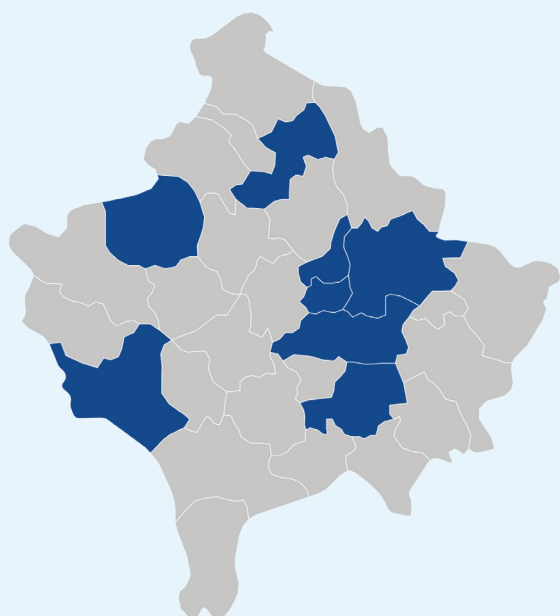
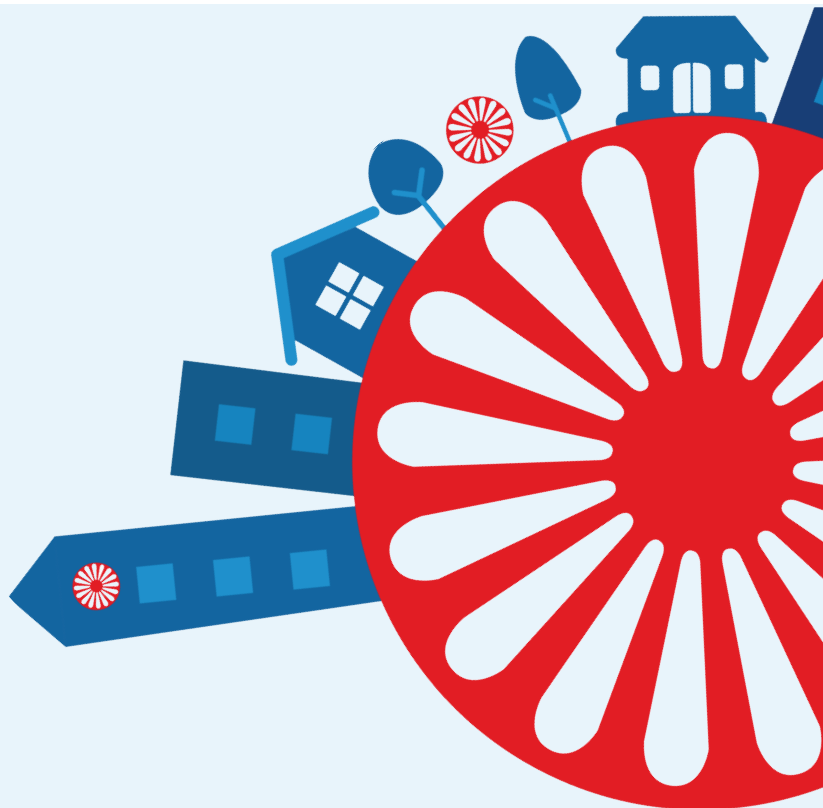


ROMACTED

*Promoting good governance
and Roma empowerment
at local level*



Kosovo



**Baseline overview on the capacities
and needs of the Roma communities
and the beneficiary municipalities
of ROMACTED Programme in Kosovo***

Assessment Report

Funded
by the European Union
and the Council of Europe



EUROPEAN UNION

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CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Implemented
by the Council of Europe



Assessment Report

Baseline overview on the capacities and needs of the Roma communities and the beneficiary municipalities of ROMACTED Programme in Kosovo*

ROMACTED Programme

Promoting Good Governance And Roma Empowerment At Local Level

A European Union and Council of Europe Joint Programme

Author:

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Review:

Sakibe Jashari



This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

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Contents

Acronyms	11
1. Aim of the report	12
1.1 Methodology	12
2. Legislative and policy review	8
2.1 Legislative framework	8
2.2 Institutional framework	10
2.2.1 Central level institutions	10
2.2.2 Local level	11
2.2.3 Donor community	12
2.3 Policy review	15
2.3.1 National strategy	15
2.3.2. Local Action Plans for the Inclusion of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities	16
2.3.3 Budgetary planning at local level on Roma inclusion	18
3. Findings	19
3.1. Education	19
3.1.1. Municipality Needs Assessment in Education	19
3.1.2. Community Needs Assessment in Education	20
3.2. Employment	23
3.2.1 Municipality Needs Assessment in Employment	23
3.2.2. Community Needs Assessment in Employment	24
3.3 Housing	27
3.3.1. Municipality Needs Assessment in Housing	27
3.3.2. Community Needs Assessment in Housing	28
3.4 Health care	30
3.4.1. Municipality Needs Assessment in Health Care	30
3.4.2. Community Needs Assessment in Health Care	31
3.5 Inclusiveness	33
3.5.1. Municipality Needs Assessment in Inclusiveness	33
3.6 Agriculture	33
4.6.1. Community Needs Assessment in Agriculture	33
3.7 Fundraising	35
3.7.1. Municipality Needs Assessment in Fundraising	35

3.8 Other	35
3.8.1. Community Needs Assessment in Other	35
4. Recommendations	36
4.1. Critical constraints	40
ROMACTED at a glance KOSOVO	41
The 4 steps of the ROMACTED Methodology	42
<i>STEP 1: PREPARING THE PROCESS</i>	42
<i>STEP 2: ASSESSING NEEDS AND PRIORITISING</i>	42
<i>STEP 3: ADOPTING A JOINT ACTION PLAN</i>	43
<i>STEP 4: FINANCING AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION</i>	44
Synergies and co-operation	44
COVID-19 action:	46
<i>Ferizaj/Uroševac</i>	46
<i>Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje</i>	46
<i>Gjakovë/Đakovica</i>	46
<i>Gračanica/Gračanicë</i>	46
<i>Istog/Istok</i>	46
<i>Lipjan/Lipljan</i>	47
<i>Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South</i>	47
<i>Obiliq/Obilić</i>	47
ROMACTED at a Glance Local	48
<i>Name of the municipality: Ferizaj/Uroševac municipality</i>	48
<i>Mayor of the Municipality: Mr Agim Aliu</i>	48
<i>Local documents prepared within ROMACTED:</i>	48
<i>2. Education:</i>	48
<i>3. Employment:</i>	48
<i>4. Housing and property:</i>	49
<i>5. Investment in infrastructural projects (asphalting, sewage system and electricity):</i>	49
<i>6. Culture:</i>	49
<i>7. Environment:</i>	49
<i>8. Capacity building:</i>	49
<i>Description of the Community Action Group</i>	50

<i>Description of the Institutional Working Group</i>	50
<i>Description of the Municipal Taskforce Group</i>	50
<i>Joint Action Plan in place?</i>	51
<i>Local Action Plan in place?</i>	51
<i>List the projects</i>	51
<i>Synergies established at local level:</i>	51
ROMACTED at a Glance Local	52
<i>Name of the Municipality: Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje</i>	52
<i>1. Local documents prepared within ROMACTED:</i>	52
<i>2. Education:</i>	52
<i>3. Health and Social Welfare:</i>	52
<i>4. Environment:</i>	53
<i>5. Housing and property:</i>	53
<i>6. Investment in infrastructure (asphalting, sewage system and electricity):</i>	53
<i>7. Capacity building:</i>	53
<i>Description of the Community Action Group</i>	54
<i>Description of the Institutional Working Group</i>	54
<i>Description of the Municipal Taskforce Group</i>	54
<i>Joint Action Plan in place?</i>	55
<i>Local Action Plan in place?</i>	55
<i>List the projects</i>	55
<i>Synergies established at local level:</i>	55
ROMACTED at a Glance Local	56
<i>Name of the municipality: Graçanicë/Gračanica municipality</i>	56
<i>1. Local documents prepared within ROMACTED:</i>	56
<i>2. Education</i>	56
<i>3. Employment</i>	56
<i>4. Housing and property:</i>	56
<i>5. Investment in infrastructure (asphalting, sewage system and electricity):</i>	56
<i>6. Language and Culture</i>	57
<i>7. Agriculture subsidies</i>	57
<i>8. Fundraising:</i>	57

<i>9. Capacity building:</i>	<i>57</i>
<i>Description of the Community Action Group</i>	<i>58</i>
<i>Description of the Institutional Working Group</i>	<i>58</i>
<i>Description of the Municipal Taskforce Group</i>	<i>58</i>
<i>Joint Action Plan in place?</i>	<i>59</i>
<i>Local Action Plan in place?</i>	<i>59</i>
<i>List the projects</i>	<i>59</i>
<i>Synergies established at local level:</i>	<i>59</i>
<i>ROMACTED at a Glance Local</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>Name of the Municipality: Gjakovë/Đakovica municipality</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>1. Local documents prepared within ROMACTED:</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>2. Education:</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>3. Health and Social Welfare:</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>4. Employment:</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>5. Environment:</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>6. Investment in infrastructure (asphalting, sewage system and electricity):</i>	<i>61</i>
<i>7. Capacity building:</i>	<i>61</i>
<i>Description of the Community Action Group</i>	<i>61</i>
<i>Description of the Institutional Working Group</i>	<i>61</i>
<i>Description of the Municipal Taskforce Group</i>	<i>61</i>
<i>Joint Action Plan in place?</i>	<i>62</i>
<i>Local Action Plan in place?</i>	<i>62</i>
<i>List the projects</i>	<i>62</i>
<i>Synergies established at local level:</i>	<i>62</i>
<i>ROMACTED at a Glance Local</i>	<i>63</i>
<i>Name of the Municipality: Istog/Istok</i>	<i>63</i>
<i>1. Local documents prepared within ROMACTED:</i>	<i>63</i>
<i>2. Education:</i>	<i>63</i>
<i>3. Health and Social Welfare:</i>	<i>63</i>
<i>4. Housing and property:</i>	<i>63</i>
<i>5. Employment:</i>	<i>64</i>
<i>6. Environment:</i>	<i>64</i>

7. Agricultural subsidies:	64
8. Investment in infrastructure:	64
9. Capacity building:	64
Description of the Community Action Group	65
Description of the Institutional Working Group	65
Description of the Municipal Taskforce Group	65
Joint Action Plan in place?	66
Local Action Plan in place?	66
List the projects	66
Synergies established at local level:	66
ROMACTED at a Glance Local	67
Name of the Municipality: Lipjan/Lipljan municipality	67
1. Local documents prepared within ROMACTED:	67
2. Education:	67
3. Employment:	67
4. Environment:	67
5. Investment in infrastructure (asphalting, sewage system and electricity):	67
6. Youth:	68
7. Capacity building:	68
Description of the Community Action Group	68
Description of the Institutional Working Group	68
Description of the Municipal Taskforce Group	68
Joint Action Plan in place?	69
Local Action Plan in place?	69
List the projects	69
Synergies established at local level:	69
ROMACTED at a Glance Local	70
Name of the Municipality: Mitrovicë/ Mitrovica South municipality	70
Local documents prepared within ROMACTED:	70
2. Education:	70
3. Employment:	70
4. Housing and Property:	70

