



DECADE OF ROMA INCLUSION 2005 – 2015 PROGRESS REPORT 2011

MONTENEGRO

Basic information about the position of the Roma minority

Unlike other minority nations and other national minority communities, who are involved in the contemporary trends of Montenegrin society, Roma and Egyptians belong to the most vulnerable and most marginalized national minority community in Montenegro. Low economic power, low level of education, a very small number of employed persons, inadequate housing conditions, social rejection with remains of ethnic stereotypes and prejudices, specific way of living and other characteristics, are only some of the causes of their difficult position in society.

The number of members of the Roma population in the country

- According to the existing and available data from the census of population, households and dwellings in Montenegro¹, 6251 persons have stated to belong to the Roma population, what makes 1.01% of the total population. Population of the Egyptians has 2054 persons, or 0.33% of the total population, while 5169 persons speak Romany as their mother tongue. The largest number of the Roma is living in the territory of Podgorica (3988), than Berane (531), Niksic (483), Bijelo Polje (334), Herceg Novi (258), and the majority of the Egyptians are located in Podgorica (685), Niksic (446), Tivat (335) and Berane (170).
- On 5 April 2012 the Government of Montenegro adopted the **Strategy for Improving the Situation of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro for 2012 - 2016**.
- The Action Plan for implementation of the Strategy for Improving the Situation of RAE population in Montenegro is adopted in the following municipalities: Niksic, Herceg Novi, Tivat and Kotor.

¹ Source: MONSTAT

Institutional support for Roma inclusion and integration

R E P O R T

ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING THE SITUATION OF RAE POPULATION IN MONTENEGRO 2008-2012 FOR 2011

- *(For EU enlargement countries): Is your government planning to prepare a National Roma Integration Strategy as called for in the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies up to 2020?*
- *Is there a structure on local (municipality) level responsible for the implementation of the Decade National Action Plan / National Roma Integration Strategy?*
- *Please, describe any planning for the use of EU funds in the 2014-2020 to address Roma inclusion/integration. Please, describe how experts and Roma NGOs are involved in the planning of the use of EU funds in the 2014-2020.*
- *What are the main institutional and procedural supports envisioned to ensure that EU funds will be used effectively for Roma inclusion (e.g. equal opportunities unit, simplification of funding procedures, technical assistance for beneficiaries*

- We have no data

In order to achieve greater integration of RAE population in contemporary Montenegrin society, in 2011 the Government of Montenegro continued with activities on implementation of the Strategy for Improving the Situation of RAE population 2008-2012 and the Action Plan for the "Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015".

For 2011, in addition to funds earmarked for improving the situation of the Roma in the framework of individual departments, the Government has allocated 300,000 euro. By the Decision of the Government is formed the Commission to monitor the implementation of this Strategy (Decision Amending the Decision adopted by the Government of Montenegro from 4 February 2011). Commission is composed of representatives of relevant ministries, on the level of deputy ministers, who participate in the implementation of the Strategy, a representative of the Institute for the Care of Refugees, a representative of Roma NGOs and a representative of the Roma Council in Montenegro. This Commission coordinates the activities on the implementation of the Strategy, oversees the implementation of projects, evaluates the achieved results and proposes measures to eliminate noted deficiencies, notifies the Government of Montenegro on its activities.

Starting from the positive experience in the previous year, in order to make the funds for implementation of the Strategy more transparent and accessible to all social actors, the Commission has issued two public competition, first one on 15 April and the second one on 19 November 2011. Relevant ministries gave opinions on the submitted projects, and after that the Commission did the same. Projects-programs were selected and agreements on their implementation were signed. The Commission monitors the implementation of the projects.

In 2011 were approved funds for implementation of the following projects:

1. The project implementer: "The Roma Council"

The project / program: "Personal documents - a prerequisite for inclusion"

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

The value of the program / project: 124,000.00 €

The Commission participates in the financing with: 90,000.00 €

About the project / program:

The Roma Council in Montenegro has implemented the project entitled "Personal documents - a prerequisite for inclusion", with the primary objective to provide immediate assistance and support for 150 domicile Roma and Egyptians in Podgorica about the issue of obtaining the necessary documentation in Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo, release from the old citizenship, admission in the Montenegrin citizenship and regulation of identity cards. The essence of these activities was to provide support in obtaining identity documents and procedures of appropriate entry in the registers of Montenegro as well as the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Kosovo.

The results stemming from this project are:

- For 250 persons were obtained identification documents from the territory of the Republic of Serbia and the Republic of Kosovo
- 80 persons have acquired the status of Montenegrin citizen,
- 54 persons are still awaiting the release from the Republic of Serbia
- Additionally, after the adoption of the new electoral law, was prepared additional documentation for other 55 persons, where the requests for release from the Serbian citizenship were submitted in Montenegro.
- For 61 persons in course is the procedure for obtaining a guarantee for admission to the Montenegrin citizenship.

2. The project implementer: "The Roma Scholarship Foundation"

The project / Program "Scholarship program 2011"

The area to which the project / program relates: Education (scholarships for high school students and students in higher education institutions in Montenegro)

The value of the program / project: 154,788.00 €

The Commission participates in the financing with: 80,933.00 €

About the project / program:

The 2011 scholarship program is the continuation of program from previous years and represents a key support to Roma and Egyptians who are high school students or students of the University. This is a program that jointly identifies the Government of Montenegro and the Roma Scholarship Foundation outside the country. In addition to the key contribution to creation of the personnel necessary for the RE community, the goals of this year's program are:

- Identifying and further promoting the importance of education in proper organization, but also support for this in the broader society.
- Providing cultural attendance of the school and corresponding achievement.
- Strengthening the capacity of users with representation of their interests in the society.

The program effectively contributes to elimination of a number of personal, family related and traditionalist barriers that negatively affect the educational process and increase organizational and social engagement of each individual user of scholarship.

