



## PROGRESS REPORT 2012

### BASIC INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION OF THE ROMA MINORITY

Please provide any data, including where possible disaggregated data (by age, sex, etc.), collected in 2012, concerning:

- Estimated total number and proportion of the Roma population in the country;
- Number of Roma living under the poverty line and the proportion to the overall population.

Roma are a specific ethnic group that live in the territory of Albania since XIV century. During the centuries they have managed to preserve their language, tradition and culture. Historically the relations between the Albanians and Roma have been cold ones, but in difference from many other European countries, there have been no conflicts or racial persecutions among them. During the post-socialist transition period – due to the collapse and closure of public enterprises, their specific professional character, low level of education, they passed from having a relative level of wellbeing to an extreme poverty. Actually they are the most poor and marginalized ethnic group in Albania.

In absence of data from population censuses, the estimations of the number of Roma population in Albania were different and often subjective. According to a study of ERRC in 1997, they ranged from 10,000 to 120,000 people . Compared to some other countries of East and Central Europe as FYR of Macedonia, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovak Republic, Serbia, Montenegro, Hungary, and the Czech Republic, - the percentage of Roma compared to the total population in Albania is lower. The recent study by UNICEF, “Mapping services for Roma children”, the number of Roma who live in Albania is about 15 thousand, while according to the Census 2011 conducted by INSTAT, the number of Roma registered in the Albanian territory, is 8300 inhabitants.

As a result of higher birth rates, the Roma community is younger than the general population in Albania. The average age of the Roma community is 25.6 years old. The survey data show that in 2011, 33.9 percent of Roma population is under 14 years old, while according to the Population Census of 2001, for the general population in Albania this figure is 29.3 percent. On the other hand, only 4.1 percent of the Roma population is more than 65 years old, while for the general population this figure is 7.5 percent.

Based on the 2005 Living Standards Measurement Survey (LSMS), 18.5% of Albanians lived below the poverty line of approximately 50 USD (4,900 Albanian Lek) per capita per month. Although this fell to 12.4% in 2008. There are no specific data indicating the percentage of Roma population living in absolute poverty or extreme, anyhow the studies have showed that their poverty level is almost twice higher than the Albanians. This created a vicious circle that reproduces illiteracy and low education level between the Roma which deepens even more their marginalization in the society.



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The incomes of Roma families usually come from employment in low-skilled jobs, often in the non-formal sector. The empirical data show that the main drivers even of the internal migration process are unemployment, low income and poverty. According to the UNICEF study, almost half of the surveyed Roma are unemployed and this unemployment is long term. They usually work in the informal sector, where the trade of used clothes, casual jobs, music, collection of cans and begging are the main sources of their incomes. In the last years the income sources of many Roma families from trading used clothes have been reduced or exhausted due to the demand decrease and competition increase. As a consequence there is a shift of informal work sources from the trade of used clothes to the collection of scrap metal and cans. Currently 42 percent of the Roma work on their collection. The reduction of incomes entail the increase of poverty level for specific groups and strata. Almost 78% of Roma families are categorized in the “very poor” group. Meanwhile, the increasing number of Roma involved in collecting scrap metal and cans increases competition, and in the conditions of limited sources, it reduces the income of Roma families. In these conditions many Roma choose to migrate to other cities where the competition is lower.

Actually , the internal migration is a coping mechanism, perhaps the most important in facing poverty. On one hand migration helps the Roma to survive for a short term period but on the other hand , it has negative consequences for Roma families and especially for their children. It affects the children’s education, health and economic security. Under these conditions their employment opportunities will continue to be limited to unqualified jobs, with high uncertainty and low income.

### **1. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR ROMA INCLUSION AND INTEGRATION**

- Please list the main official policy documents governing the inclusion and integration of Roma, including Decade Action Plan and National Roma Integration Strategy; please provide links to online documents.
- Please describe what moves have been made by governments to involve (1) local authorities, (2) regional authorities, and (3) civil society including Roma organizations, in the design, implementation, and monitoring of the Roma inclusion strategy?
- Please describe any changes in 2012 in the participation of Roma in decision-making processes/arrangements and public administration structures; please include quantitative and descriptive information to the extent possible.
- Please describe what has been done since the submission of the Decade Action Plan to put in place robust mechanisms to monitor and evaluate policy implementation? Did the government report internally, to the European Commission or any other body on implementation of its National Roma Integration Strategy or Decade Action Plan?



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- How does the national equal treatment/anti-discrimination body support the implementation of the Decade Action Plan/National Roma Integration Strategy? Please provide information on the number of complaints related to discrimination against Roma throughout 2012 and on measures undertaken by the national equal treatment/anti-discrimination body concerning these complaints.
- Please provide information on what has been done to allocate sufficient budgetary resources and concrete amounts for the implementation of the Decade Action Plan/National Roma Integration Strategy from national budgets. What is the total amount and percentage of the 2012 national budget dedicated to the implementation of the Decade Action Plan or National Roma Integration Strategy in your country? What kinds of sources (local, national and international) are considered for the implementation of the Decade National Action Plans/National Roma Integration Strategy in 2013?

Government of Albanian in enhancing social inclusion of vulnerable communities, together with International organization and Roma civil society has implemented various projects in support of Roma on 2012. A model of participatory planning has been introduced in the local government units where vulnerable Roma community reside (Tirana, Durrës, Fier, and Elbasan<sup>1</sup>). The approach relies on mobilization of local communities into community-based organizations (CBOs) which function as open community forums, where local needs are prioritized and implemented in partnership with respective local authorities. The identified and agreed infrastructure projects include both hard and social infrastructure including road rehabilitation, bridge reconstruction, sewage systematization and the construction of community centres with kindergarten and health facilities. Besides the newly established CBOs, the programme is working closely with the existing Roma and Egyptian NGOs, whose capacities in implementing development projects need to be strengthened. To this end, the programme is drafting relevant trainings, following which small grants for implementation of small-scale development projects will be provided to Roma and Egyptian NGOs.