5. Infrastructure:	71
6. Environment	71
7. Civil registration for repatriated children:	71
8. Capacity building:	71
Description of the Community Action Group	72
Description of the Institutional Working Group	72
Description of the Municipal Taskforce Group	72
Joint Action Plan in place?	73
Local Action Plan in place?	73
List the projects	73
Synergies established at local level:	73
ROMACTED at a glance in local	74
Name of the Municipality: Obiliq/Obilić municipality	74
Mayor of the Municipality: Mr Xhafer Gashi	74
Local documents prepared within ROMACTED:	74
2. Education:	74
3. Employment:	74
4. Agriculture subsidies	74
5. Housing and Property	75
6. Infrastructure (sewage system, asphaltting and street lightening)	75
7. Environment	75
8. Capacity building:	75
Description of the Community Action Group	76
Description of the Institutional Working Group	76
Description of the Municipal Taskforce Group	76
Joint Action Plan in place?	77
Local Action Plan in place?	77
List the projects	77
Synergies established at local level:	77

Acronyms

AOGG Issues	Advisory Office on Good Governance, Human Rights, Equal Opportunities and Gender
CAG	Community Action Group
CCC	Consultative Council for Communities
CNA	Community Needs Assessment
DCMAC	Deputy Chairpersons of Municipal Assemblies for Communities
DHSW	Department of Health and Social Welfare
DMC	Deputy Mayor for Communities
IWG	Institutional Working Group
KEEN	Kosovo Education and Employment Network
LAP	Local Action Plan
MAC	Municipal Action Committee
MCC	Municipal Communities Committee
MCR	Ministry for Communities and Return
MEST	Ministry of Educations, Science and Technology
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MLGA	Ministry of Local Governance Administration
MLSW	Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare
MCNA	Municipal Capacity and Needs Assessment
MOCR	Municipal Office for Communities and Returnees
OCA	Office for Community Affairs
OLC	Office of Language Commissioner
OMIK	OSCE Mission in Kosovo
OPM	Office of Prime Minister
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

1. Aim of the report

Using primary and secondary data sources, the **Assessment Report is a baseline overview of the situation of Roma in partner municipalities of the ROMACTED Programme in Kosovo** (in this assessment report, Roma is used as an umbrella term to include Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, unless stated otherwise). Implemented since 2017, the ROMACTED Programme is a regional intervention that aims to promote good governance and Roma empowerment at local level. Specifically, ROMACTED aims to strengthen political will and support local development, empower the Roma citizens on the individual and the community level, and improve and expand the institutions' commitment, capacities, knowledge and skills in working for Roma inclusion and participation.

The current situation facing Roma in Kosovo is characterised by unequal and unfair distribution of community resources by disfavoursing Roma, lack of consultation mechanisms or, where such mechanisms exist, exclusion of Roma, tokenism, or inclusion of few and mutual mistrust between the Roma community and the public institutions.

In this context and for a long time, the Roma community is experiencing powerlessness, dependency, negative attitude towards the future perspective, loss of hope, lack of capacity and confidence. On the other hand, the local authorities are entrenched in distrust in the possibility of a real dialogue with Roma community, paternalism and limited capacity to implement participatory democracy, as well as limited understanding of the Roma tradition and culture. As a result, both parties are embroiled in ineffective communication, mutual blaming, lack of trust and ineffective mechanisms for participation.

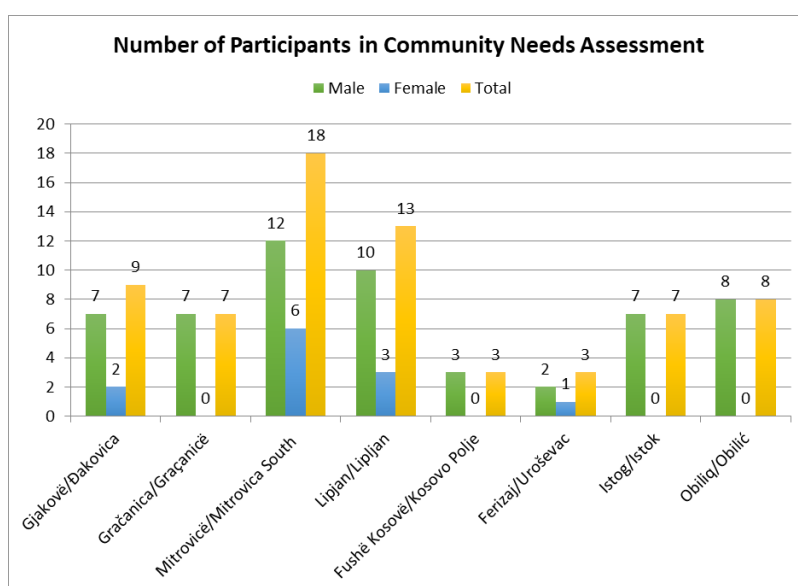
The need to move away from this vicious cycle of blame and discouragement to a place of trust-building and cooperation is evident. Precisely, this means moving away from dependency and paternalism to empowerment and recognition, active citizenship and inclusive implementation of the principles of good governance and participatory democracy in Kosovo.

1.1 Methodology

To obtain programmatic baselines, the ROMACTED Programme in Kosovo has completed primary data collection with the Roma community and the local institutions in the form of needs assessments, namely the Community Needs Assessment (CNA) and the Municipal Capacity and Needs Assessment (MCNA). The objective of the CNA is to identify and list issues/concerns in ROMACTED partner municipalities, related to education, health, employment, housing, infrastructure, agriculture and other crosscutting themes such as gender, civil registration and so on. Focus group discussions for the CNA were completed in the third quarter of programme implementation between August and September 2019, in line with the ROMACTED methodology, namely STEP 2 of the methodology – *Getting Roma community mobilised, prioritising and agreeing*.

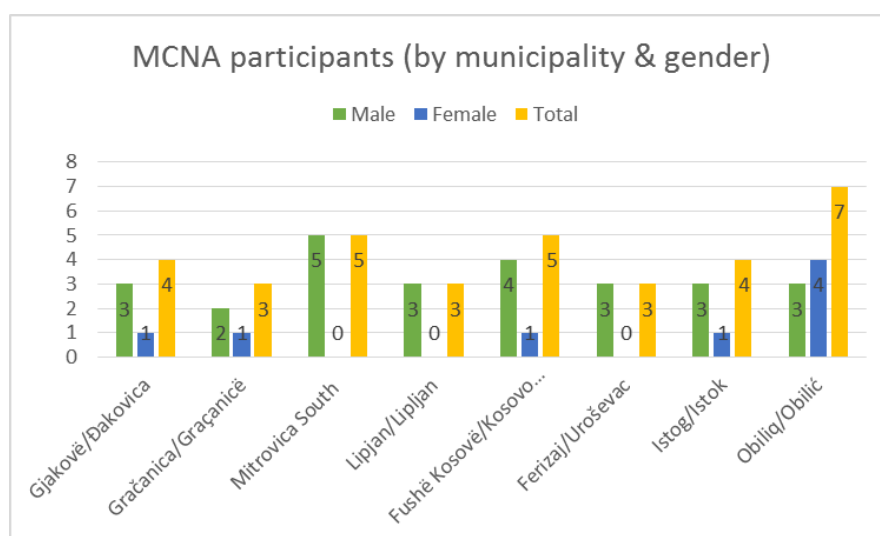
As part of the CNA, a total of nine focus group discussions were conducted in eight beneficiary municipalities: Gjakovë/Đakovica, Lipjan/Lipljan (including Janjevë/Janjevo village), Obiliq/Obilić, Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Gjakovë/Đakovica, Istog/Istok and Mitrovica South. Focus group discussions were organised and facilitated by three Field Facilitators, the Focal Point, Project Officer and ROMACTED Community Action Group (CAG) members from the partner municipalities as participants.

CNA participants	Male	Female	Total
Gjakovë/Đakovica	7	2	9
Gračanica/Graçanicë	6	1	7
Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South	13	5	18
Lipjan/Lipljan	10	3	13
Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje	3	0	3
Ferizaj/Uroševac	2	1	3
Istog/Istok	7	0	7
Obiliq/Obilić	8	0	8
Total (count)	56	12	68
Total (percentage)	82.4 %	17.6 %	100.0%



Similarly, in line with the ROMACTED methodology, namely STEP 2 of the methodology, the programme team has completed the MCNA. The goal of the MCNA was to identify the institutional capacities and needs of the partner municipalities in the areas of education, employment, health, inclusiveness, agriculture, fundraising and other cross-cutting themes, such as civil registration, infrastructure, cultural activities and waste management, relevant to Roma inclusion. The MCNA was completed via a questionnaire designed by ROMACTED, which was sent to all eight partner municipalities to be filled in with the required information. The submitted questionnaires were filled in by the relevant staff of the respective municipal departments responsible for specific domains, which was often represented by the Institutional Working Group. ROMACTED Contact Persons together with field facilitators played an important role in coordinating this exercise. Questionnaires were also followed up on by the field facilitators through a direct interview with relevant municipal officials to collect missing data or clarify and/or confirm the responses given in the questionnaire.

MCNA participants	Male	Female	Total
Gjakovë/Đakovica	3	1	4
Gračanica/Gračanicë	2	1	3
Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South	5	0	5
Lipjan/Lipljan	3	0	3
Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje	4	1	5
Ferizaj/Uroševac	3	0	3
Istog/Istok	3	1	4
Obiliq/Obilić	3	4	7
Total (count)	26	8	34
Total (percentage)	76.5 %	23.5 %	100.0%



The synthesised analysis of the CNA and MCNA is presented in Chapter 3: Findings. Chapter 3 is structured horizontally for each municipality respectively to allow cross-comparison between the community and the institutional perspectives, in each partner municipality. Using the available baselines as reporting references, this type of analysis is useful in monitoring the progress of partner municipalities in the future. The progress of partner municipalities in adopting and implementing policies in Roma inclusion should support municipalities in engaging in a reasonable competition with each other.

Chapter 2: Legislative and Policy Review presents an overview of the laws, mechanisms and policies for promotion and protection of Community Rights that aim to achieve the vision of full inclusion of Roma community in all aspects of social life in Kosovo. The analysis presented in Chapter 2 has benefited from the findings of the Kosovo Education and Employment Network – Evaluation Report on the Implementation of the Strategy for Inclusion of Roma Community¹ in 2017 and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Roma Survey² 2017, the first major data collection that examines the living conditions and key human development outcomes within Roma households and non-Roma living in close vicinity. To analyse local policies, this report has relied on the Local Action Plans (LAPs) for Inclusion of Roma Community from all partner municipalities. For

¹ Implementation of the Strategy for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in Kosovo Society in 2017, https://www.keen-ks.net/site/assets/files/1405/raporti_i_monitorimit_per_komunitete_eng.pdf.

² Regional Roma Survey 2017: Country fact sheets, <https://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/library/roma/regional-roma-survey-2017-country-fact-sheets.html>.

budgetary information, both LAPs and municipal information leaflets and profiles developed by the ROMACTED team were used.

The Assessment Report provides a set of Critical Constraints and Recommendations in Chapter 4. The presented Recommendations and Critical Constraints are drafted based on the overall findings of this report. Addressing the constraints and implementing the recommendations will lead to an overall improvement of good governance and empowerment of Roma community in the local level.

2. Legislative and policy review

2.1 Legislative framework

The Constitution of Kosovo

The Constitution protects and promotes the rights and interests of communities and their members living in Kosovo. It states that “Kosovo is a multi-ethnic society consisting of Albanian and other Communities, governed democratically with full respect for the rule of law through its legislative, executive and judicial institutions”, and guarantees full and effective equality for all its citizens. The Constitution defines that “the official languages in Kosovo are Albanian and Serbian. Turkish, Bosnian and Roma languages can have the status of official languages at the municipal level or will be in official use at all levels as provided by law”. Reflecting the importance of community rights in Kosovo, Kosovo’s Constitution has one full chapter dedicated to the Rights of Communities and their Members.

It also ensures equitable representation in public institutions, requires the representation of communities through several specific posts at the municipal level, enshrines the right of communities to “freely express, foster and develop their identity and community attributes” and establishes obligations of the state to ensure “full and effective equality among members of communities”.