The main activities are related to covering the part of debts toward users of scholarships, providing monthly scholarships for second semester / school term of the school year 2011/12, monitoring

of attendance and achievement, regular meetings and thematic workshops with users of scholarships with total improvement of their capacities and self-confidence and providing of a modern, effective and affordable support service.

The scholarship program includes:

- increase of the number of Roma and Egyptians (RE) who are enrolling the IV level of a high school;
- increase of the number of RE who are successfully completing high school;
- increase of the number of RE who are enrolling and successfully completing faculties;
- the regular payment of scholarships during the entire school or academic year;
- improving self-confidence and motivation;
- strengthening the capacity of RE high school and university students;
- increase of activism and visibility in the RE local community and public life of Montenegro;
- reduction of drop outs in secondary and university education of the RE;
- employment of RE with secondary education;
- the assistance to the RE students of the University in the amount of 150 euro per month - 8 users;
- financial assistance for high school students during the school year in the amount of 70 euro;
- regular collection and archiving of all information and documentation relevant to the course of the school year and following the achievement of the program's beneficiaries;
- regular visits to schools, university units, interviews with administrations and subject teachers of scholarship users;
- notification of, solving or participation in solving problems and various issues that are directly or indirectly connected with the school / university commitments of the users of scholarships;
- provision of mentoring support in teaching;
- strengthening the capacity of users of scholarships, improving motivation in learning and the elimination of various barriers in that process;
- representing the interests of users of scholarships toward the public in the field of education and employment;
- visits to the RE families and parent school meetings;
- workshops and continued work with users as a key segment of the communication and strengthen of the motivation and responsibility;
- Supervisory support to the users of the scholarship program for high school;

3. The Project implementer: *Ministry of Education and Science*

The project / program: *"Providing free textbooks and school supplies for students of the RAE population in I, II and III grade of primary 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 improvement of information and media presentations*

The value of the program / project: *49,662.50 €*

The Commission participates in the financing with: *33,387.50 €*

About the project / program:

The Ministry of Education and Science, in accordance with the approved project, carried out the necessary activities for the project. The Ministry informed all primary schools about the project and asked them to submit the data on the number of the RAE students. Based on the responses of schools, starting a new school year, the Ministry has established a database of RAE students enrolled in primary education

The total amount of funds spent for the purchase of 651 sets of textbooks for students of the RAE is 33,387.50 euro. The Ministry provided 30,000 euro from the funds of the project while 3,387.50 euro the Ministry of Education and Science provided from its own funds.

The Ministry of Education and Science purchased the textbooks from the Institute of Education who is also the sole distributor of textbooks in Montenegro, as follows:

- I grade 221 sets of textbooks

- II grade 212 sets of textbooks
- III grade 218 sets of textbooks

4. The project implementer: NGO "Preporod"

The project / program: "More educated, healthier, safer"

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

The value of the program / project: 8,950.00 €

The Commission participates in the financing with: 4,500.00 €

About the project / program:

The project is of informative and educational character and is intended to be a guiding principle when it comes to the healthy lifestyles; drug, alcohol and nicotine addiction; adverse effects of psychoactive substances on health; reproductive health. The main goal is to raise awareness and knowledge of children and young people of the RAE population through the preventative activities about the importance, preservation and improvement of mental and physical health, substance abuse and the harmful effects of psychoactive substances on health.

This project involved the organization of eight workshops with the following themes:

- We can get to know each other better.
- Health is ...
- Substance abuse and harmful effects of substance abuse.
- Substance abuse and nicotine addiction.
- Substance abuse and alcoholism.
- Substance abuse and drug addiction.
- Drug abuse - a risk for other diseases and disorders in relations with other persons.
- Integrating and recapitulation of knowledge acquired on the previous workshops.

5. The project implementer: NGO "4 Life"

The project / program: "Raising awareness of children and young people about the RAE population about harmful effects of psychoactive substances on mental and physical health"

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

The value of the program / project: 9,980.00 €

The Commission participates in the financing with: 6,000.00 €

About the project / program:

The project envisages activities aimed at raising awareness of children and young Roma about the harmful effects of inhalants and psychoactive substances in general on health. Activities are planned in the form of interactive workshops conducted by sociologist and pedagogue, with the general topics that have concerned the different areas in which young man functions. Some of the topics were related to: social skills, verbal and nonverbal communication, self-esteem, emotional skills, the means of contraception, effective strategies for solving problems.

The direct target group of project activities consisted of children and young people between 13-17 years of age, residing at Vrela Ribnicka in the camps I and II. Indirect target group of the project consisted of members of families of young people involved in the project, their friends, partners, etc.

The results stemming from this project are as follows:

- The level of self-esteem of young people and their social skills are improved; effective strategies for solving problems are adopted; the responsibility for their own development and acts is recognized; the tolerance to stress and problems is increased.
- The level of the awareness of target groups on the harmfulness of substance abuse, with special emphasis on the inhalants is increased.

- The level of the awareness about sexually transmitted diseases and consequences of not using the contraceptives is increased.
- **The results provided for the project were:**
 - Increased self-esteem of young people, their social skills and assertiveness, adopted effective problem solving strategies, conscious responsibility for their own development and its own procedures, and increased tolerance to stress and problems;
 - Increased awareness of target groups on the harmfulness of psychoactive substances abuse, with special focus on inhalant;
 - Increased awareness about sexually transmitted diseases and the consequences of not using contraceptives.
 - Assessment of awareness of participants, which included 47 in project activities, evaluation was performed before and after each workshop and lectures. Evaluation is done through direct communication with the participants, through interviews that were carried out after each set of workshops and lectures. Results of evaluation processes are followed during the conception and conduct of each subsequent workshops or lectures.