Facilitating access to rights and services was major objective during 2012, focusing on civil registration, usafety and community policing, health mediation, child protection and pre-school education, as well as on employability. Various public institutions, professional organizations, employers associations and micro-credit institutions are implementing the different activities under this objective. The UNDP programme in close consultation with MoLSAEO and the National Employment Service is elaborating labour market analysis to identify concrete recommendations in applying certain incentives for accommodating vulnerable Roma individuals in the labour market. The assessment is expected to provide a map of opportunities for vocational courses, micro-credits, on the job training as well as internships schemes, benefitting Roma group including artisans, unskilled individuals living

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<sup>1</sup> In Albania there are 375 local government units : 65 municipalities and 310 communes.



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in rural and remote areas, unskilled individuals living in urban or semi-urban areas and recent university graduates. Meanwhile, several individuals are being assisted in applying for jobs through employment offices.

Community awareness campaigns on the importance of birth registration and on how to register have been conducted in Roma Settlements. Round table on civil registration has been organized identifying a series of recommendations for measures to be taken by institutions directly/indirectly concerned with civil registration of Roma community members .

Community policing is a component which is adjusted as per the needs of marginalized communities, involving trainings to police and community mediators as well as implementation of joint awareness raising activities. Health, child protection, early childhood development and school access, often have been combined together with assistance provided to both communities and respective authorities creating a set of multidisciplinary practices for better integrating vulnerable children from an early age.

In order to continue the work and efforts already done by the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (MoLSAEO), a new project was established to create an effective monitoring and evaluation way of the progress at a national level of the National Action Plan as well as to coordinate the line ministries and institutions/government offices for the Roma with the support of UNDP Albania. This project aims at drafting a monitoring and reporting system for the indicators of the National Plan which will introduce a new way of reporting a progress report for this Action Plan in the future. The process of establishing this new mechanism includes phases such as drafting the manual of indicators (which includes also the plan for monitoring their performance and the informatization of data collection at a central and regional level).

This manual introduces a new way of drafting progress reports for the indicators of “Roma Inclusion Decade”. The manual will also facilitate the work of the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (MoLSAEO) as well as of the line ministries, responsible for collecting information for this national plan and finally putting it together in a final report of the progress achieved as regards priority measures foreseen in the action plan of the “Roma Inclusion Decade” 2010-2015.

The MoLSAEO, with support of the programme and in close consultations with involved central and local authorities, as well as civil society representatives, has developed an internet-based reporting and monitoring system for local and central authorities mandated to report the progress against the indicators, thus enabling the Technical Secretariat for Roma to generate annual progress reports, timely and accurately.



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During 2012, the established information system is made operational, while regional and central government officials have been equipped with relevant knowledge, authorization and tools as users to enter data utilizing the regular internet access. The authorized users enter their data based on indicators falling under the responsibility of the institution they represent, and then such data are accepted or returned with comments by the highest hierarchical institution responsible for the relevant indicators.

Following the operationalisation of the system, four training programs are conducted in partnership with the Training Institute of Public Administration (TIPA). Before each training session, the consultant and IT worked together to finalize information flow in the system for each institution. This preparation work helps to update system and information flow based on the recommendations provided from the first phase by particular institutions. As a final point the system is capable to collect data on the Roma population efficiently from local units and line ministries; processing the data and generate reports and indicators; as well as disseminating timely, relevant and accurate information to all interested parties. The designing of the system has proper arrangements for access control, data entering from various users, data quality check, as well as reporting based on the template reports designed. During reporting period, approximately eighty regional governmental officials did participate in those trainings and particularly;

- November 1, 2012: 20 people were present representatives of Professional Regional Centers, Labor Governmental Inspectorate, and Technical Secretariat for Roma. Participants represented their offices in the regions of Durres, Tirane, Fier, Berat, Elbasan Korce, Shkoder, Lezhe, Gjirokaster, and Vlore;
- November 2, 2012: 20 people were present. All of them were representatives of health departments in the district level, as well as representative from the Ministry of Health. They came from districts of Durres, Tirane, Fier, Berat, Elbasan Korce, Shkoder, Lezhe, Gjirokaster, Vlore, Kruje, Gramsh, Devoll, Selenice, Permet, and Telepene;
- November 22, 2012: 19 people were present. They represent health department in the district level, of Kukes, Tropoje, Lushnje, Kavaje, Kucove, Puke, Tirane (4 people), Burrel, Pogradec;
- December 7, 2012: 18 people were present. They represent Anti-traffic unit in the regions, department of labor inspectorate as well representatives from the Ministry of Interior.

By establishing the new monitoring mechanism, the aim is to:

- Standardize all procedures and instruments for data collection including all type of data segregation;
- Collect data on the Roma population efficiently from local units where the data are generated.
- Processing the data and generating reports and indicators
- Disseminating timely, relevant and accurate information to all interested parties.



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After training programs technical assistance is provided for different regional governmental officials related to questions raised by them on how to collect particular data and enter them into the system.

In order to legitimize using of web based designed to collect data for all indicators of strategy the programme worked out the first draft of CMD (VKM). Different meetings are conducted with representatives of MOLSAEO to discuss main points that should be included in this important VKM. Additionally other VKM drafted for similar purpose are reviewed. The draft version of this VKM is shared with legal specialist from MOLSAOE as well as IT person from this institution. More efforts will be to accomplish this task during 2013.

