



DECADE OF
ROMA
INCLUSION
2005 - 2015

PROGRESS REPORT 2010

GOVERNMENT OF MONTENEGRO

June 2011



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1. BASIC INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION OF THE ROMA MINORITY

STRATEGY FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE POSITION OF ROMA ASHKALI AND EGYPTIANS (RAE) POPULATION IN MONTENEGRO 2008-2012

The Government of Montenegro, at its session of 08 November 2007, adopted a Strategy for the Improvement of the Position of RAE Population in Montenegro 2008-2012. The Strategy represents a set of concrete measures and activities for the next four year period, of the legal, political, economic, social, urban and municipal, educational, cultural, informational, health and any other necessary character as well determines their carriers, deadlines and financial costs. In addition to the basic goals and objectives to be achieved by implementing this document, the Strategy also defines the areas of activity, the priority tasks, methods of implementation, duration of Strategy, evaluation mechanisms, etc. As priority areas of action are identified: creating a database on RAE population, resolving the legal status of RAE population (registration and solution of identity documents problem), education, preservation of culture and tradition, employment and labour rights, health and health care, welfare and child protection, improvement of housing conditions and participation in public and political life. The strategy applies to all Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians, regardless of whether they are domicile population or refugees, and in addition, in each area, special emphasis is given to gender equality.

By the Decision of the Government of 20 December 2007 (“Official Gazette of Montenegro”, No. 02/08), the Commission for monitoring implementation of this Strategy has been formed. Since the new Government was formed after the parliamentary elections in March 2009, and thus came to the changes of the personnel and changes in the organizational structure of the Government, changes in the names of some ministries, and to the need for involvement of the representatives of the Council of Roma in Montenegro in the work of the Commission, the existing Decision was amended (29 December 2009, published in the “Official Gazette of Montenegro” No. 7/10).

The Commission consists of:

1. Ferhat Dinosa, Minister for Human and Minority Rights, Chairman;
2. Sabahudin Delic, Deputy Minister for Human and Minority Rights, Vice President;
3. Fikret Ljuljanovic, Senior Advisor III, the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, Commission Secretary;
4. Osman Subasic, Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs and Public Administration, member;
5. Snezana Mijuskovic, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, member;
6. Željko Rutovic, Deputy Minister of Culture, Sports and Media, member;
7. Vesna Vucurovic, Deputy Minister of Education and Science, member;
8. Rajko Strahinja, PhD, Deputy Minister of Health, member;
9. Ivanka Kojic, Independent Consultant I, the Institute for the Care of Refugees, member;
10. Maja Maras, Adviser, the Ministry for European Integration, member;
11. Anita Zeciri, representative of the Council of Roma in Montenegro, member;
12. Veselj Beganaj, representative of the Coalition of NGOs "Roma Circle" member.

This Commission coordinates the implementation of the Strategy, oversees the implementation of projects, assesses the achievements and proposes measures to eliminate identified deficiencies, notifies the Government of Montenegro on its own activities. In addition to funds earmarked for improving the situation of Roma in terms of individual departments, each year the Government allocates special funds for implementation of the Strategy within the budget of the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights as follows: for 2008 - 400,000 EUR for 2009 - EUR 600,000, for 2010 - 400,000 EUR.

In order to make the use of funds for the implementation of the Strategy transparent and accessible to all social actors, each year the Commission issues a public competition. The competition is published in daily newspapers and on the website of the Ministry. The state administration, public enterprises, institutes and institutions, broadcasting companies, authorities of the local self-government and NGOs have the right to participate in the public competition.

In accordance with the conclusions of the Commission, each project is first sent for the opinion of the competent ministry, what would be the first "filter" in delivering decision. In deciding the Commission takes in consideration a few basic principles: priorities outlined by the Strategy, partnership projects, projects that need co-funding, the territory where the project is implemented, the solvable problem, the number of Roma to which the project relates, the amount of funds requested, the possibility of monitoring etc.

The Agreements on funding/co-funding the programs-projects in accordance with the Strategy for the Improvement of the Position of RAE Population in Montenegro 2008-2012, are signed with all implementers of projects to whom the Commission approved the funds. The Montenegrin public is informed about the decisions of the Commission through a public announcement of the decision and the regular press - conferences.

2. INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION AND EVALUATION OF ROMA INTEGRATION POLICY

Realization of the programs in 2010:

1. Implementer of the project: Employment Agency of Montenegro
Project/Program: "Creating equal access to work for the RAE population"
The area to which the project / program relates: Employment and labour rights
The value of the program / project: 60,000.00 €
The Commission's participation in financing: 50,000.00 €

About the project/program:

Employment Agency of Montenegro has implemented the project titled "Creating equal access to work for the RAE population", with the aim to provide a professional qualification through the preparation, training and additional training for members of the RAE population who are registered as unemployed. Through the training program, conducted by the Centre for Training ZOPT from Podgorica and employment offices of Podgorica, Bijelo Polje and Niksic, 35 persons participated from among the RAE population. Of 35 trainees, 14 were women. Due to increased interest and opportunities, the training comprised 12 other persons (municipality Tivat). The training was conducted for five professions: maid, hygienist, street sweeper, ceramist and auxiliary workers in orchards and vineyards. All participants have successfully completed training and received certificates from accredited providers (on 24 February 2011 certificates were officially awarded). From all persons who have completed training, 11 of them already got employment for an indefinite period of time, as follows: 3 persons in Public Enterprise "Komunalno" - Bijelo Polje, 3 persons in the Hotel "Durmitor" - Bijelo Polje, 3 persons in the HTP "Primorje" - Tivat, 1 person in the "Plantaže 13. jul" - Podgorica and 1 person from Niksic in the hotel "Rezidens" - Miločer. "Plantaže 13. jul" expressed willingness of hiring 9 seasonal workers, Hotel "Durmitor" – Bijelo Polje have expressed willingness of hiring 3 workers (maids), after finishing work on the construction and opening of the ethno-village and there is a possibility of hiring 2-3 hygienist at the border crossing Bijelo Polje - Prijepolje.

2. Implementer of the project: „ Foundation for Scholarships for Roma “
Project / Programme: "Scholarship Program for 2010"
The area to which the project / program relates: Education, preservation of culture and traditions of the Roma minority and the promotion of informing and media presentations

The value of the program / project: 69,750.00 €
The Commission's participation in financing: 53,900.00 €

About the project/program:

The Scholarship Program for 2010 represents a key support for Roma and Egyptians who are high school pupils or students of the University. Besides this the project objective is also the recognition of the importance of education, the continued attendance of school / classes and the achievement of better success. The project solves the problem of access to textbooks and contributes to the elimination of many personal, familiar and traditionalist barriers that negatively affect the process of inclusion of Roma in the community and increase their accountability, commitment and awareness of the key processes in society and the modern concept of human rights. The program achieved the following objectives: the number of Roma and Egyptians who successfully complete high school is increased, their motivation and commitment to education and learning is improved, the capacity of high school pupils/students beside development of their personalities and responsibilities is strengthened, the number of persons who are entering degree programs at the University and successfully completing faculties is increased, drop outs in high school and university education is reduced, the increasing trend of enrolment to the secondary school and University by the members of the RAE community, etc.

The scholarship program includes:

- the financial assistance to high school pupils in course of the school year in the amount of 70 EUR per month – 57 users;
 - the assistance to the students of the University in the amount of 150 EUR per month - 8 users;
 - the financial assistance of 100 EUR for high school pupils for the purchase of textbooks and school supplies;
 - the financial assistance of 150 EUR to students of the University for the purchase of textbooks and literature;
 - the regular collection and archiving of all information and documentation relevant to the course of the school year monitoring of the program's users success;
 - the regular visits to schools, University units, conversation with administration and teachers of scholars;
 - the provision of mentoring support;
 - strengthening the capacity of scholars, improvement of motivation in learning and elimination of various barriers in this process;
 - representing the interests of scholars toward the public in the field of education and employment;
3. Implementer of the project: The Ministry of Education and Science
Project / Programme: "The provision of free textbooks and school supplies for students of RAE population in the first, second and third grade of elementary school for school year 2010/11";

The area to which the project / program relates: education, preservation of culture and traditions of the Roma minority and the promotion of informing and media presentations;

The value of the program / project: 33,387.50 €

The Commission's participation in financing: 30,000.00 €

About the project/program:

Ministry of Education and Science in accordance with the approved project has conducted the necessary actions to implement the project. The Ministry has notified all primary schools on the project and asked them to submit data on the number of RAE students. Based on the responses of schools, on the beginning of the new school year, the Ministry has established a database of RAE students enrolled in primary education.