6. The project implementer: NGO "Bjelogorac" Ulcinj

The project / program: "I want to continue where I left off"

The area to which the project / program relates: Health, health and social care

The value of the program / project: 6,440.00 €

The Commission participates in the financing with: 6,440.00 €

About the project / program:

Senad Čobić was born in 1975. Two years ago he had an accident when he was fired from the gun in the area of the spine. Since then he is immobile and is moving exclusively in wheelchair. Unfortunately, Senad was one hundred percent dependent on another person, because he couldn't carry out independently a single act, but in everything he needed the help of another person. The objective of this project was to provide Senad Čobiću with three month physical therapy in a special institution in Sokobanja in Serbia which is the only professional and specialized institution for this type of disability. Now Senad with some difficulties somehow manages to perform some simple actions, such as changing position in bed and transfer bed - wheelchair.

7. The project implementer: NGO "Susreti" Niksic

The project / program: "Assistance to members of the RAE for provision of furniture"

The area to which the project / program relates: Social and child protection

The value of the program / project: 7,106.00 €

The Commission participates in the financing with: 5,000.00 €

About the project / program:

The Ministry of Human and Minority Rights supported the project of construction of nine residential units in the municipality of Niksic from the funds for improvement of the position of RAE population. After completion of the construction, nine selected RAE families moved in. All members of the RAE population who got a flat are also users of the Family Financial Assistance, so they were unable to furnish their new flats using that compensation. Support of this project was very important, both for the completion of support for these families and for the completion of this project. The project objective was to provide adequate housing for the RAE population. With the new housing units, families got kitchen furniture and stoves. At the end of the implementation of these project activities, the promotion in the

local media was organized and the public was familiarized with the progress and manner of implementation of this project. On that occasion, citizens of Niksic were invited to help these families and donate used furniture to them. This invitation was accepted by a number of citizens, so the new housing units were almost completely furnished as a part of this action.

8. The project implementer: *Judo Club "Trebjesa" – Niksic*

The project / program: *"Roma are our competitors - to live with us, not next to us"*

The area to which the project / program related: *social child protection*

The value of the program / project: *7,000.00 €*

The Commission participates in the financing with: *4,000.00 €*

About the project / program:

Judo Club "Trebjesa" Niksic was formed in 2007. The Club brings together young people, especially from the Roma population because the hall - barrack for training is in the middle of the RAE settlement. About 20 members of the RAE population, trains every day in this club. All international and national competitions involve the members of the RAE population and they achieve excellent results. Members of the RAE population are exempt from all duties in the club, such as payment of competition fees, transportation, food and fees for training. The aim of this project was to create conditions for normal training, raising hygiene of Roma population to the higher level. Content of the project were: extension and reconstruction of the hall for training in the settlement "Trudbenik" Niksic Steelworks. Judo Club "Trebjesa" in 2011 performed following works on the hall:

- Implementation of electrical installations
- Implementation of plumbing
- Digging and building of septic tank
- Subdivision of existing building, which was added in 2010, and making men's and women's locker rooms and rooms for coaches.
- For all members of the judo club "Trebjesa" were purchased cotton shirts, while for the members of RAE population and some club members who are in a bad financial conditions were purchased about 20 kimonos.

9. The project implementer: *"The Roma Scholarship Foundation"*

The project / program: *"With Employment Against Poverty"*

The area to which the project / program relates: *Employment and labour rights*

The value of the program / project: *29,760.00 €*

The Commission participates in the financing with: *24,100.00 €*

About the project / program:

The Project represents a realistic and sustainable response to the longstanding problem of employment of young Roma and Egyptians who successfully complete secondary school and university. From year to year, thanks to the efforts of the Roma Scholarship Foundation and the Government of Montenegro, the number of Roma and Egyptians with a high school diploma is increasing. This Project had to include the preparation and printing of manuals on the labour rights, as well as explanations for all solutions that are of importance for establishing employment and course of employment and for a proper understanding of rights and obligations arising from the employment. In the first four months of the Project were realized the following activities:

- Through internal announcements, all high school students were informed about the possibilities for applying for employment in the Roma Scholarship Foundation for a period of three months.
- Work engagement of these persons includes training for work in office, using electronic devices and office equipment. Part of the activities concerns logistics for the implementation of the regular activities of the Roma Scholarship Foundation. This implies communication with various

state institutions, communication with users of scholarships, their parents and schools, administrative work, delivery of documents and visits to various public institutions. Their involvement was helpful in achieving real and quality communication with the Roma and Egyptian community.

- In the course of their engagement Roma and Egyptians worked as interns in several NGOs and got familiar with their work. Three interns were attendants of the Human Rights School organized by the Centre for Civic Education, participated in the work of the youth group of the Centre for Civic Education and attended projections of documentaries and discussions on various topics organized by this group. Besides the working engagement of eight persons from the Roma and Egyptian population this project has enabled hiring of a highly educated Egyptian, Biljana Alkovic who has the role of a coordinator. Her role in the project is to coordinate communication with employed persons, with state institutions, other organizations, schools, faculties and users of scholarship program.

10. The project implementer: "Development Centre" Bijelo Polje

The project / program: "With Employment Against Poverty"

The area to which the project / program relates: *Employment and labour rights.*

The value of the program / project: 14,680.00, €

The Commission participates in the financing with: 14,530.00 €

About the project / program:

The project is related to the sanitation of polluted environment, i.e. space of the river bed and banks of Lješnica in a length of nearly 3 km, which, due to reduced water level, was overflowed with waste and garbage that was disposed into the river from the households because of the lack of the garbage containers. Lješnica is the suburb of the Municipality of Bijelo Polje, just 2 km from the city and has 1000 households and is one of the largest settlements. The objective of this Project is to reduce structural unemployment of members of the RAE population in the Municipality of Bijelo Polje what is reflected in inadequate and uncoordinated structure between employed persons on one hand and needs on the labour market of Bijelo Polje on the other hand. The Project employed ten members of the RAE population who were engaged in cleaning the river bed of the river Lješnica. During the realisation of the activities of this Project, also, eco boards with the message not to throw garbage in the river will be placed by the river. Also, is made an agreement with the Public Utility Company Lim, to install three garbage containers at this location. It was agreed that the Municipal Police should intensify its activities in this area in order to prevent re-throw of the garbage into this river which was cleaned by this program.