Concerning the participation of Roma in the general political life in general, there have not been any national initiatives to increase the participation of Roma in the general political life. In 2012 The OSCE/ ODIHR Best Practices for Roma Integration Project is in the process of Developing Roma Local Action Plans in 6 local authorities in Albania, respectively in the municipalities of Lushnja, Lezha, Pogradec and Gjirokaster and the communes of Shushice and Grabian. This initiative is strengthening and applying in practice the regional good practices by supporting local governments to prepare Roma Local Action Plans and facilitating their implementation. Under the guidance of coaches the local Roma experts have been identifying the priorities of their respective communities with the use of a settled methodology which was designed and approved by both local authorities and local Roma communities. At the beginning they determined the number, social status and priority problems of the local Roma/ Egyptian community, as a base for developing Local Action Plans for Roma. Initiated with the municipal/ commune representatives there were established working groups for developing Roma Local Action Plans in each of the 6 LSGUs.

The working groups are composed of 12 members in each of the municipalities and communes. They include: Mayor/Vice Mayor, Representative from the Local Employment Office, Social Administrator from the local Office of the Social Services, Representative from the Office of Education, Representative from the local Roma NGO, Representative from the local Office of Civil Registration, Representative from the Local Housing Office, Representative from the Local Public Health Institution, Two Representatives from the Roma Community, Representative from the Local Chamber of Commerce /local businesses.

The members of the working group are expected to assist, facilitate and provide their contribution through concrete engagement in the drafting process of the Local Action Plan for Roma.

Local experts have coordinated working group meetings for drafting RLAPs took notes and have reported to the staff of OSCE/ ODIHR BPRI project and to the Roma Technical Secretariat.



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This initiative aims to promote co-operation among all stakeholders involved in the implementation and monitoring of Roma integration measures in Albania, as well as to promote the principles of good local governance.

- 1- Aiming to support the involvement of Roma in policy making and development of new capacities, BPRI initiated a programme for Young Roma Professionals in the Western Balkans.

The lack of young Roma who are able to take leadership positions and promote the integration of Roma communities undermines the quality of policy planning and implementation.

In order to support the development of young Roma professionals, BPRI project developed a specific programme and sought to recruit 25 Young Roma Professionals throughout the Western Balkans region.

2 Young Roma Professional are working at the OSCE PiA for 5 months and will be hosted during the following 5 months by the Ministry of Labor Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities.

Concerning the number of local elected councillors /representatives of Roma origin there are two persons:.

One in Elbasan and in Saver Lushnja

Concerning the antidiscrimination, the most important achievement in this field in Albania, is the approval of the Law 10 221, 04.02.2010 “For the Protection from Discrimination”.

Law “On Protection For Protection from Discrimination” has provided:

- a) Equality before the law and equal protection by law;
- b) Equality of opportunities and possibilities to exercise rights, enjoy freedoms and take part in public life;
- c) Effective protection from discrimination and from every form of conduct that encourages discrimination.

The law guarantees the protection from discrimination in three areas of life, such as: - education; - employment; - goods and services.

The Office of the Commissioner for the Protection from Discrimination was established in May 2011 in compliance to the Law 10 221, 04.02.2010 “For the Protection from Discrimination”

The Commissioner is independent in the exercise of duty and is subject only to the Constitution and law. The Commissioner has his own independent budget, which is financed from the State Budget and from various donations. The functioning and duties of this institution are provided by this Law.

The law “For the Protection from Discrimination” insures to the Commissioner the main criteria (independence, impartiality, integrity, investigation, inspection) that an institution for



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the protection and promotion of human rights should fulfill in order to be compatible with the Paris Principles.

The main competences of the Commissioner provided by article 32 of the law “For the Protection from Discrimination”, are: - To examine complaints from a person, a group of persons or an organization with legitimate interest to submit, who claim that they have been discriminated against; - To impose administrative sanctions according to this law. As a final measure, the Commissioner may require to the competent authorities the removal or suspension of license or authorization of the physical or legal person to exercise his activity; - The right and the procedures to submit a lawsuit for discrimination, from the subjects who pretend discrimination, to the competent court; - Compensation aiming the remedy of legal violations and their consequences through the return to prior situation, appropriate compensation and other measures.

The Law guarantees the protection from discrimination from public and private subject, in different areas of life, explicitly in three areas:

- 1 - Education
- 2 - Employment
- 3 - Goods and Services

According to this law, the prohibition of discrimination in the field of goods and services includes the housing, access to public spaces, health, social protection schemes, banking services, etc.

Regarding the number of Roma-related discrimination cases that the anti-discrimination body has addressed in the past five years, there are 36 cases in total (some cases are in process) and 5 positive solutions

6 cases are the number of Roma-related cases in which the anti-discrimination body acted ex-officio?

Concerning the Activities held from the Office of the Commissioner in the field of the Protection from racial discrimination:

1. In the International Day against Racial Discrimination, on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012, The Office of the Commissioner for the Protection from Discrimination has held a meeting with representatives of the community, in the premises of the institution. The purpose of this meeting was the establishment of collaboration with these organizations and raising their awareness to address to the Office of the Commissioner the cases when they pretend violation of the Law 10 221, 04.02.2010 “For the Protection from Discrimination”. Members of these organizations were invited to collaborate with the Office of the Commissioner for this law is implemented effectively and the problems, concerns and





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claims of these vulnerable groups are identified, in order to take measures for an effective protection from discrimination.

