Beneficiary and key stakeholders;
- Establishing "good practice checking" criteria;
- Collecting information on potential good practices (project's descriptions, updated results, etc.);
- Drafting the final output.
- Editing, lay-out and printing.

The catalogue will consist of descriptions of selected good practice examples, including analysis and conclusions, taking into account the EU Common Basic Principles for Roma Inclusion. The main aims are to give "positive visibility" of successful Roma-related initiatives in the country and provide transferable elements of practice which have proved successful and could be adopted by other promoters.



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRAINING PLAN

The implementation of the project's training plan continued with the conduct of two trainings for the central-level beneficiary institutions on: 1) Legal analysis and legal writing on 8-9 March 2012, and 2) Social policy of the EU on 18-19 April 2012. The trainee group for the second training was expanded with the inclusion of participants of other relevant sectors of the MLSP.

The training on legal analysis and legal writing was conducted also for the staff of the RIC – on 28 March 2012.

Training on legal analysis and legal writing for the RIC staff, 28 March 2012

A total of 14 trainees took part in this training, all of them staff of the 10 RICs. The training included a presentation of the work of the Committee for Protection against Discrimination and the government's anti-discrimination policy.



Training on EU Social Policy, 18 – 19 April 2012

11 representatives of the central-level beneficiary institutions participated in this training, which aimed to increase their level of knowledge on the social policy of the European Union and the mechanisms of its planning and implementation.



LAP REVISION/ DEVELOPMENT

The process of revision of existing local action plans (LAPs) and development of new LAPs, which started in December 2011, continued in the course of March-April 2012. The process includes conduct of workshops in each municipality with the participation of representatives of the relevant local-level institutions and organisations

As of the end of April 2012, the LAPs for Bitola, Berovo, Pehchevo, Prilep and Sveti Nikole have been finalized and sent to those municipalities for final review and eventual adoption. LAPs for two more municipalities – Delchevo and Shtip – are currently being drafted. Three workshops were conducted in other municipalities – Shuto Orizari, Kumanovo and Kochani – and the new LAPs for them are also in a drafting phase. Additional workshops are planned for Shuto Orizari and Shtip – for the development of LAPs in other priority areas.

Workshop for LAP development in the area of employment, Shuto Orizari, 19 March 2012



Workshop for LAP revision in the four priority areas of the Roma decade – education, employment, health, and housing, Kumanovo, 10-11 April 2012



Workshop for LAP revision in the areas of education, employment and housing, and for development of a LAP in the area of health, Kocani, 25-26 April 2012



People without documents – harsh reality in the modern world

Regional Conference to address the problems of persons without documents and the access to rights



The Regional Conference is part of the implementation of the Programme for the country's Presidency of the Decade of Roma Inclusion. The main goal of the conference was to intensify cooperation, exchange of positive practices and necessary measures that could contribute to monitoring the progress and reduce the risk that people without identification documents face.

The participants were representatives from international organizations, governmental and nongovernmental institutions / organizations involved in the Decade activities.

The conference discussed a crucial issue that large numbers of people face, many of them Roma, namely the lack of access to the right to possess identification documents. The Minister of Labour and Social Policy, Spiro Ristovski, indicating that the Government was seriously working to resolve this problem, informed that lately 335 persons had been identified as not having personal documents, from whom in 55 cases the procedure for issuing documents had been completed, while in other 120 the procedure was underway.



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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:

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- Key Expert – Fernando Villarreal
- Assistant Team Leader - Valery Pandzharov
- Pool of short term experts
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European Year for **Active Ageing**
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