11. The project implementer: "DOO Gras trade radio Elite"

The project / program: "Equal but Separated"

The area to which the project / program relates: *Improving Information*

The value of the program / project: 16,670.00 €

The Commission participates in the financing with: 7,960.00 €

About the project / program:

The "Equal but Separated" Project is envisaged to last for a period of one year and shall be implemented through 53 radio programs. The project objective is to integrate and improve the status of this community.

In accordance with the plan of the Project, Radio Elite placed the special emphasis in its radio programs in duration of 45 to 60 minutes on the following topics:

- Education
- Improving of the level of education and literacy
- Integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians in social trends

- Preventative measures against discrimination
- Effective cooperation between this population and relevant municipal and state institutions
- Improving the social and financial conditions of this population
- Health Protection

Radio Elite was visited by representatives of the state and local institutions, various associations dealing with human rights, as well as representatives of these communities. They discussed abovementioned topics. Through the Project was observed that radio programs have shown that domicile Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians lives in better and more comfortable conditions in relation to the population of newcomers to the territory of the Municipality of Ulcinj.

12. The project implementer: "Skils" – Berane

The project / program: "With the Craft Against the Poverty"

The area to which the project / program relates: *Employment and labour rights*

The value of the program / project: 3,445.00 €

The Commission participates in the financing with: 5,955.00 €

About the project / program:

This program comprised training of five members of the RAE community for the occupation of shoemaker. The aim was to enable members of the RAE community for work, in order to improve their financial situation and create conditions so to include them in the social processes in the state. Shoe workshops, where the Roma were trained for two months, were assisted under this Project so to enable mentioned Roma for the occupation of shoemaker. Training was organized on each working day. All participants were actively involved in training and were given the possibility to serve customers, glue, sew and clean shoes for customers.

At the end of the Project the Commission was established, before which the trainees demonstrated acquired skills. By the opinion of the Commission, the participants have successfully completed the training. NU "Skills" aims to assist trainees in opening a joint shoe workshop in Berane.

13. The project implementer: NGO "Romski San" – Niksic

The project / program: "Roma Wedding / Theatre Performance"

The area to which the project / program relates: *Improving information*

The value of the program / project: 8,000.00 €

The Commission participates in the financing with: 8,000.00 €

About the project / program:

"Roma Wedding" is a theatre wedding that is illustrating to the Montenegrin public everyday life of Roma by showing and promoting Roma culture, customs and tradition. This theatre play is based on true events that are happening in the lives of Roma today, and is reflecting challenges, difficulties and obstacles that the Roma families are facing in order to meet their tradition.

This theatre play is telling even which challenges the Roma family are facing when it comes to planning the Roma wedding, about the manner of their reasoning, what are their priorities in life and what happens when a Roma girl falls in love with another person of which their parents are unaware.

Theatre play "Roma Wedding" was performed in Niksic on the "Scena 213" and in Heceg Novi in "Park Hall". This theatre play was realized by 12 amateur actors from the RAE population. The performances were realized for the World Day of Roma. The project objectives are:

- Increased awareness of the Montenegrin society about culture, customs and tradition of the Roma population
- Preservation and development of national, i.e. ethnic particularities.
- Preservation and promotion of cultural identity and heritage.

- Reduction of prejudices and stereotypes towards Roma through the organization of theatre play "Roma Wedding" in Niksic and Herceg Novi.

Realized activities:

On 6 April 2012 the play was performed on the "Scene 213" in Niksic and the rehearsal was performed from 15-17 hours. The performances began at 19 hours, where by the free estimation were present about 300 spectators.

On 8 April 2012 the play was performed in Hall Park in Herceg Novi and the rehearsal was performed from 15-17 hours. The performances began at 19 hours, where by the free estimation were present about 350 spectators.

14. Project implementer: NGO "Intudil"

The project / program: "Employment Fair for the RAE population"

The area to which the project / program relates: Employment and labour rights

The value of the program / project: 6,575.00 €

The Commission participates in the financing with: 2,800.00 €

About the project / program:

The project was conceived as a model for an innovative and standardized work engagement of RAE population in partnership with LTD ZOPT. The main problem for the increased unemployment rate of the RAE population is denied access to jobs, lack of information on the possibilities of engagement for the RAE population, the presence of stereotypes and prejudices about the RAE population with the employer. The main objective of this Project is to reduce unemployment of the RAE population. Activities implemented from 20 December 2011 until 1 May 2012 are as follows:

- Psychological and Legal Workshops (information about the interest for employment were collected directly on the field and the biggest interest was for seasonal jobs and work engagement in general. Preparation for the workshops was done by the students of first and second year of the Faculty of Philosophy in Nikišic in consultation with a psychologist and ethicist who were responsible for the implementation of the workshops. A total of 30 workshops were carried out.)
- Qualification / retraining (volunteers - students of psychology of Faculty of Philosophy in Niksic were engaged in this activity. They conducted a survey in 95 households in Camps I and II in Konik, than in Niksic, Bar and Bijelo Polje. They interviewed persons capable of working who have desire and need to work and in 87.8% of the cases these persons didn't have personal documents and have not completed primary school).
- Employment Fair for the RAE population (the available offers for the working engagement of the RAE population were gathered in collaboration with the "Career ways" in Podgorica's shopping centre Mall of Montenegro. In the course is drafting of the fair activities through direct contact with the representatives of the RAE population interested for work engagement).

15. Project implementer: "JU PS Bozidar Vukovic - from Podgorica"

The project / program: additional purchase of textbooks for students of the RAE population, rewards for the best students and the adaptation of the cabinets.