2. Following the activities that the Office of the Commissioner has developed with representatives of minorities, in the premises of the institution was held a training from the specialists of the Office of the Commissioner, for the members of organizations that work for the protection of the rights of the Egyptian community in Albania.
3. An activity was held from the Commissioner for the Protection from Discrimination in collaboration with OSCE Presence in Albania, by topic “Discrimination, Perception and actual challenges”. The main purpose of this activity was awareness-raising for the protection from discrimination of pupils, teachers and the whole society. During the phase of selection, it has been taken into consideration that the project includes schools, where the most of pupils pertain to the Roma or Balkan-Egyptian community. From the paintings presented from the pupils in this activity, it was noticed the perception of pupils for the discriminatory behaviors connected mostly with the racial discrimination.
4. With the invitation of the Commissioner for the Protection from discrimination, in this institution a meeting was held with the Executive Director of the Roma Union in Albania. In this meeting, we were informed about the problematic of this community and circumstances of the incident of 20 February 2011. The Commissioner presented to the Executive Director of the Roma Union in Albania the guarantees and procedures that the Law “For the Protection from Discrimination “ provides and also made available the compliant form for the citizens that pretend discrimination and want to submit a complain in the Office of the Commissioner.
5. CPD has approved the Strategic Plan 2012-2015 and the Action Plan for 2012. Strategic priorities for the year are: Reaching a basic level of awareness for the public in general also awareness of vulnerable groups, increasing the number of complaints from the Roma and Egyptian community in the field of providing goods and services as well as in the field of employment. For this purpose, are scheduled monitoring activities in the field of goods and services as well as in the field of education, organization of activities, such as conferences or round tables with representatives of Roma and Egyptian community and cooperation with civil society and organizations which operate in the field of protection against discrimination of Roma and Egyptian.
6. In the framework of the implementation of this plan is implemented a project (Promoting good practice in the integration of Roma), besides to the preparation of informative materials (such as informational brochures, posters addressing specific communities or



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refer protection from discriminatory behavior in specific areas) is include the organization of activities such as "open days" with community. During these meetings, citizens were informed about their rights under the Law "On Protection from Discrimination", the institution of Commissioner and legal instruments against discrimination. Specialists from the Office of the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination, submitted complaints from individuals, in this way the communication of citizens with the institution is easier. For the facilitation of the work of the institution of the Commissioner at the local level were signed cooperation agreements between the Commissioner and the mayors of these municipalities. TV spot for the awareness rising of the public on the Law and powers of the Commissioner for the Protection from Discrimination. This spot is prepared on the framework of the project of OSCE-ODIHR "Best Practices for Roma Integration" and it will broadcasting in February 2013.

7. Other projects which have in focus problems of discrimination on other grounds (gender, or disability) have paid attention to racial discrimination as a separate component within the main component.
8. On 2 October 2012, in the framework of Albanian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, the Commissioner has taken part in the round table "No to tolerance in Albania", organized by the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance ( ECRI), in cooperation with the Ombudsman and Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination.
9. On 3 October 2012, have attended the consultation workshop "Activities and Approach of the Project" Support for social inclusion of the Roma / Egyptian "(SSIREC), a project financed by the European Union and implemented by UNDP in partnership with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities. The overall objective of this project is to contribute to social empowerment, economic and political individuals Roma and Egyptians in Albania.

## 2. EDUCATION

- Please list policies and programs that were designed and implemented at national or local level to support Roma education in 2012 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National Action Plan/National Roma Integration Strategy (if applicable).

-DCM. 42, dated 18.01.2012 "Approval of pilot project for measures to promote learning, attendance and progress of the Roma and Egyptians pupilss, of the 9-year" Naim Frashëri"school,support pupils with scholarships / food quota.



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-Creating more friendly schools for every student, through inter-institutional cooperation: piloting an integrated approach to "school food". for the year 2012-2013 from the Ministry of Education will also be supported 335 students (two schools with a significant number of Roma and Egyptian, but school "N.Frashëri", Korca, which was supported by 335 grants / quota in the academic year 2011-2012, so in total provided for about 670 beneficiary students.

- The Action Plan of MOES no. 16, dated 24.07.2012 ,for the implementation of the recommendations of the "Seminar on awareness for the inclusion of Roma and Egyptian communities in the context of Albania's EU integration".

- Pursuant to the order of the Ministry of Education and Science, No. 530, dated 26.10.2011, "For the approval of the information packages "Altertekst 2011", which provides criteria for the evaluation of tests, especially in respect textbooks gender, race, nationality, religion and democratic principles.

- Pursuant to the order of the Ministry of Education and Science, No. 4295, dated 24.07.2012, for the timely implementation of activities provided in the National Plan of Action for the Decade of Roma Inclusion, 2009-2015, during the 2012-2013 school year of the university system .

- What were the outcomes of the policies and programs that your government implemented in 2012?
  - Increase the number of children in pre-school and compulsory.
  - Increase the number of students in the "Second Chance"
  - Increase the number of children in preparatory classes
  - Identification of areas where we can work, "Second Chance" (taking into account the number of children who have dropped out of school). Development of a program for "Second Chance" by age group;
  - Establishment and operation of Literacy courses at schools
  - Tracking of general secondary education and vocational part time .
  - Support the teaching staff and the availability of school facilities for the rest of the course against illiteracy and supplementary education for Roma children according to the requests from Roma associations;
  
- Please describe how these policies and programs impact the cross-cutting issues of the Decade. In particular, how did they promote gender equality, combating discrimination and reducing poverty?



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- Design the package modules (manual) “History, Roma culture and its involvement in school curricula”, from the Institute of Education Development and supported by Save the Children.

-The reform of curricula has created space for the Roma language to be taught in schools where the number of students is large, although that space is not used properly by the Roma minority.

-The review of school curricula at all levels, to avoid any cases of language misunderstandings or implications of inferiority to Roma community, as well as inclusion in the curriculum of topics from the Roma history and culture.

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- The Development Institute of Education conducted a review of the content of school curricula for undergraduate education, on the offensive and discriminatory treatment in the curriculum. At the end of the study was prepared a summary paper in which, on the basis of the estimates trials necessary recommendations are given to serve the improvement and enrichment of the programs.

- Training teachers to integrate the Roma language, culture, and tradition in the basic education curriculum,

- Informing about 300 teachers of Basic Education in Gjirokastra, and Korca to integrate Roma language, culture, and tradition in basic education curricula, with the support of Save the Children.