Chapter III of the Constitution foresees the establishment of a Consultative Council for Communities (CCC) consisting of, amongst others, representatives of communities, with the mandate to afford communities the opportunity to comment at an early stage on legislative or policy initiatives, and to seek to have their views incorporated.

The Constitution protects the rights of communities in the legislative process also. Out of an Assembly of 120 seats, it guarantees 20 seats for parties representing minority communities, with a specific number of seats assigned to the different communities. Additionally, the Constitution calls for the creation of the Assembly Committee on Rights and Interests of Communities to ensure the participation of Communities in the legislative processes.

Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Communities and their Members in Kosovo

The purpose of this law and its amendment 04/L-020 is to enable communities to cultivate, develop and express their identity, to protect their fundamental and human rights and to ensure their full and effective equality through special measures implemented by the Kosovo government. It provides a general definition of communities as “national, ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious groups traditionally present in the Republic of Kosovo that are not in the majority, namely Serb, Turkish, Bosnian, Roma, Ashkali, Egyptian, Gorani, Montenegrin, Croatian and other communities.

Together with the Law on the Use of Languages, this is the most important law about community rights. It has provisions on: identity; language; culture; media; religion; education; economic and social opportunities; health; political participation; and the Consultative Council for Communities. The Law protects communities and their members’ right to freely express, maintain and develop their culture and identity. It also guarantees the equality of communities and protects them from discrimination.

The Law also sets out some basic provisions in regard to the language, such as the official status of Serbian and Albanian and their alphabets at the central level and Turkish, Bosnian and Roma at the municipal level.

Law on Anti-Discrimination

The purpose of this law is to prevent and combat discrimination, promote effective equality and put into effect the principle of equal treatment of the citizens of Kosovo under the rule of law.

As such, this Law applies to all natural and legal persons as regards both the public and private sectors, including public bodies, in relation to any action or inaction which violates the right or rights of any natural or legal person or discriminates based on sex, gender, age, marital status, language, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, political affiliation or conviction, ethnic origin, nationality, religion or belief, race, social origin, property, birth or any other status.

The Law on Anti-Discrimination aims to ensure that members of all communities enjoy equal access to education and fair representation in public bodies and public affairs. According to the Law, direct and indirect discrimination, i.e. where an apparently neutral provision, criterion or practice would put persons in a particularly disadvantaged condition, shall be prosecuted. Moreover, harassment shall be deemed to be discrimination when an unwanted conduct takes place with the purpose or effect of violating the dignity of a person or of creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment, as determined by that person; finally, victimisation and segregation shall be considered acts of discrimination by all means.

Law on Local Self Government

The aim of this law is to establish a sustainable system of local administration and improve the efficiency of public services in Kosovo. This law foresees the establishment of several municipal institutions for the protection of communities in Kosovo. The Municipal Assemblies of Kosovo must establish a Municipal Communities Committee with the responsibility to review municipal policies, practices and activities to ensure that rights and interests of the communities are fully respected and issue recommendations to the Municipal Assembly. Moreover, in municipalities where communities make up at least 10% of the population, a Deputy Mayor for Communities must be appointed to advise the Mayor on community issues, and a Deputy Chairperson for Communities must be nominated to form the “focal point for addressing non-majority communities’ concerns”.

Law on the Use of Languages

The Assembly of Kosovo adopted the Law on the Use of Languages in order to respect the linguistic identity of all people living in Kosovo and to create an environment for all communities to express and preserve their language and culture. The Law reaffirms that the official and equal languages in Kosovo are Albanian and Serbian, while “other community languages, such as Turkish, Bosnian and Roma can be languages in official use” at the municipal level.

Use of Languages in Municipal Institutions: a language is an official language at the municipal level if it is the mother tongue of at least 5% of the inhabitants of that municipality. People belonging to communities whose language is in official use also have the right in their communication with the municipality to “present oral or written submissions and documents, and to receive a reply in their own language”. Currently, the Municipality of Gračanica/Graçanicë is the only municipality in Kosovo that has endorsed the Roma language as language in official use.

Use of Languages in Judicial Proceedings: this Law is a guarantee that any judicial proceeding will be carried out in such a way that all people involved can be informed and communicate in their native language, regardless of its official status or lack thereof.

Use of Languages in Education: The Law on the Use of Languages specifies that community members have the right to receive public school education in their mother tongue. At the same time, one official language of choice must always be studied, and a student with his/her parents has the right to “decide in which official language his/her school records will be kept, and reports issued, by the educational institutions that he/she attends”.

Use of Languages in the Media: according to Article 25, any person in Kosovo has the right to establish media and broadcasting time on the public broadcaster in the language of his/her choice.

Personal Names and City, Street, and Topographical Names: according to Article 27.1, a person has the right to have his/her name and surname registered in the public civil records and written on personal identification documents in the official language of his/her choice, which includes the writing system. The law also establishes that “official signs indicating or including the names of municipalities, villages, roads, streets and other public places shall be displayed in the official languages and in the languages that have the status of official language in the municipality”.

Office of the Language Commissioner: The Office of the Language Commissioner is established by the Government of Kosovo to ensure, promote and supervise the implementation of Law on the Use of Languages.

2.2 Institutional framework

2.2.1 Central level institutions

Consultative Council for Communities

The purpose of the Consultative Council for Communities (CCC) is to “provide a mechanism for regular exchange between the Communities and the Government of Kosovo” and to “afford to the Communities the opportunity to comment at an early stage on legislative or policy initiatives that may be prepared by the Government, to suggest such initiatives, and to seek to have their views incorporated in the relevant projects and programs.” The CCC began in 2005 as an informal body attached to the Kosovo Delegation for Status Negotiations. The Council is located within the Office of the President and comprises of mainly representatives of all minority communities in Kosovo and also representatives of the Government and other relevant public institutions. Its mandate is defined by Article 60 of the Constitution of Kosovo and the Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Communities and their Members in Kosovo.

Office for Community Affairs

The Office for Community Affairs (OCA) was established in 2008 under the Office of the Prime Minister to act as focal point for community issues within the government. Specifically, the OCA aims to assess the situation facing minority communities in Kosovo and advise the Prime Minister and the Government accordingly. Moreover, the OCA is mandated to monitor the impact of governmental policies on minority communities, increase awareness of community members on their rights and the government policies affecting them and support initiatives addressing identified needs of communities. It is also intended to act as a clearing house for the widespread distribution of communities-related policies and laws and raise awareness among all community members regarding their rights.

Office of the Language Commissioner

The Office of the Language Commissioner (OLC) was established in April 2012 with the purpose of preserving, promoting and protecting the official languages – i.e. Albanian and Serbian – and their equal status in the Republic of Kosovo and its municipalities, while ensuring language rights to the

Bosnian, Turk, Gorani, Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, whose mother tongues are not an official language.

The Language Policy Board, along with the Language Policy Network, are the supporting mechanisms of the OLC. The Board, composed of twenty members representing relevant institutions, experts and linguistic communities, provides institutional support for the development, implementation and enforcement of language policies, and the Language Commissioner is obliged to submit his report to the Board, as well as to the Government and the Assembly.

The OLC is also in charge of supervising the implementation of the Law on the Use of Languages and conducting inquiries on complaints received related to the lack of equal recognition of the official languages, as well as languages of communities whose mother tongue is not an official language. Finally, the Language Commissioner is responsible for advising the Government and institutions regarding the use of languages.

Advisory Office on Good Governance, Human Rights, Equal Opportunity and Gender Issues

The Advisory Office on Good Governance, Human Rights, Equal Opportunities and Gender Issues (AOGG), operating under the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), mainly has an advisory and monitoring role vis-à-vis government ministries. Although it is not dedicated exclusively to the rights and interests of communities, it must involve and engage with communities in the context of its obligations to protect and address good governance, human rights, equal opportunities and gender issues. It should also be mentioned that AOGG has been assigned the key monitoring and coordinating role for the implementation of the Strategy for the Integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities in the Republic of Kosovo 2009-2015, a key instrument for the members of these communities.

Ministry for Communities and Return

The Ministry for Communities and Return (MCR) aims to protect the rights of minority groups and returnees, including the right to return, as defined in articles 3 and 4 of the Constitution of Kosovo. Its mandate covers a wide range of activities, including: creating favourable conditions for a sustainable return process by promoting trust, dialogue; and, reconciliation among communities through various strategies and programmes and ensuring that policies at the central and local levels contain provisions to protect community rights, human rights and returnee interests, including free movement, use of minority languages, freedom of expression, equal representation, access to courts, housing rights and local services.

Committee on Rights and Interests of Communities and Returns

The Committee on Rights and Interests of Communities and Returns is a permanent committee of the Kosovo Assembly which acts as a safeguard for community interests in the legislative process. It is composed of Assembly members holding seats reserved or guaranteed for the Serb community, other non-majority communities and the majority community. It reviews legislation and makes recommendations based on the rights and interests of communities, and it can further propose laws to address the concerns of communities.

2.2.2 Local level

Municipal Communities Committee

This is a mandatory committee for all municipalities which is established in all municipalities. The Municipal Communities Committee (MCC) is mandated to ensure that the rights and interests of communities are respected through the review and provision of recommendations on municipal policies and actions. It is comprised primarily of community members who are in a numerical

minority at the municipal level and should meet at least once a month. Key reference documents relevant to this Committee can be found in Article 53, Law on Local Self Government (No.03/L-040, 2008), the Administrative Instruction 03/2014 on the Procedure of Establishment, Composition and Competencies of Standing Committees in the Municipality, and, Communities Committee Guidelines and Terms of Reference.

Deputy Mayors for Communities / Deputy Chairpersons of Municipal Assemblies for Communities

These two posts are mandated to advise the mayor and municipal assembly respectively on community issues. Additionally, they have a role to promote inter-ethnic dialogue, as per Article 55.1, Law No. 03/L-040 on Local Self Government, 20 February 2008, for DCMACs, and “Deputy Mayor for Communities – Terms of Reference”, endorsed by the Ministry of Local Government Administration on 21 November 2014.

Municipal Office for Communities and Returnees

This is a mandatory office for all municipalities and is established in all but four northern municipalities. The MOCR is mandated to protect communities' rights, ensure equal access to services and create the conditions for sustainable return. The MOCR reports directly to the Mayor. The size of office and number of posts is determined by the percentage of communities residing in the respective municipality and their needs, as well as the number of planned or expected returnees or repatriated persons. Key reference documents relevant to the MOCR are found in the Regulation 02/2010 for the municipal offices for communities and return, and the MOCR Terms of Reference – Standard Operating Procedures.

Municipal Human Rights Unit

Each municipality is required by law to establish a Municipal Human Rights Unit. These units are mandated to monitor compliance with human rights at the municipal level, specifically concerning discrimination, gender equality, children, disabled persons, the rights of communities, use of languages and human trafficking. They are also responsible for addressing the requests of residents of the relevant municipality in relation to human rights.

2.2.3 Donor community

Council of Europe

“Promoting Human Rights and Minority Protection³” was a regional project for South East Europe. Its aim was to improve access to rights for minorities at various levels of government based upon Council of Europe standards in this field and in particular on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities (FCNM) and the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages (ECRML).

The project was designed to break down barriers for minorities so that they could fully enjoy their rights. The project built on the fact that the experiences and challenges felt at the local level, including what limited resources were concerned, may be very similar in the Beneficiaries and that

³ Promotion of human rights and minorities protection in Southeast Europe – Joint Project of the European Union/Council of Europe, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/sarajevo/promotion-of-human-rights-and-protection-of-minorities>.

practical measures taken successfully in one municipality to increase cohesion and access to rights may also be useful to others.