The area to which the project / program relates: Education

The value of the program / project: 5,000.00 €

The Commission participates in the financing with: 5,000.00 €

About the project / program:

The Project is focused on sanitation and renovation of the external class in the Konik Camp 2 and school "Bozidar Vukovic". Partition walls were repaired in two classrooms, ceilings were repaired in four classrooms, and lighting was repaired in ten classrooms, on eight windows were changed broken glasses with plexiglass and three classrooms were painted. After that, all rooms were generally cleaned. Notebooks, pencils, colour papers, erasers, pencil sharpeners and sketchbooks were purchased for all 220 students.

Also, flooring repairs in the gym hall, plumbing repairs and repairs of lighting were carried out in the school "Bozidar Vukovic". Teaching material (balls for various sports, CD Player, cones, sintesysers and various geographical maps) were purchased for all teachers.

16. The project implementer: "The Roma Council"

Project / Program: "Financial assistance to socially vulnerable groups and help in the case of death"

The area to which the project / program relates: Social protection

The value of the program / project: 3,500.00 €

The Commission participates in the financing with: 3,500.00 €

About the project / program:

The Roma Council initiated the Project to provide social assistance to Roma families living in very poor financial and poor hygienic conditions and to provide assistance in occasion of a funeral. The objective of this project is to provide adequate assistance in occasion of a funeral to those Roma families who are in poor financial conditions.

As a minority community with the lowest number of employed persons, and therefore the families with a large number of members who do not have the basic conditions for life, and do not have enough resources to provide food for their numerous families, the Roma Council succeeded to find by its own engagement the possibility and provide minimal support for 33 most vulnerable families for the burial of deceased members of this minority community in cooperation with the Islamic Community in Montenegro.

In addition to funds distributed through public competition, the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights during the 2011 financed and carried out additional several projects in the field of social inclusion of RAE population. Brochure on the Rights of the Child was made in Montenegrin, Albanian and Romani language. Workshops on the Rights of the Child were held from 6 to 13 May. At these workshops was distributed about 500 copies of "Album of Rights of the Child" and over 800 pupils were informed on the Rights of the Child. In addition to pupils of the RAE population, also non-Roma children, pupils from II to V grade of elementary school, participated in workshops. Workshops were conducted trilingually - in Montenegrin, Albanian and Romani language. In addition, representatives of the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, The Roma Council, NGOs and Red Cross talked with school principals and teachers about the problems in the education of Roma children, as well as about possible assistance and joint activities.

The Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, in cooperation with the Roma Scholarship Foundation and Roma Council in Montenegro, during 2011, conducted a Project to combat begging. The project objective was to connect and coordinate the activities of the Police and centres for social work in taking measures to combat begging. Also, the Ministry for Human and Minority Rights, the Ministry of Culture and the Office for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings financed recording and broadcasting of TV spot aimed at combating begging of Roma.

The Ministry for Human and Minority Rights provided translation into Romani language and printing of publications of most important regulations: the Constitution of Montenegro, the Law on Minority Rights and Freedoms, the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination, the Law on the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms, the Law on Media and the Law on Public Broadcasting Services.

It should be noted that during 2011 in the General Secretariat of the Government of Montenegro and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration were employed two members of the Roma population.

3. EDUCATION

- *Please identify the key barriers that limit educational chances and access to quality education for Roma,*

What were the outcomes of the policies and programs that your government implemented in 2011?

- We have no data

Preschool education

The percentage of children of the Roma and Egyptian population who are included in preschool education was 13.81%, which is twice less than the inclusion of children at the state level (26.65%). Data on the inclusion of boys and girls suggests that girls are included in larger percentage - 15.02% compared to the boys - 12.69%.

On the territory of the Capital City Podgorica in the settlement Vrela Ribnicka, there is an educational unit that only children from Roma and Egyptian population (domicile and displaced from Kosovo) are attending. Parents of children attending these educational units are exempt from paying costs for food and JPU "Đina Vrbica" itself bears the cost of breakfast and snacks. Montenegro Red Cross organizes psychosocial workshop 2-3 hours a day for 160 children aged 3-6 in the Konik Camp on Vrela Ribnicka, where is settled the Roma and Egyptian population displaced from Kosovo.

In accordance with Article 35 of the Law on Preschool Education, the cost of food for children without parental care and children whose parents are users of Family Financial Assistance is beard by centre for social work in whose territory is the residence of the child or parents.

Primary education

Primary education is compulsory for all children 6-15 years of age. In school enroll children who will turn 6 in the calendar year in which they begin attending school.

The number of the Roma and Egyptian children in primary education increases from year to year. The data show that the number is constantly increasing and that there is a positive trend when it comes to primary education of the Roma and Egyptian children. In the school year 2001/02 in primary schools were 536 children; in school year 2002/03, 626; 2003/04, 1006; 2004/05, 1169; in school year 2005/06, 1195; 2010/11, 1582 pupils of the Roma and Egyptian population. In the school year 2011/2012 this number is:

Domicile members of the Roma and Egyptians	Internally displaced Roma and Egyptians (Kosovo)	Displaced Roma and Egyptians (former republics of Yugoslavia)
Total	Total	Total
842	720	20

Special support is provided for the Public Institution Elementary School "Bozidar Vukovic Podgoricanin" in which immediate vicinity is the Camp Konik. In the Public Institution Elementary School "Bozidar Vukovic Podgoricanin" in the host school there are 560 pupils from Roma and Egyptian population, while in the external class in the Konik Camp there are 237 pupils from Roma and Egyptian population. The Ministry of Education and Sport and the Institute for Education, in cooperation with the Pedagogical centre of Montenegro and University of Montenegro - Faculty of Philosophy in Niksic, are working in this school on improvement of pupil's achievement, on reducing language barriers, supporting and helping them in developing social skills and knowledge and supporting the development of higher levels of confidence and satisfaction. Institute for Education monitors the implementation of obligations of the school principal and teachers from the external class of the Elementary School "B.Vuković

Podgoricanin". Students who are volunteers are divided in classes and there is a joint plan on work of volunteers, teachers and pedagogue.