The total amount of funds that was spent for purchase of 651 sets of textbooks for pupils of the RAE is 33,387.50 EUR. From the project the Ministry has paid 30,000.00 EUR, while the 3,387.5 EUR the Ministry of Education and Science provided from their own funds.

The Ministry of Education and Science purchased books from the Institute of Education who is also the sole distributor of books in Montenegro, namely:

- I grade 221 set of textbooks
- II grade 212 sets of textbooks
- III grade 218 sets of textbooks

4. Implementer of the project: The Foundation for Scholarships for Roma
Project / Programme: "A successful school attendance"

The area to which the project / program relates: education, preservation of culture and traditions of the Roma minority and the promotion of informing and media presentations

The value of the program / project: 22,700.00 €

The Commission's participation in financing: 16,100.00 €

About the project/program:

The project represents a comprehensive approach to Roma pupils and parents in elementary school, "Bozidar Vukovic Podgoricanin". Besides the selection of 20 pupils from the final grades, we worked on their integration with other children and their joint education in human rights, civic education, tolerance and the development of multiculturalism, as well as special classes of dance and acting. For the parents of pupils of this school who were illiterate, was organized a course in functional literacy with the option of continuing professional training. During the realization of the program, all 20 pupils were given a grant of 50 EUR on monthly bases, two Roma assistants were engaged to help in the classroom, ongoing communication took place between pupils-parents-school and the pupils are prepared for the quality continuation of education.

5. Implementer of the project: NGO "Impuls" - Niksic
Project / Programme: "We need parents too"
The area to which the project / program relates: education, preservation of culture and traditions of the Roma minority and the promotion of informing and media presentations
The value of the program / project: 7,140.00 €
The Commission's participation in financing: 7,140.00 €

About the project/program:

The project is aimed at protecting specific categories of children - Roma children without parental care. During the project implementation, in cooperation with the Public Institution "Centre for Social Work for the municipalities of Pluzine and Savnik" was performed the recording of Roma children without parental care in the Municipality of Niksic. In this occasion were recorded 14 children aged 3-18 living in 7 families of relatives. Four children were of preschool age, five attended elementary school, one attended high school, and four did not attend school. For these children, in accordance with the positive legal regulations, the legal status was resolved, that is, a guardian was determined, the entry into the records at the Centre for Social Work was made, the rights of foster families were regulated, contact with their biological parents was made and material assistance was provided (financial assistance of 100 EUR and New Year's packets). The project was carried out by the experts, Ms. Jelena Markovic graduate teacher and graduate social workers Ms. Violeta Mrkic and Ms. Marija Nikcevic.

6. Implementer of the project: The Municipality of Niksic
Project / Programme: "Building a new power substation for residential facilities for families of the members of RAE population"
The area to which the project / program relates: Housing and living conditions
The value of the program / project: 21,994.00 €
The Commission's participation in financing: 15,000.00 €

About the project/program:

In the settlement of Gracanica-Niksic the construction of three residential buildings with 3 dwelling units each intended for domicile RAE population from the territory of the Municipality of Niksic (on the plot number 4356 KO Niksic) is in progress. According to the Study of the needs in electricity and power, in buildings the electrical installation for general consumption and heating and electrical installation for lighting is projected. With regard to the needs of 9 residential units, access to the existing power substation is not possible because of overloading. Therefore, it is necessary:

- Making DV 10kV at a length of about 150 meters from the existing 10kV DV to newly installed STS 10/04kV, 250kVA;
- Installation of STS 10/04 kV with low voltage cabinet for pole-mounting transforming substations 250kVA

For the purpose of realization of this project, a building permit and is started the process for selection of contractors was obtained. After selecting the contractor, within the deadline of 90 days, it is expected the completion of construction of new power substations.

7. Implementer of the project: Coalition of NGOs "Roma Circle"
Project / Programme: "Participation of the State in the regulation of housing problems"
The area to which the project / program relates: Housing and living conditions
The value of the program / project: 21,100.00 €
The Commission's participation in financing: 3,270.00 €

About the project/program:

The aim of this project is to legalize dwelling for seven members of the family of Veselj Beganaj from Niksic. The situation frequently encountered is that Roma, even when they are financially capable, build housing objects without the necessary planning documentation and permits. Given that the conditions for the legalization of the residential building are met by the Municipality of Niksic, and because the Beganaj family is incapable to financially bear the cost, this project was sustained with the amount of 3,270.00 EUR.