- In cooperation with local government and DAR/ZA, to attract and identify marginalized children and to increase confidence in schools and minimize abandonment, in summer 2012, in 11 Regional Education Directories and in 7 Office Education, opened 60 summer camps, where from the 2,677 total children, 722 were Roma and Egyptians. This activity was supported by UNICEF project “Zero drop”;



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- In cooperation with the local government, DAR/ZA have taken all measures to create spaces (in existing buildings or additional facilities) for the re-integration of children in pre-school and compulsory.
- Please identify the most important mainstream and targeted national, EU and other funded schemes launched in last year that will contribute to Roma inclusion/integration in education. Please specify the activity, the funding source (national budget, international donors, ESF, ERDF, etc.), the operational program, the amount allocated, the goals to be reached, and the indicative number and share of Roma beneficiaries.
  - Alternative Education and Vocational Training (CEFA) - Funded by the Office for Cooperation of the Swiss government (SDC) in Tirana, Korca, Berat, Elbasan, have benefited 327 Roma and Egyptian children (support of education for three years).
  - “Work together to prevent school abandonment of Roma children” '(in three schools in Kombinat-Tirana), UNICEF.
  - Studies on the level of education of Roma children and Egyptians in Albania, UNICEF.
  - In cooperation with Tirana DAR, the administration of “B. Curri” school and the center “For a contemporary vision for Roma”, for the implementation of the project “Second Chance” of Roma children living in tents in Babru, with funding from UNICEF.
  - In collaboration with the administration of “B. Curri” school and the center “For a contemporary vision for Roma”, has provided supplementary teaching for illiterate children and with backwardness in learning, funded by UNICEF.

Please provide information about the list achievements in the following fields in 2012:

- Number of Roma children attending pre-school, elementary, secondary, and tertiary education; number of Roma children not in school
- Number of Roma teaching assistants in pre-school, elementary, secondary, and tertiary education



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- Number of Roma children moving from segregated “Roma” pre-schools, primary and secondary schools, to mainstream schools
- Number and proportion of Roma children in special schools/classes
- Number of Roma children attending preparatory class before elementary, secondary, and tertiary education
- Access to counseling services for Roma families with children.
- Inclusion tools in elementary and secondary education (teacher assistants, individualized education plans, tutoring, extracurricular activities, other inclusion measures),
- Dropout rates of Roma in primary, secondary, and tertiary education
- Number of Roma in primary and secondary adult education
- Number of Roma students receiving scholarship and other support in primary, secondary and tertiary education.
  - 664 children attending preschool
  - 2286 people follow Primary education (kl.IV), of which 1069 are women
  - 945 people follow tertiary education (kl.VI-IX) of whom 386 are women
    - 200 people follow Secondary education, of which 37 are women
    - From the statistics dealing with Regional Education Directorate for Roma children within the compulsory education system and a study of UNICEF 2011, shows that 305 children are out of educational system.
    - There are 7 Roma teaching assistants
  - 144 students have passed 144 students from segregated roma schools in mainstream schools.
  - In special roma schools there are 37 or 1.1% of pupils as their residence is only by Roma community.
  - 136 children attend Preliminary preparation before elementary education (preparatory classes), and 125 children attend it before primary education.
  - Departments of Schools in collaboration with children, have planned activities with parents and intercultural perennial Roma and non-Roma pupils. Parents and the community, in order to increase interest and understanding among school children,
  - RED / EAs, during 2012 have trained 674 teachers on advising parents and have developed 356 Roma campaigns with the participation of over 1,600 Roma parents.



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-To respect the cultures within the school and harmonizing the interests of students, school administrations in collaboration with children, parents and the community have planned perennial intercultural activities with parents and Roma and non-Roma pupils. During 2012, 103 schools were organized in 584 intercultural activities with the participation of over 4750 students.

-• RED / EAs, and classes in schools attended by Roma children, have appointed teachers with experience, dedicated work ethic and communication. From 939 teachers working with Roma students, 798 of them are highly educated and with 141 middle-level education with over 20 years work.

- In schools where Roma children and Egyptian have their representatives in all the school organizations, the zgjedhuar by themselves. Roma in schools, work 67 boards and 94 prindërir represented by Roma. (Serida eshte e perkthyer pjesisht)

- For attendance and progress of students in the learning process, are set up and operate support groups at schools with the participation of teachers' guardian, psychologist, school board, student government and members of the Roma community.

- Taking into consideration the interests and needs of Roma and Egyptian children, work continues on the development of free hours on the basis of modules prepared by the Curriculum Development Institute;

- Not only the internal regulations, but also in the annual work plans of schools and kindergartens directories for inclusion, are set measurable targets and indicators on the basis of these two analyzes are made monthly to the parents, the school board and community .

-140 pupils from class I-V are dropouts

•-60 pupils from VI-IX are dropouts

-Classes I-IX, receive free texts to total amount of 9.52 million all from the state budget.

- Students who attend secondary education are free.

•-Support of 335 students in grades I-IX, with scholarships / food quota, amounting to a total of 4.271 million all from the state budget.



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### 3. EMPLOYMENT

- Please list the policies or programs that were designed and implemented to support Roma employment in 2012 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National Action Plan or the National Roma Integration Strategy (if applicable).

**Employment promotion programs.** Employment promotion programs are some of the active state programs that act directly on the group of unemployed job seekers to encourage them to find a long term employment. These programs, together with the program of work intermediation, have a real impact in reducing the number of registered unemployed and what is more important, their removal from the schemes of passive income support (unemployment benefits and social assistance).

Currently, the Employment Office implemented these programs for special groups, which include unemployed persons from the Roma community :

**-DCM No.27, dated 11.01.2012 “The program to promote employment for women of specific groups.”** This program is applied for the first time in 2012 and by the financing of social security to the extent 16.7% for a period of 12 months and 4 months for 100% of the national minimum wage. For 2012 from this program have been employed 36 unemployed jobseekers women from specific groups.