In the past five school years, all pupils of the Roma and Egyptian population were given textbooks², teachers have passed a series of seminars³, and supplemental instruction was performed regularly. As a part of the Roma Education Initiative, the school supplemented the program for the first cycle (I, II and III grade) from the subjects Montenegrin language and literature, nature and society and musical culture with contents from the Roma literature, history, tradition and musical culture⁴.

Since the school year 2008/09, the Ministry of Education and Sports in cooperation with the Red Cross of Montenegro is implementing actions to eliminate segregated education of the Roma population from the Konik Camp. The Ministry of Education and Sports provides free textbooks and transportation to the city schools for these children.

Then, there are several projects in which framework were, or continue to be, the employment of Roma assistants in primary schools:

- The program "Roma Educational Initiative in Montenegro" was realized in the period January 2006 - December 2008 and was supported by the Roma Education Fund.
- "Support for the RAE population in Konik Camps" carried out by the Red Cross of Montenegro.

All children under the age of fifteen should be included in primary education. The problem which is observed in children of Roma and Egyptian population is the continuity of schooling. The phenomena of leaving formal education, stems usually from the socio-economic and cultural reasons. When it comes to girls, the surveys of non-governmental organizations indicate that the main reason for stopping their education, is for the fact that the Roma and Egyptians parents are less focused on the education of girls, because they should take care of the house or younger siblings, early and forced marriages of girls and maintenance of the negative aspects of tradition, etc.

When the school finds that the student is no longer coming to school and is unable to establish a contact with the parents, the school notifies the Secretariat of General Administration and Social Services and the relevant inspection authorities. In any case, it is necessary to develop clear procedures and define responsibilities, so to timely provide information about the possible abandonment of education and in accordance with that react in terms of the law.

Secondary education

The pupils of Roma and Egyptian population are enrolling in secondary schools where classes are held in Montenegrin and other languages in official use, in most cases by the principle of affirmative action. For enrolled secondary school pupils of this population the Ministry of Education and Sports in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare provides free textbooks and the Ministry of Human and Minority Rights provides scholarships.

In the school year 2011/2012 the number of enrolled secondary school pupils is 72.

² The Ministry of Education, with the support from the Commission for monitoring and implementation of the Strategy for Improvement of Situation of the RAE Population in Montenegro (2008-2012), through the Institute for textbooks and teaching aids, provided textbooks for first, second and third grade of primary school in the value of 33,387.50 euro.

³ Index for Inclusion - (35 teachers), Peace and Tolerance - Creative problem solving (32 teachers), Step by step, the base (28 teachers) and advanced (26 teachers), The Development of critical thinking (18 teachers), Education for social justice - against stereotypes and prejudice (25 teachers), Active Learning (48 teachers), Innovative methods in education for Roma integration (12 teachers), etc.

⁴ It is anticipated that these contents should be processed within 20% of the curricula planned for cooperation with the local community.

Other levels of education

With regard to the activities of different actors, in recent years has significantly increased the number of Roma and Egyptian population who continue their education at higher education institutions. Currently, at the faculties in Montenegro are studying eight students, members of the Roma and Egyptian population. Two students are at the Faculty of Law (general course and the course of security and criminology), two students at the Faculty of Political Science (course in social work and course of diplomacy), three students are at the Faculty of Philosophy in Niksic (course in psychology, course of preschool education and course of pedagogy) and one student at the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport (the course of sports journalism). All students receive scholarships from the state budget.

Adults can acquire education according to the public educational curricula for primary, secondary general and vocational education, as well as according to the curricula for adult education, in accordance with the Law on Adult Education. Adult students are released from the cost for acquiring primary education and the acquisition of first qualification.

The program for acquiring functional literacy and primary school curricula for adults is implemented by the primary schools and adult education organizers who have a license to operate issued by the Ministry of Education and Sports.

The Centre for Professional Education, at the request of the Employment Bureau, developed the standards for professions and training programs for several projects. Centre, also, at the request of the Roma Scholarships Foundation (program funded by COSV) and the Red Cross of Montenegro (program funded by the European Commission and the Danish Red Cross), makes standards, programs, monitors the implementation of programs and with the Test Centre is organizing for the students the final exam of their basic functional literacy program. Also, is implementing the project "Step by Step - CHANGE", supported by UNESCO. The aim is to reinforce the understanding of essential motivation of parenting and joint role of parents in the process of raising and educating children, the development of future high-quality parent-child relationship, constructive communication skills to adequately solve problem situations, etc, through the workshops with parents.

In the course is the project "Support to the full process of social inclusion," which was proposed through the IPA 2010. The general objective of the project is to allow the inclusion of vulnerable, socially excluded groups through the social welfare services and the education system. Sub-objectives of the project concern the preparation of RE children in a kindergarten for enrolment in primary school; drop-out prevention; identification of organizational resources and capacities for selection of the RE assistants: ways of providing financial support, selection criteria and process; job description.

The Ministry of Education and Sport supports the activities of non-governmental sector aimed at standardization and codification of the Roma language. The goal is to first standardize and codify the Roma language in order to obtain a form of literary language and to train qualified personnel necessary for conducting teaching, after which the Romany language would be introduced in the education system.

4. EMPLOYMENT

The main characteristic of the socio-economic status of Roma and Egyptian population in Montenegro is a low level of economic activity and high unemployment. The Roma and Egyptian population is mostly excluded from formal employment, while the largest number of persons is engaged in those occupations that do not seek professional expertise. A large number is employed in the grey economy, mainly on collecting materials for recycling. Therefore, the Roma and Egyptian population belongs to the category of persons with very limited job opportunities, low competition and mobility in the labour market.