8. Implementer of the project: the Council of Roma in Montenegro
Project / Programme: "RAE - radio"
The area to which the project / program relates: Education, preservation of culture and traditions of the Roma minority and the promotion of informing and media presentations
The value of the program / project: 42,530.00 €
The Commission's participation in financing: 32,530.00 €

About the project/program:

The Council of Roma has launched an initiative to create media outlets to increase awareness of RAE population on all current events, as well as awareness of non-RAE population on this marginalized group. Given that the training of the Institute for Media was completed by seven Roma journalists, it is important to engage the human resources from this population and to create the first media of this kind in this region. Bearing in mind that freedom of expression in the Romany language in this region is very poor, the media would aim not only to preserve and nurture the language which still is not standardized, but also to preserve the integrity and traditions of Roma people.

The necessary license and frequencies from the Broadcasting Agency are obtained, adequate space is provided and the necessary equipment is procured. The studio is installed based on European regulations, with no use of hazardous materials, but mostly modern materials used in all music studios. Thus, a studio was built, where with the proper adjustment of the equipment, is possible the production of music CDs. Also, the studio, like the most modern ones, is adjusted

and can be used in a classical way, announcer and director separately, but also it can function for one man shows - only one journalist can maintain the entire system as it is a practice in all worlds' radios.

9. Implementer of the project: The Foundation for Scholarships for Roma
Project / Programme: "Support for scholars in housing"
The area to which the project / program relates: Housing and living conditions
The value of the program / project: 4,256.00 €
The Commission's participation in financing: 2,956.00 €

About the project/program:

Ms. Biljana Alkovic, after successful graduation, continued her specialist education at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Podgorica. Besides involvement in her own community, Ms. Alkovic is a journalist of the weekly "Monitor" and the activist of the Foundation for Scholarships for Roma when it comes to working with Roma students and high school pupils. She lives with her mother in Ulcinj. This project helped to renovate a totally inadequate housing object which is brought into a state of functional use for one household. Also, it should be noted that living conditions of scarce high educated personnel from RAE population are improved, and thereby their social engagement is increased.

10. Implementer of the project: Radio "Elita" – Ulcinj
Project / Programme: "Amaro Drom (Our Path)"
The area to which the project / program relates: education, preservation of culture and traditions of the Roma minority and the promotion of informing and media presentations
The value of the program / project: 7,590.00 €
The Commission's participation in financing: 7,590.00 €

About the project/program:

Through a serial of radio shows in duration of 45 to 60 minutes the life of the Roma and Egyptians in the Municipality of Ulcinj is shown (serial runs until 08 April 2011). The shows are of collage type with the aim of acquainting the public with the conditions of life and problems the Roma population have, as well as the activities of state authorities and local self-governments on improving their position. The shows are divided into thematic units, with the main emphasis on the legal status, housing and living conditions, involvement in the education system, employment, social and child protection, etc.

In addition to the representatives of Roma and Egyptian associations, participation in the show were done by representatives of state authorities, of local self-government, the Employment Office, directors of public enterprises and directors of educational institutions. Among the participants of the show there were also young Roma and Egyptians who are successfully engaged in sporting, artistic, cultural and other activities.

11. Implementer of the project: NGO "4 life"

Project / Program: "Raising awareness of children and young Roma about the harmful effects of inhalants and other psychoactive substances on health"

The area to which the project / program relates: Health and Health Care

The value of the program / project: 9,130.00 €

The Commission's participation in financing: 8,130.00 €

About the project/program:

Throughout the six months of the duration of the program, about one hundred (100) children and youth from RAE population attended the lectures and workshops organized in the municipalities of Podgorica and Niksic. Workshops were implemented by professionals - the sociologist and pedagogue, with topics related to the harmfulness of psychoactive substances and inhalants on health, as well as sexually transmitted diseases and use of contraceptives. Direct target group of the project activities were children and youth from 13-17 years residing at Vrela Ribnicka (Konik Camps I and II) and in the settlement Brlja - Niksic.