The “**Access to education to forced returnees and to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities (ACCESS)**” project provided direct technical assistance to central and local authorities who were directly involved in improving the access to and quality of education for returnee children as well as Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children who for certain reasons remained out of school. The project’s work was aimed at directly involving Kosovo* authorities in the project activities and building local institutional capacity, so that schools, local authorities and local civil society were able to take over the support and education services to integrate the direct beneficiary groups by the end of the project.

This project built on the experiences and outcomes of the component on Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians of the IPA 2007 education project entitled “Interculturalism and the Bologna Process”, implemented by the Council of Europe between 2008 and 2011 in which it was highlighted how Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children needed special support, mainly in overcoming effects of social exclusion, preventing prejudice and discrimination as well as building their self-esteem and their trust in the school.

United Nations Development Programme

UNDP in collaboration with European Union and World Bank has implemented the Regional Roma Survey 2017, with Kosovo participating in it. The Regional Roma Survey 2017 is a first major collection of data on the situation of marginalised Roma in Kosovo, by comparing Roma to their non-Roma neighbours. 750 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian households and 350 non-RAE households have participated in the survey. The survey has extensively researched three themes: i) access to personal documentation; ii) employment and labour market discrimination; and iii) the impact of environmental deprivation on the lives and socio-economic position of these vulnerable communities. The findings of the report show an unfavourable position of the Roma community compared to their non-Roma neighbours.

OSCE Mission in Kosovo

This supports the protection of community rights and the improvement of communities' participation in public decision-making and governance processes and institutions. To assist in this effort, the OMIK regularly monitors the performance of municipal communities' protection mechanisms, which can assist in the identification of compliance gaps and tracking increased compliance. The monitoring results are published in Community Assessment Reports.

European Union

Besides supporting multiple projects that deal with the Roma community, the European Union Office in Kosovo, via the Commission, also undertakes the Kosovo Progress Report which evaluates Kosovo’s progress annually in achieving its reforms as part of European Union accession processes. The Progress Report is an important mechanism because it sets the roadmap for Kosovo institutions for legal and policy development.

The Kosovo Progress Report 2019 stated that “the situation of the Roma and Ashkali communities remains challenging and, in spite of efforts, they still suffer from marginalisation and discrimination, with women particularly affected. The poverty levels of these communities remain high compared to other communities in Kosovo. Implementation of the 2017-2021 strategy and action plan for the inclusion of the Roma communities in Kosovo society remains weak and policy interventions are not systematically evaluated. The coordination of government and donor assistance needs to be improved.”

The report further noted that “in the absence of universal health coverage, Roma and Ashkali communities face particular difficulties to access health services due to their difficult socio-economic conditions. Only access to very basic services is free of charge. The housing needs of the Roma and Ashkali communities are met mainly through international donor funding. Rates of unemployment are above 90%, in the Roma communities, categorised by work in the informal sector, holding insecure, low-skill and low-status jobs. Additional efforts are needed to facilitate the labour market integration of members of the Roma communities. Access to employment services and vocational training provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and other organisations is limited due to a lack of information. Efforts need to be made to prevent child labour and child marriage, which affect girls. Some people still face difficulties with civil documentation, often linked to return or repatriation.”

UNICEF

UNICEF works on the realisation of the rights of all children and young people, by providing them with support to build a strong foundation and have the best chance of fulfilling their potential and developing their skills. UNICEF has worked on numerous projects involving children from the Roma community, in the areas of education, health, social inclusion and so on. UNICEF also implements the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in Kosovo, an international comprehensive household survey designed to monitor the situation of children and women. UNICEF has in 2013-2014 in collaboration with the Kosovo Statistics Agency implemented the first MICS and, in parallel, the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities in Kosovo MICS, with a separate survey sample.

This survey presented up-to-date information for assessing the situation of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children, women and men, as well as providing data for monitoring the existing strategies and action plans on the inclusion of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. The key findings of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities in Kosovo MICS show stark differences when compared to the non-Roma community in all areas of measurement: early childhood mortality, nutritional status, breastfeeding, infant feeding and low birthweight, child health (vaccination, diarrhoea, acute respiratory infection symptoms and fever), water and sanitation, reproductive health (contraception and unmet needs, maternal and newborn health, and post-natal health checks), child development, literacy and education, child labour, early marriage, attitudes toward domestic violence, sexual behaviour, access to mass media and ICT technology, subjective well-being, tobacco and alcohol use. UNICEF is currently working on developing the survey design for MICS 2020, providing a new set of data that could be compared to 2013 data and show an updated view on the situation of Roma children and women living in Kosovo.

Other projects targeting Roma communities are presented in the table below.

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Kosovo	Post-Teaching Program for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Children	2015-2016	10,115
GIZ	Improving Education and health status of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian (RAE) children in Roma Mahalla, Mitrovica and Leposavić camp after evacuation and relocation process	2010-2016	707,852
SIDA	Support to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities in Mitrovicë/Mitrovica	2014-2018	1,724,057
Swiss Cooperation Office in Kosovo	Regional Support Facility-Roma Inclusion	2013-2016	193,052
Embassy of the United Kingdom in Kosovo	Better Integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians in Mainstream Education to support social inclusion and counter illegal migration and extremism	2015-2016	48,665
	Integrated Education for Roma Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje and strengthening connections between them to support social inclusion and counter illegal migration and extremism	2015-2016	16,573
	Return of Roma and Ashkali community to Fushë Kosovë to contribute to reconciliation and reduce risk of conflict	2015-2016	151,330

2.3 Policy review

2.3.1 National strategy

The Strategy for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in the Kosovo Society 2017-2021, hereinafter the Strategy unless stated otherwise, is the top national policy that regulates inclusion of the Roma community. The mission of the Strategy is to promote and to ensure effective fulfilment of the rights of the Roma and Ashkali communities, in particular in the sectors of education, employment, health services, and housing, aiming at their full inclusion in all aspects of social life in Kosovo.

The drafting of the Strategy has benefited from the lessons learnt from the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan for Integration of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities 2009-2015, as well as the EU Framework on National Strategies for Integration of Roma until 2020. The Strategy identifies four priority areas that need to be addressed by the national strategies: education, employment and social welfare, health, and housing. Meanwhile, the cross-cutting issues are gender equality, security and registration.

Concretely, the strategic objectives of the Strategy are presented below:

- Strategic Objective 1: Increase the involvement of and provide opportunities for development, training and quality education for Roma and Ashkali communities;
- Strategic Objective 2: Improved economic and social situation of the Roma and Ashkali communities;

- Strategic Objective 3: Improving the health status and quality of life for members of the Roma and Ashkali communities;
- Strategic Objective 4: Ensuring sustainable housing for Roma and Ashkali communities in accordance with applicable legislation.

Due to unavailability of data, the review of results and impacts of this strategy are limited to two reports. Firstly, KOSINT 2020, in cooperation with Kosovo Education and Employment Network (KEEN), in April 2018, have published the “Evaluation Report on the Implementation of the Strategy for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali Communities in Kosovo Society in 2017.” This report contains the findings of the monitoring process of the first year of implementation of the Strategy, covering two out of four strategic areas, namely, education and employment and social welfare.

The summary finding of the KEEN Evaluation Report states that “the implementation of the Strategy in its first year of implementation remains remote from accomplishment of the foreseen activities, mainly due to lack of political commitment, insufficient financial and human resources for monitoring of the progress, and improper coordination of both central and local level institutions. The AOGG within the Office of the Prime Minister, as a responsible institution in charge of implementation and monitoring of the Strategy, lacks sufficient financial and human capacities to effectively accomplish its mandate. Such a lack of capacities has had a negative impact on the institutional coordination and setting up a regular institutional system for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Strategy at central and local level. On the other hand, municipalities have not developed Strategy monitoring mechanisms, as planned in the Strategy, and have not allocated funds for 2017. The obstacles to the implementation of the Strategy at local level are affected by the delays of the central level responsible institutions for finalisation of terms of reference for Municipal Action Committees”

Secondly, published at around the same time in April 2018, UNDP Roma Survey Kosovo 2017 reports that “Roma face limited access to opportunities in virtually every aspect of human development, such as basic rights, health, education, housing, employment and standard of living.” According to this report, there is a wide gap between Roma and neighbouring non-Roma in terms of human capabilities and material well-being. The report also notes a stark gap in severe material deprivation, education, labour markets, health and housing.

2.3.2. Local Action Plans for the Inclusion of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities

All ROMACTED Programme partner municipalities have a municipal policy for the inclusion of the Roma community, packaged under Local Action Plans (LAPs). OSCE has supported Mitrovica South in drafting its LAP, whereas all other partner municipalities have had their LAP drafted with the support of Kosovo Education and Employment Network (an EU project).

As per the rule, LAPs are based on the applicable national laws and policies for the inclusion of Roma and were drafted based on the inputs of municipal departments and Roma community representatives. The methodology of drafting the LAPs has followed a few steps: preparation, selection of strategic objectives, situational analysis and data collection, development of goals and activities, budget and activity planning, and LAP drafting.

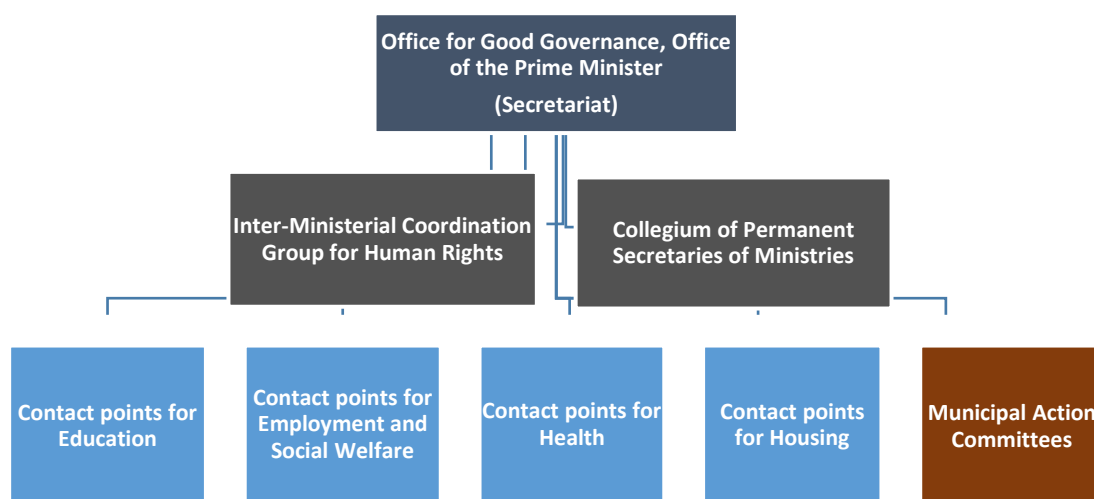
The timeframe for LAPs in Ferizaj/Uroševac, Obiliq/Obilić and Istog/Istok runs between 2017 and 2021, whilst the rest of the partner municipalities have their LAPs between 2018 and 2022, with the exception of Mitrovica South’s LAP that expires this year (2016-2019).

With the exception of Mitrovica South, all other partner municipalities have developed their LAPs around four strategic objectives: education, employment and social welfare, health and housing. The LAP for Mitrovica South include a broader number of strategic objectives, including education, health, employment and social welfare, housing, infrastructure and security, media, and culture, youth and sport.

Regarding harmonisation of LAPs with the Strategy, there is a discrepancy because the Strategy recognises only Roma and Ashkali communities, whereby the LAPs recognise Egyptians as well.

