

---

Funded  
by the European Union  
and the Council of Europe



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



---

Implemented  
by the Council of Europe

Joint Programme “Improving Access to Education and Intercultural Understanding”

# Fostering Inclusive Education and Diversity at School

9 December 2015

Pristina

## Background

The Joint EU/CoE Programme “Supporting Access to Education and Intercultural Understanding: EU/CoE support in the field of education to forced returnees and to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo\*” (ACCESS) aims to directly involve Kosovo authorities in building local institutional capacity, so that schools, local authorities and civil society are able to expand support and education services to integrate returnee children and Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children into schools. The project started in September 2013 and will be active until December 2015.

The project is structured in five components that aim to:

- Foster the enrolment and regular attendance in schools of school-age returnee children and of disadvantaged minority children in general, with special attention to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians;
- Increase the capacity of the education system to ensure higher chances for school achievement of returnee children and Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children;
- Improve the status of Romani language as a subject in Kosovo schools;
- Enhance the integration of returnee children among peers in school and in local community;
- Review and improve policies concerning the education of repatriated children.

## Major project achievements

The project has managed to enhance cooperation and information sharing among different actors (both institutions and civil society) working in the field of education for forced returnees and Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children. Furthermore, the project has worked to improve the provision of existing services to the target beneficiaries.

Since 2013, ACCESS project has:

- Supported the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and Ministry of Internal Affairs in setting up a sustainable mechanism to provide additional languages classes for over 300 returnee children. A new teacher’s and student’s handbook for returnee classes was developed and tested in 2014 and 2015. The final module was transferred to trained MEST, MIA and Municipal Education Department staff to ensure its sustainability.
- Cooperated with MEST to expand Romani language classes in new municipalities. A new training module was designed and used to prepare the newly appointed Romani Language Teachers.
- Trained 66 teachers on the whole school approach in 11 pilot schools. Small grants were also provided to draft and implement school development plans, fostering inclusive school

---

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence

environments. 74 learning centre staff were also on mediation and social inclusion methodology and financed new inclusive projects in 12 Learning Centres. Schools' and Learning Centres' practices and findings were distilled in the publication "Guidelines for Social Inclusion".

- Supported the Education mediation programme. Since January 2014, 6 mediators have worked on 1204 cases of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian pupils in six municipalities. Thanks to their work, and in cooperation with teachers, mediators managed to return 216 out-of-school children to school.
- Organised several conferences to advance awareness of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian perspective in the Kosovo education system. Seven lessons plans were drafted by teachers to include Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian history in the primary school.
- Published three baselines studies on Learning Centres, Education Mediation and Perception on Inclusive education.
- Facilitated the establishment of a Reflection group composed of government officials and practitioners, which provided MEST and MIA with policy recommendations, to improve access to education for children from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities and from returnee families.

## The final conference

The conference "Fostering Inclusive Education and Diversity at School" is the final event of the Joint European Union and Council of Europe Programme "Increasing Access to Education and Intercultural Understanding".

Despite such great effort, the education of the three communities is still characterized by low participation in compulsory education, and very low participation in secondary and tertiary education. Official data shows that the gross enrolment rate in compulsory education is just above 84.9%, whereas it sharply drops to 53% in the lower secondary education. As a result, the objective of the conference is to highlight current policies, activities and support mechanisms to mainstream inclusive education in Kosovo schools especially for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians.

The process of social inclusion of these communities can be improved by promoting access to education and fostering intercultural understanding among all groups living in Kosovo. As a consequence, it is necessary to implement targeted school policies and practices, as well as social and educational support structures, which strongly consider the needs of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian.

Finally, the conference would like to create an ideal bridge towards a new programmatic initiative that will focus on inclusive and quality education. As a result, in the second part of the conference, attention will be given to new areas where the inputs of the stakeholders will be fundamental in preparing a concrete project description.

## Wednesday, 9 December 2015

08:45-09:15	Registration of participants
<b>PLENARY SESSION</b> Chair: <a href="#">Representative of Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST)</a>	
09:15-09:45	Opening remarks and welcome speeches Mr Usmen Baldzi, Deputy Minister of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) Mr Samir Selimi, Task Manager, EU office in Pristina Ms Isabelle Servoz-Gallucci, Head of the CoE Office in Pristina Mr Villano Qiriaz, Head of Education Policy Division, Directorate of Democratic Citizenship and Participation, Council of Europe
09:45-10:25	Guidelines for social inclusion in schools. Presentation of the guidelines for Kosovo schools developed in the framework of the EU/CoE Joint Programme ACCESS.  By Ms Ulrike Wolff-Jontofsohn, professor at the Pedagogical University of Freiburg and Ms Hana Zylfiu, Officer at Kosovo Education Centre
10:25-10:45	Helsinki Agenda for Quality Education.  by Mr Villano Qiriaz, Head of Education Policy Division, Council of Europe.
10:45-11:00	Discussion
11:00-11:20	Coffee break
11:00-11:20	Press statement
<b>SESSION 1 - Inclusive education and social inclusion in Kosovo</b> Chair: <a href="#">Council of Europe</a>	
11:20-11:40	MEST vision on respecting diversity and inclusive education in Kosovo. Past and future.  By Mr Vedat Bajrami and Ms Enesa Kadiq, Head of the Division for Community Education, MEST
11:40-12:00	Training future teachers for inclusive schools. Current resources and future plans.  By Prof. Majlinda Gjelaj, Vice Dean for Teaching, University of Pristina
12:00-12:15	The in-service training methodology for teachers for improving social inclusion.  By Ms Haxhere Zylfiu, Researcher, Kosovo Pedagogical Institute
12:15-12:30	Bridging the gap between institutions and civil society on social inclusion: latest mechanisms and tools.  By Mr. Isak Skenderi, Director, NGO VoRAE
12:30-12:50	Discussion
12:50-14:00	Lunch

SESSION 2 - Towards quality education in Kosovo

Chair: Council of Europe

14:00-15:30	Introduction to the parallel sessions: introduction to the new project on quality education
	Parallel session 1: "How to integrate inclusive education in the pre-service and in-service training for teachers?" Moderator: Ms Haxhere Zylfiu , KPI
	Parallel session 2: "Inclusive education and social inclusion of communities. How to increase schools' capacity to create an inclusive environment?" Moderator: Ms Hana Zylfiu, KEC
	Parallel session 3: "Quality education system: how to strengthen integrity and combat corruption?" Moderator: Ms Ardita Metaj Dika, TACSO
15:30-16:10	Report from the parallel sessions
16:10-16:30	Closing of the conference : Closing remarks - representative of MEST Closing remarks - representative of the Council of Europe
16:30	Departure of the participants