The realization of the project has increased awareness of the target group on the harmfulness of the use of psychoactive substances and on sexually transmitted diseases, self-esteem of young people, their social skills and assertiveness. There were adopted effective strategies for solving the problems, raised awareness for their own development and their own actions, and increased tolerance to stress and problems.

12. Implementer of the project: the Association of Roma and Kovac women "Zensko srce"

Project / Programme: "I want to know what reproductive health is"

The area to which the project / program relates: Health and Health Care

The value of the program / project: 6,600.00 €

The Commission's participation in financing: 4,730.00 €

About the project / program:

With a view to informing and educating Roma women about the importance of reproductive health five thematic seminars were held. 103 Roma women were introduced to the following topics:

- What is reproductive health?
- Important factors that young people should respect prior to the first sexual intercourse
- Personal hygiene
- Hygiene during the menstrual cycle
- Contraception and protection against sexually transmitted diseases
- The first gynecological examination
- Family Planning and the influential factors
- Normal and pathological pregnancy, regular examinations, diet and way of dressing during pregnancy

- The most common gynecological diseases and the first symptoms, diseases of the cervix, the Pap test and its importance
- Early signs of breast cancer, breast self-examination and who to contact in case of anomalies in the breast
- Thematic seminars were led by professionals, and to each of the participants of the seminar were given a hygiene package containing: washing powder, sanitary napkins, items for intimate hygiene, deodorant and face cream.

13. Implementer of the project: NGO "Civil Forum"- Niksic

Project / Program: "Magazine Media politics - an information campaign about entering the Roma in the register of births"

The area to which the project / program relates: Legal status - prohibition of discrimination, registration and identity documents

The value of the program / project: 2,880.00 €

The Commission's participation in financing: 980.00 €

About the project/program:

Registration is a procedure that is used for collecting data and keeping records of important life events in the life of each person, such as birth, marriage, death. Ignorance about the compulsory registration of newborn children, the complexity of the application process and subsequent registration of newborns, costs associated with the subsequent reporting, lack of documents of the parents themselves, etc. are just some of the reasons because of which in Roma population there is a problem of registration in the register of birth.

Through public awareness campaigns (public tribunes and field work), targeted for both the Roma and for persons who come into direct contact with Roma during the registration of births, the awareness of the importance of registration of newborn children in the register is raised. In the framework of the magazine "Media politics" one edition is thematically devoted to this issue.

14. Implementer of the project: NGO Foundation "Caritas"- Berane

Project / Programme: "Improving of the living conditions of displaced RAE population in the Municipality of Berane"

The area to which the project / program relates: Housing and living conditions

The value of the program / project: 105,366.00 €

The Commission's participation in financing: 30,975.00 €

About the project/program:

Foundation "Caritas" - Luxembourg, the Municipality of Berane, UNHCR and the NGO "Help", after the fire at the location of Donji Talum on 26 October 2010, were engaged together in finding adequate housing for 6 families with 34 members. The Municipality of Berane has provided location ("New Riverside - Rudes") on the part of the cadastral plot no. 990 KO Budimlja. UNHCR, "Caritas"

and the NGO "Help" have provided a means to build 3 houses, and from the resources of the Ministry is provided construction of other 3 houses.

A total of 6 houses of floor area of 35m² (3 houses), 45m² (2 houses) and 55m² (1 house) is built. Total area of residential useful space is 250m². Objects are placed on the concrete surface, with only ground floors. They are connected to the electrical, water and sewage networks. All the facilities are good thermally isolated, with the energy savings for heating. They are resistant to all climatic conditions, earthquakes and are of the high fire resistance. All houses are characterized by long life embedded elements, and all are built in modern architectural style.

15. Implementer of the project: Council of Roma in Montenegro

Project / Program: "Identity document-inclusion condition"

The area to which the project / program relates: Legal status - prohibition of discrimination, registration, identity documents

The value of the program / project: 221,900.00 €

The Commission's participation in financing: 85,000.00 €

About the project/program:

In order to reduce the social exclusion of domicile Roma population through the legalization and recognition of their legal status, the Council of Roma implemented a project to provide support (legal and financial) in obtaining personal documents and in procedures of entry in the appropriate registries of Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia and Kosovo.