**-DCM No.48 dated, 16.01.2008 “For the eligibility criteria and extent of the employment promotion program of unemployed workers in difficulty”**, through the financing of social security to the extent of 16.7% for a period of 12 months and 4 months for 100% of the national minimum wage. For 2012, a total of 292 unemployed jobseekers have been employed, by this program.

The implementation of this program, employing unemployed jobseekers for a period of one year, gives the chance to provide them with long term employment.

- What are the outcomes of the policies and programs that your government implemented in 2012?
  - Above are listed the programs which have been implemented and the number of unemployed job-seekers involved in these programs.
  - During 2012, at the Employment Offices have been registered 141,828 unemployed job-seekers, of which 73,014 are women (or 51% of the total number).





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Unemployed from Roma and Egyptian community, at national level, registered at the Employment Offices are 9,210 people (6% of total enrolled at national level), of which 4,641 are women (or 50% of total) who have benefited from employment programs and services that are offered to this target group.

- Please describe how these policies and programs impact the Decade cross-cutting issues. In particular, how did they promote gender equality, combating discrimination and reducing poverty?
  - Pa pergjigje
- Please identify the most important mainstream and targeted national, EU and other funded schemes launched in last year that will contribute to Roma inclusion in the area of employment. Please, specify the activity, the funding source (national budget, international donor, ESF, ERDF, etc.), the operational program, the amount allocated, the goals to be reached, and the indicative number and share of Roma beneficiaries.
  - Pa pergjigje

Please provide information about the list of achievements in the following fields in 2012:

- Successful measures tackling discrimination of Roma in the labor market
  - Successful measures involve employment promotion programs, employment mediation and vocational training programs, which are called active measures. The passive measures are those of income support.
- Use of active labor market measures for improving the situation of Roma in the labor market and evaluation of the effectiveness of these programs (participation in re-qualification courses, public work programs, etc),
  - In addition to employment promotion programs (which are mentioned above), another active measure is the vocational training program, which takes place through public vocational training centers that offer courses for different professions, required in the labor market.
  - In 2012, a total of 8,703 people, of which 3,798 women or 43% of the total, received professional training in various professions courses, required in the labor market, such as hairdressing, baby-sitting, chef, Tailoring, tour operator, Social operator. etc, provided by the Regional Public Professional,. 1,045 women unemployed jobseekers of special groups benefited vocational training with reduced tariff and tariff free.166 unemployed jobseekers of the Roma community have benefited from free vocational training.
- Improved labor market skills of long-term unemployed Roma



## PROGRESS REPORT 2012

- The increasing number of registered unemployed Roma at the respective offices of employment shows their awareness to head at these offices and benefit from the various services and programs offered to this target group.

- Improved employment rates of long-term unemployed Roma

-The general situation is as follows:

During the period January-December 2012, through employment services have been employed a total of 12,970 unemployed jobseekers (including the Roma community), from which:

- **1,156** are mediated directly by the Employment Offices at national level and **1,443** found by themselves their own workplace.
- **2,572** beneficiaries have been long-term unemployed job seekers
- **1,185** people have benefited of unemployment allowance, and
- **888** have benefited of the economic aid.

Of the total employment rate at national level the regions with the major rates are:

- Region of Tirana with 2525 employed or 23% of the total
- Region of Durres with 20% of the total
- Region of Fier with 1480 employed or 11% of the total
- Region of Vlora with 1279 employed or 10% of the total,
- Region of Korca with 1081 employed or 9% of the total



## PROGRESS REPORT 2012

### 4. HOUSING

Please list the policies or programs that were designed and implemented to support housing for Roma (or the housing of marginalized people, including Roma) in 2012 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National Action Plan and the National Roma Integration Strategy (if applicable).

The Approval of the amendments to Law 9232 in May 2012 ,created the legal possibility that besides the benefits of existing programs (facilitating credit, rental social housing, housing bonus) Roma families benefit from small grants programs.

Some of the housing programmes implemented are:

1.Rental Social Housing Programme funded by the CEB (Council of Europe Development Bank)

- This program is implemented in 8 municipalities (Berat, Durrës, Elbasan, Fier, Kavajë, Korce, Peshkopi and Tirana). The project started with house construction in 2008 and it aims to accommodate 1138 families in total. In early 2011 the first families were sheltered in the Municipality of Berat (48 families) , and in 2012 the Municipality of Elbasan accomodated 48 families from 96 apartments in total, while the other municipalities are in the stage of selection of beneficiaries. The Municipalities have the information of how many families have applied to this programme.

2. Low Cost Housing Programme (facilitated credit )

- This programme was implemented in 2009 and from the information of the municipalities around 16000 families on 2010 has made the application. From 2008 until 2012, there were 2064 families who benefited facilitated loans.
- We have no information about the Roma families who have applied or benefited from this programme since the application forms has not ethnic division (cause it leads to discrimination), as well as the identification documents are not defined ethnically. This makes the Roma families difficult to be unidentified. They may have benefited from these programmes but we can not identify the number of them.

3.The housing bonus

- This programme is applied to subsidize the rent when the apartment rental is from the free market. The rent subsidy is financed by the municipality itself. There is not any information of how many families have benefited from this programme ,including the Roma Families.

4.Rent subsidy

- This program is applied for the social rented housing owned by municipalities, in cases the family is unable to afford social rent. This program has not been implemented till now as far as the Rental social housing programme has just started to be implemented.



## PROGRESS REPORT 2012

- During 2012 there not implemented small grants projects to improve housing conditions for Roma, due to lack of funds.
- What are the outcomes of the policies or programs that your government implemented in 2012?

There are two Programs Implemented in 2012, the facilitated credit programme and rental Social Housing .There are no data on the number of Roma Families who have benefited from these Programmes because the legal Acts dont define a identifying document as a Roma family.