The Strategy has a clearly laid out mechanism for coordination, monitoring and implementation of the Strategy and the LAPs, extending in both central and local level. As presented in the scheme below, AOGG is charged as the Secretariat responsible for coordination, monitoring and implementation of the Strategy. Concretely, AOGG is mandated with developing roles and responsibilities, and coordination of the activities of the responsible mechanisms for the implementation of the Strategy. Besides the Secretariat, the mechanisms for implementation of this Strategy and its Action plan, at the central level also include the Contact Points from the relevant Ministries (education, employment and social welfare, health and housing); whereas, at the local level, the Strategy mandates the establishment of the Municipal Action Committees (MACs).

Overall, AOGG has the key role in the process of monitoring and evaluation of the Strategy. As part of its mandate, AOGG has developed the Terms of Reference for Contact Points and MACs, which has communicated the Terms of Reference to the newly elected Mayors through the Ministry of Local Governance Administration (MLGA) in October 2017. The latter, MLGA, issued a formal letter in January 2018, addressed to Mayors of the municipalities in Kosovo, asking them to establish the MACs, as mandated by the Strategy as a supporting structure for monitoring and coordination of the Strategy at the local level. MACs are to be established in all municipalities that have LAPs⁴ in Kosovo and they should be comprised of 11 members (7 members from authorities and 4 members from the civil society dealing with Roma community). To further aid the implementation of the Strategy, LAPs are being developed by the municipalities to promote the inclusion of the Roma community at the local level in the respective municipalities.



⁴ Municipalities that have LAPs: Ferizaj/Uroševac, Gjakovë/Đakovica, Lipjan/Lipljan, Gračanica/Graçanicë, Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, Prizren, Istog/Istok, Klinë/Klina, Obiliq/Obilić, Shtime/Štimlje and Mitrovica South.

Figure 1: Functional mechanisms in local and central level for implementation and monitoring of the Strategy

2.3.3 Budgetary planning at local level on Roma inclusion

Invariably, all partner municipalities have three main budgetary sources for the implementation of their respective LAPs, namely, the municipal budget, donors, and central institutions. Although a separate point but noteworthy, the central level does not have a budget line to implement activities coming from the Strategy and so far there has not been any funding allocation for the implementation of the Strategy.

As can be seen from the table below, all partner municipalities have drafted and budgeted their LAPs respectively. However, only three out of eight have made budgetary planning for 2019 and two partner municipalities, Obiliq/Obilić and Lipjan/Lipljan, have allocated funding for implementation of LAP for 2019. Other municipalities have expressed interest in allocating funding for activities that go towards implementation of their LAPs.

	LAP drafted and approved by the Municipal Assembly?	LAP Total Budget 2018-2022	LAP Budget planning for 2019	Municipality allocated funds/ budget for implementation of LAP for 2019?	If YES, indicate value	LAP Municipal Action Committee has been formed?
Gjakovë/Đakovica	YES	€ 878,250.00	€ 164,280.00	NO	N/A	YES
Gračanica/Graçanicë	YES	€ 323,140.00	N/A	NO	N/A	YES
Mitrovica South*	YES	€ 46,320.00	N/A	NO	N/A	YES
Lipjan/Lipljan	YES	€ 428,450.00	€ 108,759.00	YES**	€ 20,000.00	YES
Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje	YES	€ 956,400.00	N/A	NO	N/A	YES
Ferizaj/Uroševac	YES	€ 1,345,840.00	€ 332,710.00	NO	N/A	YES
Istog/Istok	YES	€ 101,400.00	N/A	NO	N/A	YES
Obiliq/Obilić	YES	€ 762,167.00	N/A	YES	€ 20,000.00	YES

* LAP valid for 2016-2019

** Funds allocated for housing

3. Findings

3.1. Education

3.1.1. Municipality Needs Assessment in Education

a) School infrastructure improvement projects

The majority of partner municipalities (five out of eight: Gjakovë/Đakovica, Gračanica/Graçanicë, Mitrovica South, Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje and Ferizaj/Uroševac) have reported school improvement projects, completed in the last three years. Obiliq/Obilić has reported a municipal project in the village of Palaj to be implemented shortly. Lipjan/Lipljan and Istog/Istok have reported that, in their respective municipalities, no school improvement projects have been completed in the past three years. Lipjan/Lipljan has stated that this is due to budgetary limitations, whereas Istog/Istok, although they acknowledge that they are committed to improving the school infrastructure, have not provided a justification as to why no school improvement projects have taken place in the last three years.

Partner municipalities that have reported completion of school improvement projects in the past three years, have also reported that they have received EU funding for these projects, with the exception of the Municipality of Ferizaj/Uroševac, which has received funding from the US Embassy.

b) Teacher training

With the exceptions of Gračanica/Graçanicë and Lipjan/Lipljan, all other partner municipalities have reported completion of teacher training in the past three years. Gračanica/Graçanicë has reported that they do not have any information on teacher training considering that this activity is completely under the administration of the Ministry of Education in Serbia, whereas Lipjan/Lipljan has reported that teacher training is not included in the municipal budget.

Gjakovë/Đakovica, Mitrovica South, Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje and Istog/Istok have received EU funding for teacher training completed in the past three years.

c) School mediators active in Roma community

With the exception of the Municipality of Ferizaj/Uroševac and the Municipality of Gračanica/Graçanicë, all other municipalities have reported school mediators active in the Roma community. Gračanica/Graçanicë has provided guidance to seek this information at the relevant departments of the primary and the secondary schools where representatives of the Roma community are represented.

On the other hand, of the municipalities that reported school mediators active in the Roma community, Mitrovica South tops the list with the highest number of school mediators (55 in total: 40 in vocational education and 15 in school drop-out), followed by Lipjan/Lipljan and Istog/Istok municipalities, each with 10 school mediators respectively. Gjakovë/Đakovica has the reported the lowest number of school mediators (2).

d) Municipal support programme for schools with Roma children

Except for Obiliq/Obilić, all other municipalities have reported funding of support programmes for schools with Roma children. The support programmes are variable across the respective municipalities. For instance, Lipjan/Lipljan partially supports by funding the spaces for Learning Centres, whereas Gračanica/Graçanicë, besides providing financial and logistics support to the Roma Education Centre, also provides support with school trips, heating, school and sports events and printing of materials. On the other hand, Istog/Istok has reported a more multidisciplinary

approach by showing support with programmes in the areas of drop-out prevention, school registration and awareness-raising and financial support to civil society engaged in these fields. In that regard, In Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, programmes for schools with Roma children are this year funded by Voice of RAE NGO.

e) Key local departments for education issues

All municipalities have reported that the key department for this area is the Department of Education, responsible for drafting inclusive education policies. Municipal Offices for Communities and Returnees have also been flagged as appropriate referral offices in the area of community education.

f) Addressing education issues at the local level

All municipalities have reported that education issues may be addressed at the local level. At the local level, education issues can be addressed through Local Development Plans, Regulations, Municipal Education Plans, LAPs and consultations with Civil Society.

g) Municipal capacities in designing and implementing education projects

Half of the partner municipalities (Mitrovica South, Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, Istog/Istok and Obiliq/Obilić) have reported the need for capacity-building in fundraising. Lipjan/Lipljan and Gjakovë/Đakovica have reported that they have capacity in designing and implementing education projects, and in the case of the latter, high capacity was reported. Gračanica/Graçanicë receives projects in a ready-made format developed by a team of external experts and implements them in accordance with the budgetary means available.

Overall

In general, partner municipalities vary in the level of:

- Knowledge about implemented projects and community data
- How they cooperate with NGOs and mediators
- Awareness of the need for capacity building

Summing up, although this activity was meant to assess the needs of the partner municipalities, when analysing the responses, the municipal needs for education of Roma are represented in broad and vague formulations, which in the best case scenario shows lack of creativity of the municipal officials toward municipal policies, and in the worst case, lack of understanding of the scope of the issue they are dealing with and/or capacity to provide a solution with sometimes limited financial and human resources.

3.1.2. Community Needs Assessment in Education

a) The main issues

The analysis has provided the barriers that were presented by the community representatives, thus grouped into five broad categories.

Economic situation: The community members reported finances as a critical barrier for education. Due to lack of finances, students are unable to attend, with some variance across municipalities, all levels of education from pre-school to tertiary. It is reported that the *quota system* for University students is misused to the disadvantage of the community students and scholarships are lacking. Buying school materials, such as school uniforms, books and so on, are putting a strain on the economic situation of the Roma community. The sustainability of Community/Learning Centres is reported as an issue.

Language: Language is another reported key barrier for the education of Roma students in general. It is reported that Romani is not taught in school. Moreover, Roma students in some cases are having difficulty in mastering non-native languages of tuition (be it Albanian or Serbian). This is mainly caused in cases when another language is spoken within the family i.e. Romani and the other, but school tuition is taught in another language. There were reported cases whereby returnee children from European countries and internally displaced children find it difficult to enrol into local schools due to language barriers. There is a reported shortage of school materials. A high illiteracy rate in the community is reported, especially among young females, coupled with the illiteracy of their parents and their [lack of] awareness on the importance of education.

Systemic restrains: It is reported that in general teachers are not interested in putting in extra effort with Roma students. Furthermore, discrimination at all levels was reported, as well as a report of a case of segregation of children at a primary school, namely Sveti Sava School in Obiliq/Obilić. Although the issue was taken up by the Department of Education, segregation is still disputed between the community and the school. On the institutional level, it was noted that the enrolment criteria is too high and should be lowered for enrolment in secondary school and university, as well for university scholarships. It is reported that Roma are not included in the decision of the Minister of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) to add five students in every secondary school who do not fulfil the criteria for enrolment. On the other hand, it was reported that there is no support for mediators and no school infrastructure, including at preschool level. In one municipality it is reported that there is no public land available to build a school in the proximity of the community.

School drop-out: School drop-out is reported in primary and secondary education. It is mainly linked with the financial situation of the student. Community representatives from most of the partner municipalities have reported school drop-out as one of the key barriers for the education of the Roma community, in some cases due to a shortage of scholarships and institutional support, and lack of perspective in employment.

Safety and mobility: Lack of transportation support for Roma students in some of the partner municipalities was reported as being another barrier in education. In some cases, Roma students have to walk long distances to go to school, facing danger from moving traffic and stray dogs.

b) Institutional response expressed through investment or activity

The community have reported a few cases of recent investment or activity undertaken by the relevant municipal institution in the areas presented below:

- School supplies
- Facility for learning centre, textbooks
- Intensive secondary education for 18 months for 20 students⁵
- Summer camp
- One preschool (albeit physically inaccessible due to distance from the community⁶)
- Transportation for returnees only
- Albanian language catch-up classes for Roma returnees who are attending the Serbian-based education system⁷

c) Needs/demands of the Roma community

In summary:

⁵ Project implemented in collaboration with Danish Refugee Council.

⁶ Reported in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje.

⁷ Reported in Obiliq/Obilić.

- Transportation for Roma students attending primary and secondary education at a certain distance
- Provision of school supplies and textbooks
- Lower enrolment criteria for higher registration rates in schools (including preschool)
- More scholarships (for all levels of education)
- A quota system that is properly managed
- Jobs for graduates at the Faculty of Education, to serve as role models
- Sustainability of Community/Learning Centres
- Albanian language classes
- Non-discrimination inside and outside of school
- More active mediators
- Schools and pre-schools to be built in areas where schools are in close physical distance to the community
- Literacy courses for women
- Amend the decision of MEST regarding enrolment criteria for secondary education to include Roma
- Catch up classes for Serbian language

d) Obstacles to meeting the needs/demands

In summary:

- Scholarship funds are used for household designations (such as food, heating, etc.)
- University quota system for secondary education is discriminatory to Roma
- Political will at the local level and lack of interest in dealing with Roma education
- Lack of awareness from parents in valuing education
- Discrimination and stigma in the schools
- Need for extra curricula activities from the side of the teachers is not addressed
- Lack of funds for education projects (including for mediators and Learning Centres)
- Socio-economic situation of Roma families
- Lack of information
- Parallel system (education and social welfare⁸)

e) Potential solutions

In summary:

- Provision of scholarships for tertiary students (by lowering the criteria of eligibility, i.e. grade average 7.5)
- Higher level of accountability in administration of university quota system
- Recruitment of mediators by municipality and awareness-raising activities for parents
- Municipality to provide support with transportation and school supplies
- Implementation of the Law on Discrimination and awareness-raising activities for school management, teachers and students
- Municipality to organise catch-up classes for drop-out students in primary and secondary education
- Engagement of the community in monitoring drop-out cases and more active Parent Councils

⁸ Roma community attending the parallel Serbian-language education are eligible for social welfare support from the Government of Serbia. This in turn creates a financial incentive for Roma to attend education in Serbian language. Education in Serbian language creates difficulties for Roma to transition to Albanian language system, be it for tertiary studies or work.