For a period of four months (from 1 October 2010 to 1 February 2011) a collection of the necessary documents on the territory of Montenegro, which was necessary for any application before the state authorities of the Republic of Serbia was made. The process is fully completed for obtaining 20 citizenships. In the Republic of Serbia are collected the following documents:

- Kosovska Mitrovica (in the first round from the Basic Court, we received 56 certificates on no criminal record, and in the second round was filed 26 applications for a certificate on no criminal record in the Basic Court and 82 requests for a certificate on no criminal record in the High Court);
- Leskovac (from the Basic Court 50 certificate on no criminal record, and in the second round 30 requests for a certificate on no criminal record);
- Belgrade (in the Ministry of Internal Affairs in December 35 requests for issuing a confirmation that the person is not enrolled in the register of citizenship of the Republic of Serbia were filed, but they are still pending, although the Council and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Montenegro made several urgencies. From Tax administration 76 certificates on tax clearance were obtained); Jagodina (20 certificates of citizenship and 20 birth certificates); Kragujevac (85 certificates of citizenship, 90 birth certificates, 19 confirmations that the person is not enrolled in the register of citizenship of the Republic of Serbia);

This makes the total of 589 documents obtained for the acquisition of Montenegrin citizenship. It should be noted that the Council has collected 762 certificates on housing and income that are also necessary for the acquisition of Montenegrin citizenship. For the second round of the project there is already prepared 24 new cases for obtaining a guarantee for admission to the Montenegrin citizenship, 18 confirmations that the person is not enrolled in the register of citizenship of the Republic of Serbia and 26 complete documentations for the release from Serbian citizenship. Given that the request for release from the citizenship of the Republic of Serbia may be submitted only by a Serbian citizen who has permanent residence in its territory, the Council of Roma has already hired a person who will submit the requests on the territory of the Republic of Serbia.

16. Implementer of the project: NGO „Humanitarac“

Project / Programme: "Exercising the right to identity through a subsequent entry in the register of births of 43 disabled children of the RAE population in Montenegro"

The area to which the project / program relates: Legal status - prohibition of discrimination, registration, identity documents

The value of the program / project: 38,847.00 €

The Commission participates in the financing: 4,700.00 €

About the project/program:

Through the project, "No to charity, yes to combat for the realization of basic human rights for children with disabilities members of the RAE population in Montenegro", which is supported by the EU, 43 Roma children "without identity" were identified. The project involved entering in the records of these children (in the municipalities of Niksic, Podgorica, Cetinje, Bar, Tivat, Kotor, Bijelo Polje, Berane, Rozaje and Pljevlja), entering in the record of the parents and their legal status, and initiate procedures for the subsequent registration of children in the records of birth.

The survey found that 62.5% parents of these children do not possess identity documents that would allow the procedure of subsequent registration of children into the register of birth. For these persons the procedure for the regulation of personal documents at the Ministry of Internal Affairs was initiated. 37.50% families were found to have legally valid documents. To them the financial and technical assistance was given, so 11 children by a subsequent process of registration, were registered into the register of birth.

In addition to the funds distributed through the public competition, the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, in the course of 2010, has funded several more projects in the field of social inclusion of RAE population:

- in cooperation with the UN system in Montenegro, a ceremony on the occasion of 8 April, International Roma Day was organized (reception and organization of photo-exhibition - 4,000 EUR);

- based on the decision of the Commission, the work of the Council of Roma and the NGO "Roma Circle" is assisted with 6,000 EUR and 4,000 EUR respectively;
- in cooperation with Islamic Religious Community a ceremonial promotion of the translation of the Qur'an in the Romany language done by Muharem Serbezovski was organized, and 150 copies were purchased (6,000 EUR);
- with the NGO "Lighthouse" an agreement for the realization of the project that included free legal help to Roma was signed (1,000 EUR);
- the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights signed the agreements with the Council of Roma for the implementation of the projects, "Meeting the upcoming census" (5,300 EUR), "Night of Roma poetry, music and games" (5,000 EUR), "Suppression of begging" (5,000 EUR) and for providing technical equipment for Radio (10,000 EUR);
- the Ministry, through the Red Cross Berane, helped the area inhabited by Roma in the Municipality of Berane perished in the flood, (2,000 EUR);
- Financially was assisted the registration of the Roma craft union "Plamen" (400 EUR),
- also, was assisted the work of the Roma non-governmental organizations, "Center for Roma Initiatives" (500 EUR), Foundation for Scholarship for Roma (1,000 EUR), the Association "Rom" (500 EUR);

B) ACTION PLAN FOR DISPLACED PERSONS

Statistical data

The table presents internally displaced Roma and Egyptians who reside in Montenegro.