Lack of education and educational opportunities is one of the biggest obstacles in the employment of Roma and Egyptian population. Other barriers that bring this population in an unfavourable position when entering the labour market and retaining employment, are: lack of identity documents (which is a prerequisite for obtaining services in the area of employment); poor economic and social situation for which they are not able to accept longer programs of training and education; discrimination, and non-acceptance by employers and non-Roma; living in unsafe and non standardized settlements; lack of guarantees in the form of real estate and guarantors for a loan; poor awareness, negative aspects of their own tradition; lack of confidence in the institutions of the system; lack of personnel for education of members of this population; social isolation and lack of social skills, etc.

On the records of the Employment Bureau there are about 1,000 persons annually in the average who identify themselves as members of the Roma and Egyptian population. Participation of women is about 40%. In the total registered unemployment this population accounts for 3-4%. However, there are no precise data on registered unemployment of this population, because the regulations on records in the area of unemployment and employment are not envisaging the entrance of the data on ethnicity of persons seeking employment. Moreover, the fact that most members of this population are not expecting the assistance in employment, with the intervention of the Employment Bureau, and seek exit through engagement in the gray economy, represents an additional reason for the absence of precise data on in registered unemployment.

Over 90% of registered members of the Roma and Egyptian population are people without jobs and education. They, as a rule, wait longer for a job. A smaller portion of this population employs on seasonal jobs in construction, agriculture and tourism through public works programs, where they are employed on fixed-term.

Programs of active labour policy, which are implemented by the Employment Bureau, are intended to systematically reduce unemployment of less employable persons. In the field of employment of persons from the Roma and Egyptian population the Employment Bureau is developing partnerships with civil society organizations and employers.

The results of inclusion of Roma and Egyptians in the active employment policy measures, in the previous period, are encouraging and are showing that there is increasing interest in improving the current status and involvement in the programs they are offered, through the Employment Bureau. The issue which limits the efforts of the Employment Bureau

and its partners in the field of education and vocational education is the existence of discrimination in the labour market, in terms of employment of Roma and Egyptians after the completion of education and training.

The general objectives of the Strategy in the area of employment are: increase participation of the Roma and Egyptian population in active employment policy measures, with equal involvement of women; improvement of their opportunities for better jobs; increase of employment rates and the maintenance of such a trend; improvement of cooperation between social partners and civil society; reducing discrimination on the labour market.

Through the provision of quality education and training for the Roma and Egyptians, as well as active measures of employment, will raise the level of their employability and generate the potential to create their own revenues, which will be the starting point for the development of social economy, liberation from poverty and provision of full membership in the society.

Unemployment rate of the Roma population we do not have, unless participation of registered unemployed Roma in total registered unemployment. It is known that all members of the Roma and Egyptians when registering for the records do not identify themselves ethnically as they are not obliged to, which makes difficult for us to access into the real situation of registered unemployed RE population.

5. HOUSING

**What are the outcomes of policy or programs that your government implemented in 2011?
Please provide information about the following fields in 2011:**

- Number of Roma benefited by infrastructural development. How is desegregation, a priority issue in the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies, dealt with in infrastructure development?
- Number of Roma affected by urban social restoration programs
- Number of Roma affected by colony / settlement elimination / development programs
- Number of Roma affected by the regulation of property ownership regimes
- Number of Roma affected by evictions
- Number of Roma included in social housing programmes

- We have no data

Housing conditions are one of the most important measures of living standards. There are no precise data about the facilities where the Roma and Egyptian population is living, whether in adequate or inadequate facilities. The general observation is that the majority of housing conditions of Roma and Egyptians in Montenegro are under national and international minimum standards of living. Some Roma and Egyptians do not have any kind of permanent accommodation, and many reside in the area that is not even close to adequate housing. Sanitary conditions of housing of a large number of members of this population are especially poor and extremely worrying.

In the case of a not so small number of members of the Roma and Egyptian community, there is primarily a problem of survival - the de facto right to life - due to unavailability or lack of clean drinking water, the fact that the housing objects are temporary, often of poor, not enough solid materials, of small area without sewage facilities, not rarely located near the dumps of waste.

Unresolved issue of housing in particular is an obstacle for internally displaced and displaced persons who want to integrate into Montenegro.

The *Study on Durable Solutions for Konik Residents* (May 2011), made for the UN in Montenegro, quotes:

- *Electricity coverage among non-RAE households is almost complete while is registered slightly lower coverage of RAE households.*
- *A similar situation is observed with provision of drinking water through the municipal water supply. The percentage of coverage with drinking water through the municipal water supply among non-RAE population is slightly higher than the percentage of coverage of RAE households. It is important to note that households in refugee camps are connected to city water through the tap located in front of the temporary barracks in which they live.*
- *The highest percentage of cases in which the observed household is not sharing latrine with other households is registered with domicile non RAE households and the lowest in RAE displaced household.*
- *Also, RAE displaced households have the worst housing conditions, which include the average size of accommodation, number of rooms in the apartment, number of persons per room and average area per household. Under this criteria the best housing conditions out of the monitored population have a non-RAE domicile households.*

- *Solid fuels (wood) for heating are commonly used in domicile households. Electricity as a source of energy for heating is also highly represented while other sources of energy are used very rarely.*
- *Large differences are observed between monitored populations in terms of ownership of durable goods.*
- *Most evident issues related to the quality of accommodation were at RAE displaced households and are least present at non-RAE domicile households. Also observed were significant differences between settlements and households in refugee camps who are much more confronted with problems caused with lower quality accommodation in which they live.*

In solving the housing problem of this population will be taken activities in particular in the area of combating all forms of segregation and ghettoisation of the Roma and the Egyptian population.

Defining ways and conditions of legalization of illegal buildings (law drafting is in the course) will create the assumption for legalization of illegally constructed buildings whose owners are members of the Roma and Egyptian community.

Solving the housing problems of this population will be conducted in accordance with the Strategy for durable solution of the issues of displaced and internally displaced persons in Montenegro, with special emphasis on the area Konik.