- Budgetary planning for Community/Learning Centres and other support that has financial implications (e.g. school supplies, uniforms, etc.)

Overall

It is reported that the community is not participating in decision-making about education issues in any substantial way, which could be interpreted as institutional exclusion. This situation is furthermore aggravated by discrimination and stigma that Roma students face inside and outside of the classroom.

Almost counterintuitive when compared to the call for non-discrimination, there is also a clearly defined need for affirmative action (positive discrimination) in the area of education for Roma. This affirmative action would seek to set a quota system for Roma students in all levels of education (preschool to university), lower the criteria for enrolment and provide scholarships.

Based on the Community Needs Assessment reports, mediators are playing a vital role in coordination, communication, information sharing and outreach with the community. Municipalities are called upon to fund their salaries and support their activity. Additionally, local authorities are also called upon to take action in addressing issues related to the Albanian language (Obiliq/Obilić).

A loss of perspective is reported. Roma students lack motivation because they do not see a perspective of them gainfully employed in a fulltime job in the future. Making this problem harder is the issue of school drop-outs who, for lack of finances and/or institutional support, are unable to complete their education. It is proposed that community role models and regular awareness meetings would positively impact this situation.

When comparing the perceptions on institutional response and perceptions of key issues affecting education, as presented by the community, there appears to be a mismatch. Namely, the issues affecting education are presented to be much bigger and deeper in scope when compared to the institutional activity as a response to address those issues.

3.2. Employment

3.2.1 Municipality Needs Assessment in Employment

Gračanica/Gračanicë has left the section on employment blank, under the justification that employment does not fall within the purview of their competences, thus it is hereon excluded from the MCNA analysis of the area of employment.

a) Municipal projects in skill development and employment

All partner municipalities have reported to have implemented an employment project in the last three years. The Municipalities of Lipjan/Lipljan, Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje and Obiliq/Obilić have current contracts for seasonal work in maintenance.

The Municipalities of Gjakovë/Đakovica, Mitrovica South and Istog/Istok have reported projects involving skill development. The Municipality of Mitrovica South has supported the incubation of 20 businesses. On the other hand, skill development activities in municipalities of Gjakovë/Đakovica and Istog/Istok have supported returnees as well.

Out of seven partner municipalities that have reported completion of projects in skill development and employment in the past three years, only three municipalities have reported that they have received EU funding for these projects (Gjakovë/Đakovica, Mitrovica South and Ferizaj/Uroševac).

Similarly, only three municipalities have reported receipt of non-EU⁹ funding for these projects, namely, the municipalities of Gjakovë/Đakovica, Ferizaj/Uroševac and Obiliq/Obilić.

These projects are reported to have been implemented by municipal employment agencies (Gjakovë/Đakovica and Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje) and NGOs in Mitrovica South. In Ferizaj/Uroševac, it is reported that this project on Roma returnees is implemented jointly between the municipality and IOM.

Gjakovë/Đakovica has reported the highest number of beneficiaries (40), whereas Obiliq/Obilić has reported the lowest number of beneficiaries (2). Lipjan/Lipljan and Ferizaj/Uroševac have reported 15 and 13 beneficiaries respectively.

b) Key local departments for employment issues

Employment centres and Agency for Employment have been flagged as the most relevant departments for employment issues. Additionally, municipal departments, NGOs and international organisations have also been reported to have competency regarding employment issues.

c) Addressing employment issues at the local level

The majority of partner municipalities have reported that employment issues cannot be addressed locally. It is proposed that if the municipality were to make an agreement with the Employment Agency, the local employment issues could facilitate the employment locally.

d) Municipal capacities in designing and implementing employment projects

The majority of municipalities (Gjakovë/Đakovica, Lipjan/Lipljan, Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, Ferizaj/Uroševac and Obiliq/Obilić) have reported medium capacity for drafting and implementing employment projects. Other municipalities have welcomed additional training in this area.

Overall

Based on the assessment reports from partner municipalities, seasonal work in cleaning services is the main form of employment for the Roma community. Furthermore, local authorities see themselves as not competent in dealing with employment for Roma and rely on the guidance of the central authorities for policy and funds in this area. In their response, partner municipalities convey a general attitude that the Roma community is not interested in getting trained or employed, in disregard of factors which may have brought upon this situation.

On the other hand, although partner municipalities have implemented employment projects for Roma community, they require more capacity-building in this area, as well as new and more proactive approaches in dealing with employment of Roma.

3.2.2. Community Needs Assessment in Employment

a) The main issues

For the purpose of the analysis, the barriers that were presented by the community representatives are grouped into three broad categories.

Discrimination: the community representatives have reported a lack of employment opportunities due to discrimination. Discrimination is reflected in different ways starting with non-implementation of the 10% employment quota but also in the form of social discrimination in both

⁹ GIZ, UNDP, USAID, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, and Voice of RAE.

public and private spheres. The situation is exacerbated by the privatisation of services in the public sector which has traditionally been the area where Roma community received employment (e.g. cleaning and maintenance services). According to the community representatives, this situation is not helped by Roma political representatives not taking a more proactive role in the area of employment for the Roma.

Education: is one of the reported key issues to the employment of Roma. Roma students, due to their financial situation, are unable to attend education. Furthermore, it has been reported that employment is affected by a lack of vocational education and skills training for Roma. Additionally, the education system is not employing Roma teachers in schools. Another key issue for employment is language. As reported, Roma who graduate from Serbian secondary education have difficulties transitioning from Serbian-language pre-university education into Albanian spoken jobs.

Lack of institutional support is reported to affect employment because there is no support for small businesses from municipal authorities (including women entrepreneurs). Alternatively, the authorities are not providing subsidies of salaries for private sector employment when hiring Roma employees, thus creating incentives for hiring more Roma. This situation is coupled with a lack of internship opportunities for the Roma community and, additionally, there is a lack of communication and exchange of information on employment opportunities. It is reported that no Roma is employed through Employment Centres.

b) Institutional response expressed through investment or activity

The community reported a few cases of recent investment or activity undertaken by the relevant municipal institution in the areas presented below:

- A very brief project of subsidies of salaries for the private sector
- NGOs have supported a few programmes for internships and seasonal employment
- Some training offered for Roma women in professional training and small businesses, but their qualifications are really low
- Returnees are the only beneficiaries of Albanian language courses

c) Needs/demands of the Roma community

In summary:

- Law on employment quota to be implemented and institutions to be sanctioned if found breaching the law
- Job security of Roma in privatised services, by providing work contracts
- Salary subsidies as an incentive for employing Roma in private sector
- Combating discrimination in employment for Roma
- Changes in laws to include tax reduction for companies that employ Roma
- Internship opportunities and employment of Roma youth in public and private sector
- More professional training (especially for women)
- Employing Roma students in the education sector as teachers
- Better and timely information-sharing on employment opportunities
- Affirmative measures for Roma community on employment
- Lowered criteria for women to access professional trainings and support for small businesses
- Empowering and support of small community businesses

d) Obstacles to meeting the needs/demands

In summary:

- Lack of awareness and willingness of municipalities to implement the employment quota

- Lack of willingness and finances to support subsidies of salaries for private sector
- Discrimination from the public and private sectors
- Bias against the Roma community
- Absence in employment perspective for Roma graduates and lack of motivation
- Lack of sustainability for entrepreneurship initiatives
- Lack of work experience due to long-term informal employment and/or lack of it

e) Potential solutions

In summary:

- Applicability of the affirmative measures in employment of Roma communities
- Professional training and catch-up classes for secondary education drop-outs
- Stimulate entrepreneurship through subsidies of small businesses (dedicated municipal fund) and tax exemption for those who employ Roma in the private sector
- Subsidy for salaries of Roma employees in the private sector
- Internship opportunities for Roma graduates in the public sector
- Need for retention in education up to graduation
- More youth in professional training
- Planning of Roma employment in the municipal action plans and with that seeking employment opportunities
- Engage employment councils from Roma community at Employment Centres
- A database of Roma community graduates and their profiles
- Offering Albanian languages for those who need Roma
- Awareness campaign on the importance and methods of job seeking

Overall

To some extent, discrimination is affecting employment of Roma in both public and private sectors. The employment of Roma appears to be entrenched in seasonality and waste collection. Unavailability of internship opportunities and subsidies for small businesses is having a genuine impact on the community. The law in Kosovo has a provision of job quota of 10% for communities, however, this law is not being implemented. With no training, poor qualifications and no institutional support, Roma employment is embroiled in a vicious cycle. Not surprisingly, the community representatives are calling for affirmative action to improve this situation, by creating a sense of security and sustainability for the community in the employment sector.

Key to this change will be the political will of municipal authorities and finance schemes that support internships, job placements and small businesses. Moreover, the quota system needs to be implemented successfully and institutions found breaching the law should be sanctioned; the institution of Ombudsperson should be involved in this process. Alternatively, central level authorities can create an incentive for municipalities respecting the quota system by providing additional funding support. In this regard, a special fund would need to be created.

Language and transition into labour market are very important in the context of employment. Roma students who attend Serbian-language pre-university education should have the means to transition into the Albanian speaking employment sector, through provision of Albanian language courses. In this regard, improving communication and information-sharing would increase the chances of Roma jobseekers being motivated and engaged. This could be achieved through community mediators and/or Roma employees in municipality offices.

3.3 Housing

3.3.1. Municipality Needs Assessment in Housing

a) Housing projects

With the exception of the municipalities of Mitrovica South, Ferizaj/Uroševac and Istog/Istok, all other partner municipalities have reported completed housing projects in the past three years. Ferizaj/Uroševac has reported that 38 apartments were allocated by the municipal commission, however, due to a complaint, the case has been lodged at the court of law. Mitrovica South has reported that currently there is no demand for housing due to increased engagement in this area in the past: currently housing is not a priority policy, there is no funding available for housing projects allocated. Istog/Istok has reported housing projects, where the beneficiaries were 10 single mothers of the Albanian majority community. In this list, Gjakovë/Đakovica leads with 31 houses built in the past three years (supported by UNHCR, IOM and DRC), Obiliq/Obilić has 28 houses (supported by IOM) and Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje has built 20 houses (IOM) and renovated 30 houses (supported by VORAE); VORAE is also supporting the Municipality of Lipjan/Lipljan in housing projects. Gračanica/Graçanicë has built four residential projects, whereas works on nine residential projects are ongoing. From the response received, it is not specifically clear if the housing projects were for returnees or resident Roma communities (social welfare recipients).

Half of partner municipalities have applied for funding for housing projects (Gjakovë/Đakovica, Gračanica/Graçanicë, Mitrovica South and Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje). Out of this group, only Gračanica/Graçanicë has reported to have not received EU funding for housing projects. On the other hand, Obiliq/Obilić has received EU funding for housing projects even though they did not apply for funding. Non-EU donors have supported Gračanica/Graçanicë (Ministry of Local Administration) and Obiliq/Obilić (Embassy of Luxembourg).