Community	Roma	Egyptians	Total
Bar	88	3	91
Berane	232	129	361
Bijelo Polje	19		19
Budva	7	30	37
Cetinje	7		7
Herceg Novi	52		52
Kotor	3	2	5
Nikšić	23	178	201
Pljevlja	30	1	31
Podgorica	1488	621	2.109
Rožaje	25	41	66
Tivat	3	54	57
Ulcinj	28	12	40
Ukupno	2.005	1.071	3.076

* Data refer to the number of persons

* Source - The Institute for the Care of Refugees

Internally displaced Roma and Egyptians are located in unofficial collective centers in the above mentioned municipalities.

The possibilities for realization of the rights

Status in Montenegro

In order to define a sustainable and lasting solution for the issue of displaced and internally displaced persons, including access to identity documents, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Foreigners as adopted (“Official Gazette of Montenegro”, No. 72/09), which allows to displaced persons from former Yugoslavian republics and internally displaced persons from Kosovo residing in Montenegro, to obtain the status of a foreigner with the permanent residence in Montenegro, therefore this right can be used by all displaced and internally displaced persons, regardless of ethnic or religious affiliation.

Displaced and internally displaced persons who do not have valid travel documents required for exercising the right of permanent residence, but meet other requirements of the Law, shall be granted temporary residence, until the provision of the valid travel document, in duration of maximum three years from the date of approval of temporary residence.

In order for displaced and internally displaced persons to exercise the right to obtain the status of a foreigner with the permanent residence in Montenegro, it is necessary that, from the country of origin or the country whose citizenship he holds, he obtain a passport, certificate from the register of birth and a certificate on citizenship.

Deadline for submission of application for obtaining the status of a foreigner with an approved permanent residence or temporary residence is 7 November 2011.

Other rights

By acquiring the status of a foreigner with the permanent residence, displaced and internally displaced persons in Montenegro, in accordance with the current legislation, can exercise their rights on the level which is equal to the level of exercising rights of Montenegrin citizens, in the area of labour and employment, education, welfare and child protection, health care and insurance, as well as pension and disability insurance. The Government of Montenegro, at its session held on 4 August 2010, passed the Regulation on the manner of exercising the rights of displaced persons from former Yugoslav Republics and internally displaced persons from Kosovo (“Official Gazette of Montenegro”, No. 45/2010), which prescribes the manner of exercising the rights of displaced persons from former Yugoslav republics and internally displaced persons from Kosovo residing in Montenegro. This act provides that displaced persons from former Yugoslav republics and internally displaced persons from Kosovo, who reside in

Montenegro, until acquirement of the status of a foreigner with the permanent residence in accordance with the Law on Amendments to the Law on Foreigners, exercise their rights on the level which is equal to the level of exercising the rights of Montenegrin citizens. However, it is important to remind that the members of this population do not use these rights to the fullest, due to the lack of personal documentation.

Ongoing activities

Activities to address the issue of displaced and internally displaced persons in Montenegro are carried out in accordance with the Action Plan to address the status of displaced persons from former Yugoslav republics and internally displaced persons from Kosovo, adopted by the Government of Montenegro on 29 October 2009, as well as in accordance with the Action plan for monitoring implementation of recommendations given in the European Commission's opinion (9. Action plan for permanent solving of status of refugees and displaced persons in Camps Konik I and II) delivered by the Government of Montenegro on 17 February 2010.

The Action Plan provides for two ways to permanently solve the status of displaced and internally displaced persons as follows:

- Integration - through access to the status of a foreigner with the permanent residence
- Through the use of the right on voluntary return.

Experts hired by the EU Delegation in Montenegro in cooperation with representatives of the relevant institutions of Montenegro (the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, the Institute for the Care of Refugees, the Employment Office, the Red Cross of Montenegro, the Capital City, UNHCR, UNDP, UNICEF) have drawn up "Studies on permanent solutions for refugees and displaced persons and residents of Camp Konik in Montenegro and preparation for IPA National Programme 2011.