- Please describe how these policies and programs impact the Decade cross-cutting issues. In particular, how did they promote gender equality, combating discrimination and reducing poverty?  
There is no discrimination and gender inequality in the legal acts for housing. Housing programs are targeted to families with low income and in need of shelter.
- Please identify the most important mainstream and targeted national, EU and other funded schemes launched in last year that will contribute to Roma inclusion in the area of housing? Please, specify the activity, the funding source (national budget, international donors, ESF, ERDF, etc.), the operational program, the amount allocated, the goal sto be reached, and the indicative number and share of Roma beneficiaries. ???

Please provide information about the following fields in 2012:

- Number of Roma benefited by infrastructural development. How is desegregation, apriority issue in the EU Framework for National Roma Integration Strategies, dealt with in infrastructure development? Government invests in the service of water supply and sanitation in all communes and municipalities, which present their demands for investment in this sector, for all people, including the Roma and Egyptian. On this basis cannot be determined the number of Roma families have benefited from the infrastructure (water and sanitation) as approved projects for certain areas where there may be among the beneficiaries Roma families.
- Number of Roma affected by urban social restoration programs  
In terms of laying roads, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport designs policies for national roads. Secondary roads are the responsibility of local government.

During 2012 the work for infrastructure development has continued in accordance with priorities identified by the discussions among CBO members, with the participation of men and women focusing on the ways how to improve the living conditions of vulnerable Roma and Egyptians in partnership with the respective local governments. The following paragraphs describe each of the identified infrastructure projects, while Table presents their respective status in a summarized manner.

<b>Table : Infrastructure development projects agreed for co-financing</b>	
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## PROGRESS REPORT 2012

Areas	Infrastructure projects identified and agreed for co-finding with LGs	Status
Kamza Municipality in Tirana	Rehabilitation of health clinic and surrounding road	Preparation of the technical design
Tirana Municipality	Construction of Multi-functional Social Centre	Pending finalization related with free plot availability
Nishtulla quarter in Durres	Construction of Social Centre comprised from health clinic, kindergarten and community meeting room	Contracted, under construction
Cerrik Municipality in Elbasan region	Construction of Social Centre comprised from health clinic, kindergarten and community meeting room	Completed
Peqin municipality in Elbasan	Reconstruction of a bridge, systematization of square and roads and cleaning/repairs of the channel	Completed
Elbasan Municipality	Construction of Multifunctional Centre in Rrapishta, Elbasan	Procurement process

In **Kamza** (Tirana region), reconstruction of health centre and its surrounding roads was a priority identified by CBO members in Kamza which was being considered for co-financing with municipality of Kamza. Over 50 Roma and Egyptian households and many other Albanian families living in the area are expected to benefit from such intervention. Municipality has prepared the technical design of the premises in close consultation with health authorities and programme engineer.

In **Nishtulla** (Durres region), in close partnership between the Regional Department of Health, Municipality of Durres and the programme an available land is identified and the technical documentation are prepared. UNDP has completed procurement process and the construction works have started in December 2012 and are previewed to be completed by April 2013.

**Levan commune** (Fier Region) the construction of social centre which functions as health clinic, community meeting space and kindergarten (Photo 2) has completed. The inauguration took place on June 29<sup>th</sup>, and the Centre is handed over to the Levan Commune. The social centre is offering service to 500 Roma families who lacked access to basic social services.

In **Cerrik** (Elbasan region), the social centre with integrated kindergarten, health and community services is furnished with needed furniture during 2012 and is inaugurated. Over 223 families are benefiting, majority of them belong to Egyptian ethnicity.

In **Peqin** (Elbasan region), the reconstruction of a community bridge, systematization and cleaning of channel and reconstruction of square and roads were prioritized by CBOs and



## PROGRESS REPORT 2012

agreed with municipality of Peqin for co-financing. This project was completed, inaugurated and handed over to the Municipality of Peqin. From this project benefited 70 Roma families and 150 Egyptian families in the community.

In **Tirana** (Tirana region), the Programme has been continuously in contact with Municipality representatives discussing and trying to find a suitable existing asset or an appropriate plot for construction of a Community Centre. Problems with ownership have occurred continuously. Although in one case even the design was prepared, the property issue made the process to be stopped. Late in December another option is discussed and it is possible to have a positive solution.

- 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 programs

In the documentation required when applying for housing is not defined presentation of an identification document for Roma or Gypsy families. This makes it difficult to identify the Roma families have benefited from social housing

### 6. HEALTH

- Please list the policies and programs that were designed and implemented to support the improvement of health care services for the Roma population in 2012 with a special focus on the goals and implementation of the Decade National Action Plan/National Roma Integration Strategy (if applicable)
- What are the outcomes of the initiatives (policy, program, activity) that your government implemented in 2012?
- Please describe how these policies and programs impact the Decade cross-cutting issues. In particular, how did they promote gender equality, combating discrimination and reducing poverty?
- 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 national, EU and other funded schemes launched in last year that will contribute to Roma inclusion in the area of health.



## PROGRESS REPORT 2012

Please, specify the activity, the funding source (national budget, international donors, ESF, ERDF, etc.), the operational program, the amount allocated, the goals to be reached, and the indicative number and share of Roma beneficiaries.

Please provide information about the following fields in 2012:

- Number of Roma covered by the national health insurance system
- Number of fully immunized Roma children
- Rate of infant and maternal mortality among the Roma population compared to the population as a whole
- Number of Roma women receiving pre and post natal health care; number who should receive such care but do not
- Roma life expectancy

The work of the Ministry of Health in collaboration with UNFPA during 2012 consisted in enabling vulnerable Roma and Egyptian communities to access their rights, particularly in the area of health, increasing capacities of Health Mediators and Community Based Officers, as well as in advocating among the youth and theatre show based health components, in targeted areas of Tirana, Durres, Elbasan and Fier.