The number of Roma family beneficiaries of housing projects are somewhat similar for Gjakovë/Đakovica (31 families, 174 family members), Gračanica/Graçanicë (two families), Mitrovica South (100 community members), Lipjan/Lipljan (33 families) and Obiliq/Obilić (32 returnee families).

b) Key local departments for housing issues

It is reported that the MOCRs, Department of Urbanism, Department of Health and Social Welfare and Department of Cadastre are the key departments for referring or addressing housing issues.

c) Addressing housing issues at the local level

Most of the partner municipalities have reported that housing issues may be dealt with locally. Contrary to that, the Municipality of Istog/Istok has reported that housing issues cannot be dealt with locally due to the lack of public land available. Lipjan/Lipljan has reported that housing issues may be partially dealt with locally and Obiliq/Obilić has reported that working groups can facilitate this process but as a municipality they are discontent because their municipality is becoming a “camp of communities” coming from all parts of Kosovo.

d) Municipal capacities in designing and implementing housing projects

All partner municipalities have reported a need for capacity-building in designing and implementing housing projects. This is the case because traditionally these projects were developed and implemented by external partners, where partner municipalities had a smaller role in the process.

Overall

The bulk of work in housing issues of the Roma community is done under the initiative of international organisations and donors working in Kosovo. The question of social housing for Roma community does not appear to be a priority for partner municipalities, some of which are claiming a lack of municipal land available for addressing this issue. Evidently, housing issues affecting the Roma community transcend the availability of land and the legalisation of their properties.

3.3.2. Community Needs Assessment in Housing

a) The main issues

The analysis has provided the barriers that were presented by the community representatives, grouped into four broad categories.

Documentation of ownership: the community representatives have reported that the Roma community has a key issue with cadastral documents, lack of possession list and other ownership documents affecting housing. In this regard, legalising their properties and informal settlements is seen as an important issue for housing¹⁰.

Discrimination and exclusion: when it comes to the allocation of social housing, it is reported that Roma seldom benefit. Additionally, there are reports whereby the municipality does not want to sign an agreement with NGOs to build houses for Roma and, in other cases, the municipality does not build houses on the pretext of unavailability of public land. Moreover, it is reported that very often returnees get better treatment than residents. It is also reported that in many cases more than one family live in one house, and this disqualifies them from receiving social welfare support. Connected to this, apartments that were allocated by the municipality and other donors, i.e. the Plemetin apartment block, are now too small, because over time the size of the families has increased.

Poor infrastructure: Community representatives have reported that, in most of the areas inhabited by the Roma community, roads are not asphalted, there is a lack of lighting and sewage system, and houses do not have toilets. In other cases, some houses are in need of renovation and, in some cases, the houses are located in areas close to illegal dumpsites.

b) Institutional response expressed through investment or activity

The community representatives have reported a few cases of recent investment or activity undertaken by the relevant municipal institution in the areas presented below:

- One family received a house under concession for 100 years and two others received construction materials
- Assistance programmes for returnees
- Time-limited use of social housing and written agreements¹¹

c) Needs/demands of the Roma community

In summary:

¹⁰ UN-HABITAT definition of Informal Settlements: residential areas where 1) inhabitants have no security of tenure vis-à-vis the land or dwellings they inhabit, with modalities ranging from squatting to informal rental housing, 2) the neighbourhoods usually lack, or are cut off from, basic services and city infrastructure and 3) the housing may not comply with current planning and building regulations, and is often situated in geographically and environmentally hazardous areas.

¹¹ This report comes from Obiliq/Obilić, it refers to internal migration of Roma in Kosovo to Obiliq and how they live illegally in the collective housing. According to the report, the municipality offered these apartments for a short time and now it is supplying the occupants with written agreements.

- To have property ownership documentation
- Building of houses for families in need (social cases)
- Renovation or partial renovation of houses
- Exemption from property tax
- Access to housing grants (linked to documentation)
- Residents to gain equal support as returnees
- Turn illegal dumpsites into parks
- Fair treatment in allocation of social housing
- Small housing impedes access to social welfare for bigger families (those that are inhabited by two or more generations)

d) Obstacles to meeting the needs/demands

In summary:

- Lack of political will to support Roma community and political interests
- Lack of information sharing
- Discrimination¹² of municipal authorities and lack of finances
- Lack of ownership/property documentation
- Lack of private land for allowing big families to build other units
- Legal issues affecting ownership (fees, contact with owners and, in cases when the owner has passed away, getting the consent from living relatives, who are often living abroad)
- Focus on returnees only
- Lack of availability of public/municipal land
- Squatting of collective social housing¹³

e) Potential solutions

In summary:

- Better information sharing
- Municipal Offices for Communities and Returnees to visit the Roma community and identify housing cases in need
- Municipalities to give land to social cases to build the house
- Include one Roma community representative in the panel for selection of beneficiaries for social housing
- Increased engagement of the Roma community in dealing with municipal authorities and public discussion, and vice-versa, increased responsiveness of municipal authorities towards the requests of the Roma community
- Municipal authorities and cadastre offices to find a solution for regulation of ownership documentation, legalisation and registration of properties (using Croatia and North Macedonia as examples)
- Signed agreements with NGOs and building of new houses
- Exemption of the Roma community from property tax

Overall

The Roma community is affected by a lack of property and ownership documents. Most of the houses where the Roma community live are equipped with purchase contracts and do not possess

¹² In this case, discrimination is raised in the context of investment in public infrastructure, such as roads are not asphalted, lack of lightening and sewage system. The community representatives stated that they wish to see a change whereby the Roma community is treated equally with other communities and is part of municipal priorities.

¹³ Internal migration to Obiliq/Obilić has led to the squatting of the collective housing by the newcomers, putting a strain on the resident Roma community.

ownership and cadastral documentation, such as the possession list. Apart from discrimination, lack of documentation is also a key reason why they cannot get grants or other support for building houses from the donors. The potential solutions would include land property legalisation process using the experience of Croatia and North Macedonia.

Big families living in single-dwelling housing units are facing a myriad of challenges. This situation is aggravated due to the lack of social housing and investment in this area. Municipalities should have a list of families in need and provide municipal land for social housing. There are a number of issues reported in relation to infrastructure, such as access to drinking water, public street lighting and illegal dumpsites.

From the assessment reports, it appears that authorities and donors at both local and central level are positively discriminating returnees in terms of housing, start-up and other type of support, which is creating a rift between the returnees and the residents.

3.4 Health care

3.4.1. Municipality Needs Assessment in Health Care

Gračanica/Gračanicë has left the section on health care blank, thus it is hereon excluded from the MCNA analysis of the area of health care.

a) Health care projects

With the exception of Gjakovë/Đakovica, all other partner municipalities have reported implemented projects in health care in the past three years. Vaccination and/or awareness-raising activities were the most prevalent activity (reported by Lipjan/Lipljan, Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Istog/Istok and Obiliq/Obilić). Additionally, systematic health check-ups were implemented in Mitrovica South and Istog/Istok. The Municipalities of Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje and Obiliq/Obilić have reported mobile visits at home. Family planning activities were reported by Istog/Istok and Obiliq/Obilić. Awareness-raising activities on hygiene and health education were reported by Lipjan/Lipljan, Ferizaj/Uroševac and Istog/Istok.

No partner municipality has reported receipt of EU funding and/or other donors (with the exception of Obiliq/Obilić who has received funding from OSCE) for health care projects. Only municipalities of Lipjan/Lipljan (over 150 children), Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje (over 200) and Ferizaj/Uroševac (around 1600) were able to provide an estimated number of Roma beneficiaries.

b) Health care mediators active in Roma community

The Municipalities of Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje and Obiliq/Obilić top the list with the highest number of active health care mediators active in the Roma community, with five each. Lipjan/Lipljan and Ferizaj/Uroševac have three mediators each. Gjakovë/Đakovica and Istog/Istok have one mediator each.

b) Key local departments for health care issues

The Municipal Centre for Family Health and Department of Health and Social Welfare are flagged as key departments for health care issues.

c) Addressing health care issues at the local level

Two partner municipalities (Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje and Obiliq/Obilić) have reported that the health care issue cannot be dealt with at the local level, because health care does not fall under municipal competences.

d) Municipal capacities in designing and implementing health care projects

With the exception of Istog/Istok, all other municipalities have reported a need for capacity-building in designing and implementing health care projects. Istog/Istok has reported to have skilled medical staff that is trained on this topic, however, capacity-building for project proposal writing would be welcomed.

Overall

Based on the assessment reports, partner municipalities seem to have a strenuous relationship with health care mediators active in the Roma community. It is reported that working with mediators would result in improved communication between municipal authorities and the Roma community. A few partner municipalities regard health care as a central issue for policy and action. The remaining partner municipalities appear to be unsure as to what they can do locally to address health care issues for the Roma community.

3.4.2. Community Needs Assessment in Health Care

a) The main issues

The barriers that were presented by the community representatives are grouped into three broad categories.

Lack of medications and health care services: the community representatives have reported that lack of medication is a serious issue. Coupled with that, health care centres are not in the vicinity of community areas and sometimes they do not have specialised doctors on duty. It is also reported that there is a lack of health care services for regular check-ups, especially for women of the community (e.g. gynaecological, mammography, etc.) and home visits for the seriously ill who cannot be taken to the health centre are not offered.

Discrimination in health centres: the community representatives have reported discrimination in health centres. This is manifested through negligence and unfair treatment of the Roma community, and in some cases naming health centres in the vicinity of the Roma neighbourhoods as a “Gypsy health care centre”.

Information sharing: the community representatives reported that there is a lack of health care booklets and other health-related information provided to the Roma community, specifically the case for Roma using the Serbian parallel health system. Additionally, it is also reported that there is a low number of health care mediators who would facilitate information sharing and communication between the community and municipal authorities/health care institutions, reflective of cases for Roma using the Kosovo health system.

b) Institutional response expressed through investment or activity

The community representatives have reported a few cases of recent investment or activity undertaken by the relevant municipal institution in the areas presented below:

- Home visits for vaccination of children
- Neonatal home visits for newborn children
- Suspension of medical staff due to negligence toward patients from Roma community¹⁴

¹⁴ As reported in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje.

c) Needs/demands of the Roma community

In summary:

- Medication to be provided free of charge for patients suffering from serious/chronic illness
- Availability of systemic mobile medical check-ups free of charge
- Tackle discrimination and fair treatment
- Medical services to be available in proximity to areas where the Roma community lives
- Posting of specialised doctors in proximity to areas where the Roma community lives
- Home visits for the chronically ill
- To have sufficient health care mediators to make sure that the Roma community has health care information available

d) Obstacles to meeting the needs/demands

In summary:

- Lack of finances and application of the provision of the essential medication from the Ministry of Health
- Lack of finances from the municipality and lack of political interest
- Prejudice from health care staff toward the Roma community
- Unavailability of public land for construction of health care centres
- Parallel health care system (i.e. Belgrade administered)

e) Potential solutions

In summary:

- Provide vaccination services close to areas where Roma community live
- Weekly visits from doctors and/or mobile health clinic
- Awareness-raising on non-discrimination for health care employees and awareness-raising on reporting of discrimination for community
- Availability of specialised doctors who are easily accessible by the Roma community
- Employment of health care mediators
- Establishment of municipal fund for provision of health care and medications for recipients of social welfare
- Regular monitoring of health care providers by municipal authorities on issues of discrimination and neglect

Overall

Lack of medications and/or out-of-pocket payments for medication and medical treatment are especially affecting elder community members, children and chronically ill patients. Additionally, the lack of pensions for the medically retired based on chronic illnesses is an important health issue. In lieu of medical pensions, establishing a municipal fund for provision of health care and medication for recipients of social welfare would be a major step in addressing a key barrier in health care for the Roma community. Lack of information and mediators paid by the municipality are important issues regarding health care for the Roma community.