6. HEALTH

- What are the outcomes of the initiatives (policy, program, activity) that your government implemented in 2011?
- Please specify if there are health mediators employed. If so, please specify what type of contract the health mediators have, how often do they have to renew it. Are there any trainings for health care providers in addressing the needs of Roma.
- Please identify the most important mainstream and targeted EU funded schemes launched in last year that will contribute to Roma inclusion in the area of health? Please, specify the activity, the funding source (ESF, ERDF, etc.), the operational programme, the amount allocated, the goals to be reached, and the indicative number and share of Roma beneficiaries.
- Please list other initiatives (policy, program, activity) that were not designed and implemented to directly support Roma and other marginalized people but affect the aforementioned target groups.

Health and health care system in Montenegro is regulated by the Law on Health and the Health Insurance Act, along with other associated regulations in this area of the system. The regulations in this area health care system is arranged in a unique way, a health care and health insurance in accordance with the regulations provided for all citizens, including citizens of Roma and other marginalized groups. This implies that the Roma among others, as well as other marginalized groups have a dedicated health care and health insurance, and that every citizen receives health care services provided in the health system, regardless of differences of any kind, even on the basis of belonging to different groups or nations. In this direction, and the program activities of the Ministry of Health with the policies of the health facilities that provide basic health services industry and the main task of each and every citizen. So, the reform of primary health care provided to the other citizens of the Roma population have their chosen physician who is a driver for further action depending on the treatment needs of patients, the secondary and tertiary levels.

The program activities for the inclusion of Roma to adequate health services use, provided the mediators, but still the system of mediators not only came to life due to lack of funds for employment or other form of involvement of mediators. The aim is to mediate in direct contact, especially with the health of mother and child and transmit the necessary information on the importance and promotion of reproductive health in a comprehensive and appropriate manner. The very fact that there is no separate source of funding for groups, and especially not to fund the provision of health services for Roma population, but only within the total funds allocated for health care, and in that sense it is necessary for some other funds, if possible, provide targeted funding that would be used for this purpose.

Strategy for improving the situation of Roma and Egyptians, as well as the Action Plan have foreseen the following activities: health promotion RAE population (monitoring health status and health needs, the number of first and control examinations, and the number of

preventive visits), encouragement and guidance of RAE population to choose their doctors through educational - informative workshops and distributing educational materials, cooperation with the NGO sector, which deals with the health of this population, and a willingness to sign the Agreement on cooperation in terms of providing technical and specific information with appropriate interventions, improving knowledge of health workers in relation to the specifics of RAE population with training of health workers through workshops with the support of donors and educate members of RAE population on the rights to health care, a way of achieving the educational - work area information, news programs, etc.

Therefore, health care and health insurance members of RAE population in line with the regulations as all citizens of Montenegro have, in order to achieve adequate health care, regular activities in terms of informing the RAE population in relation to health care, the importance and benefits of using health care special services provided to support centers in health facilities, which provide prevention, protection and health promotion.

The health system does not keep records based on ethnic, national or other affiliation of health care users. However, indirectly, by examining the category of "payer of contributions" and "insured persons" we may draw the data whether members of the Roma and Egyptian population are receiving services in the health system of Montenegro.

Insight into the record of daily work of elected doctors, centres and support units makes evident that members of the Roma and Egyptian population (who have the status of internally displaced persons or refugees or seeking asylum or special protection) receive the services gave to the other users of health care.

With the reform of the health care system has been introduced the elected doctor through which insured persons achieve primary health care and who allows them the access to the secondary and tertiary level of health care.

The Law on Health Insurance provides for socially vulnerable categories, the unemployed persons, children up to primary school, or until completing secondary and higher education, women during pregnancy and one year after childbirth, older than 65 years and suffering from various diseases, not to participate in the cost of treatment (they have free health care). Regulation on the realization of health protection for foreigners equalizes in rights on health care the members of the Roma and Egyptian population with the insured persons (the addressee of the Law on health insurance). Now there are no normative barriers for members of the Roma and Egyptian population that have no document (identity card, passport or other identity document, birth certificate, personal identification number) to exercise the right to health care, both in scope and substance of services in the same extent as regular insured persons. The cases of persons who face obstacles in exercising their right to health care will be individually dealt in cooperation with UNHCR and DEU.

In the period since the establishment of Camp I and Camp II in Podgorica is made the ambulatory for adults and ambulatory for children, where doctors for adults and children work for 2 hours a day (before, the ambulance worked 2 hours AM and 2 hours PM). In the period out of hours of mentioned ambulatories the members of the Roma and Egyptian population may obtain health care services in the ambulatories of the health centre of Podgorica (at all locations, and the nearest location is the health facility in Konik).

Members of the Roma and Egyptian population may visit elected gynaecologists in health centres for a reproductive and sexual health and childbirth can be achieved in every maternity ward in Montenegro.

Vaccination of children belonging to the Roma and Egyptian population, who have not chosen their paediatricians and do not attend school is conducted in the settlements where collective accommodation is provided for the members of this population. Institute of Public Health organizes periodic vaccination campaigns for Roma and Egyptian children in Konik, resulting in a high percentage of coverage (for certain diseases up to 98%).

A very important part of activities aimed at informing the Roma and Egyptians in connection with the health care system is informing about the importance and benefits of using services of support centres in health facilities, which provide prevention, protection and improvement of health. In order to protect the health of mother and child, there is a need for mediators to be in direct contact with these persons, to convey the necessary information about the importance of improving reproductive health, in a way they will understand appropriately.

Abbreviations:

RAE – Roma, Egyptians and Ashkali

SFO - The Foundation of scholarships for Roma

''Monstat ''- Department of Statistics

NGO - nongovernmental organization

JPU Đina Vrbica - Public Preschool institution ''Đina Vrbica''

LLC - Company with limited liability