Furthermore, the Draft Components of the IPA National Programme 2011 - "Permanent solutions for Camps Konik I and II" were determined, providing for: the construction of 90 housing units; construction of a multipurpose centre; voluntary return; employment, education, social issues and technical assistance. The value of this project, which will be financed by the EU, is about EUR 2.5 million. According to the conditions of the EU, the Government of Montenegro should co-finance this project with 20% of mentioned amount. Modalities of co-funding will be subject to future agreement with the EU Delegation.

In accordance with the planned IPA project, and regarding the exercise of the right to housing, with the goal of closing the Camp Konik, the Capital City determined that the zone A and the part of the zone B of the total area of 130.000m², should be planned as one unit, so as to create legal conditions for rational urban quality solution, in accordance with the prescribed norms.

The envisaged deadline for the creation of the mentioned plan document is the fourth quarter of 2011, bearing also in mind that the Law on Spatial Planning and Construction of Facilities is in amending procedure, and that by that amendment there is a possibility of changes to the City Urban Plane, which is necessary for the realization of this proposal. Within this, the Capital City will undertake the obligation concerning the preparation of utility exigencies for the given space.

In accordance with the activities envisaged by the Action plan for monitoring implementation of recommendations given in the European Commission's opinion, the Commission which on the basis of individual interviews will determinate precise data on the number of internally displaced persons in Camp Konik I and II, who wish to return to their country of origin, was formed. The Commission, composed of 12 members (two servants each from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Institute for the Care of Refugees, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the Red Cross of Montenegro, the Capital City of Podgorica and UNHCR), conducted the abovementioned activities during the period from 24 January 2011 to 10 February 2011 on what is made the report according to which 16 families with 83 members declared to be willing to return to Kosovo.

As one of the activities specified by the Action Plan is envisaged the establishment of precise data on internally displaced persons who do not have documents in order to regulate the new status, on internally displaced persons who are not entered in the registries, as well as persons who do not have the status of internally displaced persons.

The Working Group from representatives of relevant departments, with the task to establish precise data on internally displaced persons residing in Camps Konik I and II who do not have documents (to regulate the new status) as well as internally displaced persons who are not entered in the registers, was formed. The Working Group started work on 25 February 2011. When the Working Group compiles an accurate report, the direct modalities of assistance to internally displaced persons in obtaining documents in countries of origin are going to be determined. These are necessary for obtaining the status of a foreigner with the permanent residence in Montenegro.

Also, in the letter addressed to the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kosovo, it was suggested that recent initiation of negotiations on concluding the Agreement between the Government of Montenegro and the Government of the Republic of Kosovo on the Subsequent Registration of Internally Displaced Persons from Kosovo Residing in Montenegro in the Registers and the Register of Citizens of the Republic of Kosovo.

Further, the Working Group for organization of information campaigns on the importance of applying for obtaining the status of a foreigner with the permanent residence or temporary residence is formed. In cooperation with UNHCR and OSCE, it has defined various types of informing these persons (round tables, media presentations etc.). In due course it is broadcasting of television clip that appears on all TV stations in Montenegro. Also, a leaflet containing detailed information on the possibilities of regulating the status of a foreigner with the permanent residence in Montenegro has been realized. The translation of leaflets in Albanian and Roma language are ongoing. These will be

distributed to the displaced and internally displaced persons. In addition, field visits started in order to inform displaced persons about the importance of regulating the status in Montenegro.

Activities implemented by the Working Group composed of representatives from the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Institute for the Care of Refugees, UNHCR, OSCE and NGO "Libertas" are ongoing. These began on 27 February 2011, with the aim of establishing accurate data on displaced and internally displaced persons who are located in 16 unofficial collective centers in Montenegro - a total of 1,554 persons. The aim is to define priority projects which will, under the Sarajevo Declaration - Belgrade Initiative, be presented at the Donor's Conference, organized by UNHCR and other international partners.

Conceptual solutions from the study as well as results of mentioned surveys will serve as the basis for drafting a comprehensive and sustainable Strategy for the permanent resolution of these issues.

Return of internally displaced persons

The return is an important part of the strategy which is implemented by the Institute for the Care of Refugees, together with other institutions of Montenegro and Kosovo.

In order to achieve sustainable return, the Mayor of Podgorica held a meeting with the President of the Municipality of Pec, with the participation of the Institute for the Care of Refugees and UNHCR, where is reached an agreement on the modalities of cooperation to facilitate the voluntary return of persons who have expressed interest for the return to Pec (16 families with 83 members).