During 2012, 14 training sessions were prepared and organized in the areas of Baltz/Fier, Elbasan and Fushe Kruje; informative materials leaflets and brochures on health and social issues were distributed. Disseminating photonovel and gender messages were realized mainly in in Elbasan (200 copies), in Durres (100 copies), in Tirana (500 copies), and Fushekruje (500 copies).

The result of these actions strengthened knowledge of Young People of Egyptian and Roma Communities in the areas of health, sexual and reproductive health, risky behaviors that affect the health of young people, advocate for healthy lifestyles; raise awareness about HIV/AIDS/STI; promote youth participation of Egyptians and Roma. The trainings and raising awareness activities focused on the problems faced by these vulnerable and marginalized communities with drugs, alcohol, sexual and reproductive health, hygiene issues and access to health services.

The awareness event was integrated with the theatre and cultural show. At the beginning of the show, the moderator and the health mediators discussed with participants for about 15 – 20 minutes and then was performed the theatre show and after it the cultural event where the young community artists selected singed, danced, and read their poems. After the theatre show was held another session of discussion on the topics.



## **PROGRESS REPORT 2012**

The realization of a theatre show from the young community members aimed promotion of healthy behaviors. This theatre play was conceived in that way that young people acted on risky behaviors and the way to prevent. Since it was a show without a script, to define the concept of this show were involved community young people under the direction of the Coordinator and Art Director and the guidance of the specialists. Both facts: involvement of young community members and their participation in conception of the theatre were absorbed and easily transmitted to spectator/their communities.

Information awareness sessions were organized with the Roma and Egyptian community on reproductive health; 1 in Elbasan and 2 in Fushe-Kruja area. 2 theatre shows, and 1 awareness activities in each area targeted were organized and meetings with youth and community about the consequences of drug and alcohol abuse; Sexual and Reproductive Health, risky behaviours that affect the health of young people; raise awareness about HIV/AIDS/STI, targeting a group of 600 R/E individuals.





## PROGRESS REPORT 2012

**Please list any other activities, initiatives and/or policies implemented in 2012 that were not part of the Decade of Roma Inclusion priority areas, but you consider relevant to Roma Inclusion (educational and institutional support for Roma culture and language, affirmative measures undertaken for Roma Youth; ensuring the right to freedom of movement within the EU; non-discrimination in the visa-free travel regime, etc.).**

Ministry of Interior in close consultation and collaboration with UNHCR and UNICEF, continued to involve in the civil registration process not only central and local government authorities and specialized legal assistance NGOs but also 5 local Roma NGOs throughout the year 2012. The underlying principle for continuing to keep involved Roma NGOs relied in the fact that these NGOs possess a wealth of knowledge on the issues and challenges surrounding Roma and Egyptian communities. This approach ensured that all cases in need of civil registration were identified and referred for registration to relevant service providers while Roma NGOs had an opportunity to increase their capacities by working closely with specialized legal assistance NGOs based in Tirana as well as civil registration authorities.

Building on the experience of the previous year, the programme of UN supported a series of expert consultation amongst service providers throughout the year 2012 related to practical solutions to the problematic issues of civil registration, proper implementation of the Albanian legislation at the local level and recommendations for changes in the relevant sub-legislation. While 2011 witnessed the adoption of three important government acts, the year 2012 witnessed the implementation of these three acts and the way in which they positively impacted the process of birth registration.

## PROGRESS REPORT 2012

<b>Table ; Types of resolved civil registration cases (individuals and families)</b>		
<b>Types</b>		<b>Nr</b>
Birth registration (individuals)	Registered	121
	In Process	70
Transfer of residency (families)		10
Certificate of birth		48
Certificate of death		4
Child custody		10
Registration as unemployed		289
Divorce in court (couples)		27
Certification of marriage (couples)		32
Homeless applicants for social housing (families)		16
ID Cards (individuals)		266
Health Cards		632
Application for health insurance		32
Economic Aid		83
Property Cases/Heritage		2
Children Registered in Pre-School Education		2
<b>TOTAL OF RESOLVED CASES</b> <i>1525 Roma NGOs</i> <i>119 TLAS</i>		<b>TOTAL</b> <b>1644</b>

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs adopted in 2011 and is currently implementing a memorandum of cooperation with the specialized NGO providing specialized legal assistance to facilitate the procedures for registering births occurred abroad. Registration of children born out of the country and encounter difficulties of registration when in Albania would be supported by the consular services of Albania.
- A new format of the certificate of delivery in the maternity homes has been drafted and is being implemented by the Ministry of Health. The new format includes mother's maiden name and her identity number (which can be found on the identity card and the

certificate of birth).

- The Ministry of Interior adopted in January 2012 (Decree no. 7) a new formal template for use by the Police Directorate to facilitate registration of children abandoned by their mothers.

All the above three acts have significantly impacted the civil registration process and have facilitated the resolution of many complex cases and prevented new child-births from going unregistered.



## **PROGRESS REPORT 2012**

A mapping of Roma children in Albania conducted by UNICEF has indicated gaps of services for the Roma children including the remaining number of Roma children who are not registered in Albania. This has been the basis for the registration of 121 Roma children through contacting the respective census offices, and providing legal assistance for the most complex cases. In order to improve the knowledge of the census officers in the new administrative acts and in how to use the census law in practice for the birth registration of children 200 census officers have been trained.

A high level round table on the issue of birth registration took place in 2012. The round table came out with some recommendations on how to further improve the system of registration of births as well as coordination among different institutions such as Ministry of Interiors and Ministry of Health, INSTAT etc. A feasibility study on the electronic system for the registration of births is being conducted by UNICEF with Ministry of Health and Interiors as a follow up of the round table. UNICEF is pursuing the activities started with UNHTSF funds with other donor sources.

Awareness raising and advocacy on the importance of civil registration in the Roma and Egyptian communities as well as introducing latest legal amendment to responsible authorities has remained an important part of the programme support.