

FORUM OF ROMA IDP

Roma from Kosovo in (OR OUT OF) the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015

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Introduction

- Forum of Roma IDP
- Project Goals
- Project activities
- Project locations
- Duration of the project
- Final report “Roma from Kosovo in (OR OUT OF) the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015”.

SERBIA

Number of IDPs/refugees from Kosovo	Government figures on Roma from Kosovo	UN figures on Roma from Kosovo	Other figures on Roma from Kosovo (UNHCR estimates)
224,881	40,000 (2009)	22,914 (2010)	50,000

The Major Obstacles

- No legal mechanism for registering the unregistered
- Neither a legislative nor a curricular framework in the ES for the Roma IDP children
- No specific programs targeting Roma IDP children in preparation for school
- No efficient access to documents
- No legislation on evictions
- Large number of Roma IDPs is legally invisible for the health care system
- No system of monitoring the position of Roma IDPs

Recommendations for inclusion

- Fully incorporate IDP issues in all the initiatives announced as part of the strategic documents for the improvement of the position of the Roma.
- Processes must include involvement of the Roma IDPs in all processes where they should be the beneficiaries.
- Roma IDPs should be given choice
- Programs of raising awareness and developing capacity of the community representatives should be initiated
- Mechanism for the participation of the representatives of the Roma IDPs in the framework of the Decade of Roma Inclusion should be developed.



Recommendations for inclusion

- Authorities should take urgent measures to address the problems of registration and lack of personal documents.
- Authorities should adopt the proposal of Forum of Roma IDP for the Educational Model for the Inclusion of Roma children of IDPs and returnees by readmission agreements in the education system of Serbia.
- Authorities should enact legislation on evictions, harmonized with the relevant European and international legislative.

MONTENEGRO

Country	Number of IDPs/refugees from Kosovo	Government figures on Roma from Kosovo	UN figures on Roma from Kosovo	Other figures on Roma from Kosovo (Estimates of the Roma NGOs)
Montenegro	24,019	3,000-5,000	4,458 (2009)	7,000-10,000

The exact number is not known!

The Major Obstacles

- The AP for resolving the status of IDPs from Kosovo ... - to this day has not started
- High administrative fees for the status of foreigner with permanent residence
- There are no specific policies targeting RAE children from Kosovo
- Lack of programs for improvement of living conditions
- No full access to tertiary healthcare
- not entitled to register with the Employment Agency as job seekers

Recommendations for inclusion

- Authorities should focus on the undetermined legal status of the IDPs in Montenegro
- Create and support awareness raising programs
- Development of capacity of the community representatives
- Mechanism for the participation of the representatives of the Roma IDPs in the framework of the Decade of Roma Inclusion should be developed

Recommendations for inclusion

- Authorities should urgently regularize the status of RAE from Kosovo residing in Montenegrin territory through:
 - 1) citizenship,
 - 2) long-term residence with all citizens rights except the voting rights,
- Authorities should prepare the measures for improving the health care for the RAE from Kosovo based on the analysis of the existing legal regulations, current practices and research in the community
- Authorities should initiate the preparation of an educational model that would provide RAE children from Kosovo with an adequate educational program
- Authorities should expand the interpretation of the Law on the Employment and Work of Foreigners to amend “displaced” and “internally displaced persons”

MACEDONIA

Country	Number of IDPs/refugees from Kosovo	Government figures on Roma from Kosovo	UN figures on Roma from Kosovo	Other figures on Roma from Kosovo (Estimates of the Roma NGOs)
Macedonia	1,542	1,300 (2008)	1,493 (2010)	1,800-2,300

The exact number is not known!

The Major Obstacles

- The NSIRF and NAP 2008-2015 does not recognize particularly vulnerable situation of Roma from Kosovo
- There are no specific programs targeting children of the Roma from Kosovo - learning the official language before starting their education
- Recognized refugees do not have the opportunity to exercise the right to housing
- Selective access to health care (Only recognized refugees, not IDPs)
- Persons under temporary protection are entitled to work only on paper (Most of them are still in the asylum procedure or rejected do not benefit from this possibility and are thus forced to rely on humanitarian assistance)

Recommendations for inclusion

- Authorities should urgently regulate the status of the Roma from Kosovo residing on Macedonian territory, and make sure not sending the rejected asylum seekers back to Kosovo as long as a return in security and dignity cannot be guaranteed
- Authorities should ensure that the law on asylum, adopted in July 2003 and amended in the meantime, is applied in such a manner that the applicants benefit from the highest level of protection possible
- Macedonian educational authorities should ensure that all Roma children from Kosovo have equal access to safe, accessible, quality schools that foster the development of each child's personality, talents, and abilities
- Authorities should intensify efforts to ensure decent living conditions for the Roma from Kosovo that will satisfy reasonable living and hygienic standards
- Ensure refugees are not depending on the financial support they receive from the state authorities

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Country	Number of IDPs/refugees from Kosovo	Government figures on Roma from Kosovo	UN figures on Roma from Kosovo	Other figures on Roma from Kosovo (According to the Roma activists)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	367	150-250	197 (2010)	600-800

The exact number is not known!

The major obstacles

- There are no policies addressing Roma IDPs issues
- Many Roma from Kosovo continue to live under a temporary admission scheme, in precarious conditions
- The complex administrative structures do not generate enough support for protection of the human rights of refugees and asylum-seekers
- As a result of the cases falling under the “threat to national security”, the Roma from Kosovo cannot exercise their individual rights and the functioning of the asylum and immigration system weakens
- Failure to apply the “UNHCR’s EGA the IPN of Individuals from Kosovo, negatively affects nearly all asylum seekers in BiH

Recommendations for inclusion

- Authorities should develop guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures to identify, protect and deal with irregular and illegal migrants, refugees, asylum seekers.
- Authorities should urgently take effective measures to guarantee improved access to fundamental rights for refugees and to continue seeking means of granting asylum-seekers, in particular Roma from Kosovo defined legal status.
- Ensure the effective implementation of the legal framework aimed at resolving the status of the Roma from Kosovo, and to provide a real possibility for the effective use of the targeted programs for local integration.
- The competent authorities should take more resolute measures for addressing the lack of personal identity documents. (Adequate monitoring of the situation in this field should be carried out)



Recommendations for inclusion

- Mechanism for the participation of the representatives of the Roma IDPs in the framework of the Decade of Roma Inclusion should be developed.
- Authorities should ensure that the Roma from Kosovo are adequately informed of the existing opportunities to receive support.
- Development of capacity of the community representatives.
- It is necessary to provide a mechanism for the participation of the representatives of the Roma from Kosovo in the framework of the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 in all working bodies of the government.



Thank you for your attention!
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