Decade of Roma Inclusion Albanian Progress Report 2010

BASIC INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION OF THE ROMA MINORITY

- Number of Roma in Albania varies from 80,000 to 120,000, between 2.5 and 4.7 percent of the total population of 3.5 million
- The greatest number of Roma are concentrated in Central and Southeastern Albania in the areas of Tirana, Durresi, Elbasan, Fieri, Berati, Korca, Pogradeci, Bilishti, Gjirokastra, Delvina, Kruja, and Shkodra

- Albanian government has since 2003 adopted a National Strategy for Roma and in 2008 joined the Decade of Roma Inclusion Declaration.
- National Action Plan for Roma was prepared aligning the Strategy with the commitments under the Decade. The Action Plan sets six priority areas including education, employment, health, housing, cultural heritage and equal opportunities.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION AND EVALUATION OF ROMA INTEGRATION POLICY

- A progress is achieved by Albanian Government aiming improving the social inclusion of Roma community, through encouraging participatory local planning, facilitating access to rights and strengthening institutions for social inclusion.
- Technical Secretariat for Roma at MoLSAEO in close collaboration with UNDP, since April 2010, is implementing the component on strengthening of institutional capacities for minority inclusion at central level, and implemented at local level in partnership with regional councils and local government units.

Steps undertaken to improve monitoring and reporting system of NAP indicators

- A web-based reporting and monitoring system is in process to be created, which will be utilized by Technical Secretariat to generate annual progress reports of the Roma Decade National Action Plan (NAP).
- This approach ensures that:
 - Data entered are immediately available to all interested parties, without need for costly and time-consuming data transfer from the local units to MoLSAEO
 - Indicators and reports are produced without delays, and available immediately to interested parties.
 - Changes and improvement are implemented in the central server and are immediately available to all parties, without need for costly and time consuming software installations in personal computers of the users.
 - Reduction of needs for IT staff to administer the system. The system administrator is located at MoLSAEO. There is no need for system administrators in the local offices.

The web-based system will provide the following functions

- Data collection: an interface will be available for entering data for each data collection unit type. Data collection units are: schools, health centers, MoL local units etc. Maximum effort shall be made to check the entered data for quality through validations, use of reference tables and standard identifiers.
- Reporting system: an interface will be available for accessing pre-calculated reports and indicators. The user interface shall offer the capability to modify existing reports and even create new reports from scratch. A report dissemination mechanism shall be supported, that will allow users to register their interest in specific reports, and have them delivered to their mailbox or RSS reader.
- User management: an interface will be available to add, modify, activate, deactivate the users of the system, according to pre - defined security policies.
- Access control: an interface will be available to control access to different parts of the system, according to pre-defined security policies.
- Reference data: an interface will be available to manage reference data. Examples are the organizational units, geographic locations etc

CONCLUSIONS AND MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS TOWARD IMPROVING THE SITUATION OF THE ROMA MINORITY ON NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVEL

- Ensuring equal access to all level of the education system for children and youth from Roma minority
- Preserving and developing the cultural identity of Roma pupils and students
- Empowering of Roma community by increasing access to the labor market, trainings program and social protection schemes.
- Providing opportunities for Roma to access housing and infrastructure services in compliance with the state standards
- Raising awareness among the Roma population and health care and public health services.

Ensuring Social inclusion and Increasing Access of the Roma minority in Public Institution.