Roma community members often face discrimination by the staff in health centres in various forms, one example noted was that Roma women were not included in the initiatives for medical services such as mammography testing. Awareness-raising campaigns should be done among community and health care providers to understand issues of discrimination. This situation is aggravated by lack of health care centres and specialist doctors in the areas inhabited by the Roma community. A potential temporary solution is mobile health clinic services, until health care centres are built.

3.5 Inclusiveness

3.5.1. Municipality Needs Assessment in Inclusiveness

a) Social equality and inclusion projects

Only Mitrovica South and Ferizaj/Uroševac have reported implemented projects on social equality and inclusion in the past three years. The former, in collaboration with NGO PRAM, has implemented literacy project (reading and writing), whereas the latter, in collaboration with GIZ, has implemented a project on promotion and empowerment of social services. Gračanica/Graçanicë and Lipjan/Lipljan consider that the Roma community are well integrated in their respective municipalities.

Out of all the partner municipalities, only Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje has reported receipt of funding (both EU and non-EU) for social equality and inclusion projects, although they have not reported to have implemented any such project.

b) Key local departments for social equality and inclusion issues

The key municipal departments for social equality and inclusion are reported to be the Department for Gender Equality, Department for Health and Social Welfare, Office for Communities and Returnees, Centre for Social Work, Office for Human Rights and Department of Education.

c) Addressing social equality and inclusion issues at the local level

Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje and Obiliq/Obilić consider that social equality and inclusion issues can be partially addressed at the local level. Lipjan/Lipljan has reported that social equality and inclusion issues can be addressed locally.

d) Municipal capacities in designing and implementing social equality and inclusion projects

Only Lipjan/Lipljan has reported to have capacity in designing and implementing social equality and inclusion projects. The rest of the partner municipalities have reported a lack of capacity and/or human resources. Conceding to segregation of the Roma community under the justification of the existence of the parallel system, Obiliq/Obilić has reported that social equality and inclusion of Roma does not fall within the purview of municipal competences.

Overall

Based on the assessment reports, the lack of projects and municipal activity on social equality and inclusion of Roma is based on the understanding of partner municipalities that there is no discrimination and that the Roma community is integrated into society, and in some cases positively discriminated.

3.6 Agriculture

4.6.1. Community Needs Assessment in Agriculture

a) The main issues

The barriers that were presented by the community representatives are grouped into two broad categories.

Lack of support: the community representatives have reported lack of subsidies as the main issue for engaging in agriculture. In cases when subsidies are available, the criteria is too high. Additionally, lack of equipment for agriculture is a reported issue for agriculture.

Discrimination: the community representatives have reported discrimination to the effect of not being able to sell their agricultural products. Possibly linked to both issues, there is a lack of interest to work on agriculture.

b) Institutional response expressed through investment or activity

The community representatives have reported that relevant municipal institutions have offered subsidies but the criteria are too high.

c) Needs/demands of the Roma community

In summary:

- To have support in developing agricultural business
- To lower the criteria for subsidies at the local and central level
- To have land and appropriate (ownership) documentation

d) Obstacles to meeting the needs/demands

In summary:

- High criteria for grants and subsidies in agriculture for the Roma community
- Prejudice of the population toward Roma
- Low/non-inclusion of community members in selection panels for subsidies
- Lack of land, documentation and information in regard to the agricultural programmes

e) Potential solutions

In summary:

- Municipality to provide support with grants, subsidies and equipment
- Ministry and Municipalities to lower the criteria
- To also support the farmers who have land on lease
- Better pay and normal working hours in line with the labour law
- To have a Roma representative on the selection panel for grants and subsidies
- The community to prepare a database of all Roma engaged in agriculture
- Better information sharing with and support to the Roma community by municipal authorities
- Resolving the issue of property/land documentation

Overall

Based on the assessment reports, there are rare cases of Roma who own land in rural areas. Istog/Istok Municipality is one of the examples where Roma families own and work the agricultural land. Land ownership is therefore an obstacle for the Roma community to engage in agriculture. In addition to that, there is a reported need for agricultural equipment. Seasonal work (in cleaning services) is reported to have an effect on agriculture because summer is the time when the two intersect. For seasonal work in agriculture, it is reported that working hours are too long, work conditions are poor, and benefits are small.

In cases where there is land and interest in agriculture, the criteria is too high for the Roma community. Lowering the criteria, training and information sharing would improve the situation. For those community members engaged in agriculture, discrimination and prejudice hinders the sale of their products.

3.7 Fundraising

3.7.1. Municipality Needs Assessment in Fundraising

a) Fundraising capacity

All reporting municipalities have reported a need for capacity-building on fundraising. Lipjan/Lipljan and Obiliq/Obilić outsource fundraising to private companies.

Fundraising is reported to fall within the purview of municipal competences.

b) Key local departments for fundraising

The local departments mandated with fundraising are the Department for Budget and Finance, Department for Public Services, Department for Agriculture, Department for Youth, Sports and Culture, Municipal Office for Community and Returnees, Department for Economic Development, Department of Urbanism and Office of the Mayor.

Overall

Based on the assessment reports, the municipal authorities are poorly equipped to deal with fundraising. Additionally, they have reported a need for capacity-building in the area of project writing, implementation and reporting.

3.8 Other

3.8.1. Community Needs Assessment in Other

a) The main issues

For the sake of analysis, the barriers that were presented by the community representatives are grouped into four broad categories.

Civil registration: the community representatives have reported lack of documentation and registration for repatriated children as an important issue. Children born outside of Kosovo and never registered, do not have a birth certificate and consequently do not have school documents.

Cultural activities: important issues for community representatives in the area of cultural activities were lack of support for youth in cultural and sport activities, and lack of preservation of cultural heritage. Linked to that, in some areas there are no community centres where cultural activities could take place.

Infrastructure: the community representatives have reported a number of issues related to infrastructure. Namely, lack of asphalted roads and street lightning, connection to water, sewage and electric network (including electricity fees), lack of parks and no kindergartens in rural areas, illegal dumpsites in proximity to areas inhabited by the community, no allocated space for wood cutters and, in some areas, accessibility to the cemetery.

Information and communication: lack of support for a local radio programme for the community is an important issue¹⁵. Additionally, there is a reported lack of communication and information sharing with municipal authorities.

b) Institutional response expressed through investment or activity

The community representatives have reported a few cases of recent investment or activity undertaken by the relevant municipal institution in the areas presented below:

¹⁵ The radio programme in the Romani language in Gračanica/Graçanicë serves as a positive example.

- Authorities and NGOs are working on civil registration of Roma children
- Some illegal dumpsites are being cleaned up by local authorities
- In one case, municipal authorities have made an agreement with KEDS to build an electric transformer to improve access to electricity

c) Needs/demands of the Roma community

In summary:

- To have all children registered in order not to be left out of the school system
- To clean and maintain dumpsites as soon as possible
- Youth to be active in cultural and sport activities
- To have roads asphalted and street lightning installed
- To have access to drinking water, sewage and the electric system
- More activities to preserve Roma tradition and culture

d) Obstacles to meeting the needs/demands

In summary:

- Individuals benefiting from waste recycling business
- Political unwillingness of municipalities to deal with problems and lack of finance
- Lack of kindergartens for children and finance for construction of kindergartens
- Unwillingness of the municipalities to deal with infrastructure problems

e) Potential solutions

In summary:

- Municipality to be more efficient in cooperation with CRPK and UNHCR in civil registration issues
- Municipal authorities to come up with sustainable solutions for illegal dumpsites
- Municipal authorities to allocate a spot for wood cutters
- Municipality to have a dedicated fund for cultural and sport activities, musical instruments, and to provide a facility for such activities
- Municipal authorities to provide a space for a community radio
- Engage more mediators to deal with issues of civil registration, communication with municipality and information sharing
- Municipal authorities to provide a space for a community centres
- Municipal authorities to build kindergartens in rural areas
- Access to water, sewage and electric system

Overall

Based on the assessment reports, dealing with infrastructure problems faced by Roma community is an important issue to be tackled by municipal authorities. Civil registration of repatriated Roma would increase the chances of school registration. Municipal authorities should also engage and finance the promotion of cultural activities, in that regard having community radio stations would help in preserving the cultural heritage and information sharing.

4. Recommendations

The Assessment Report provides a baseline overview on the capacities and needs of the Roma communities and the beneficiary municipalities of the ROMACTED Programme in Kosovo. At the time when this report was drafted, all eight ROMACTED partner municipalities have LAPs with

developed budgets, however, only three out of eight have made budgetary planning for 2019; with other municipalities having expressed interest on possibilities to allocate funding for activities that go toward implementation of their LAPs in the future. Future collaboration and monitoring of the partner municipalities will show if these numbers change in the future, but we will also see when the deadline for implementation of LAPs approaches, what the recommendations and suggestions will be from the municipal side in terms of implementation of the respective LAP.

At the central level, based on secondary data, the Assessment Report finds that the implementation of the Strategy “remains remote” from accomplishment of the foreseen activities, mainly due to lack of political commitment, insufficient financial and human resources for monitoring of the progress, and improper coordination of both central and local level institutions. Key to successful implementation, coordination and monitoring of the Strategy will be the effective functioning of the MACs in the partner municipalities, and budgetary planning and allocation for each of the identified priority.

Kosovo-wide and beyond the ROMACTED partner municipalities, other significant studies conducted by UNDP and UNICEF note a wide gap between Roma and non-Roma in terms of human capabilities and material well-being, and stark gaps in severe material deprivation, education, labour markets, health and housing. The situation is exacerbated by the lack of community-based consultation mechanisms or, where such mechanisms exist, exclusion of Roma, tokenism, inclusion of few, and mutual mistrust between the Roma community and the public institutions. A number of Community Assessment Reports published by OMIK show that the Roma community in Kosovo is experiencing powerlessness, dependency, pessimistic attitude towards the future perspective, loss of hope, lack of capacity and confidence. The local authorities, on the other hand, are entrenched in genuine possibility of a real dialogue with Roma community, have lack of knowledge on the Roma culture and tradition, are overwhelmed with the plethora of Roma related projects, and have limited knowledge and capacity to implement participatory democracy.

Using the findings from the CNA and MNCA, a number of relevant recommendations and critical concerns affecting Roma community were identified in the areas of education, employment, health care, housing, agriculture and civil registration. This process has also identified the capacity needs for both municipal authorities and community representatives and, if adequately addressed, would result in enhanced participation of the Roma community in local governance in Kosovo.

The Recommendations and Critical Constraints provided below are developed with the purpose of assisting CAGs and IWGs to focus their collaborative attention in working together to address the issues of relevance to the Roma community, resulting in an overall improvement of good governance and empowerment of the Roma community at the local level.

Education

As presented in Chapter 4, the Roma community face multiple obstacles in the area of education. A myriad of socio-economic-political factors is keeping the Roma community back from achieving higher collective educational attainment.

To address systemic restraints in the area of education for the Roma community, invariably across all ROMACTED partner municipalities, the representatives from CAGs have called for affirmative action of **lowering the criteria** for Roma community students for **school enrolment** (all levels, including preschool) and **university scholarships**. Lowering the eligibility criteria for the Roma

community would result in an aggregated effect of getting students from the Roma community to school and helping them complete the education.

As a concrete measure, the enrolment rate of Roma community students would benefit from the **inclusion of Roma community in the decision of MEST** to register annually five students who do not fulfil the criteria for enrolment in every secondary school in Kosovo.

Lowering the criteria for university scholarships for Roma students and establishing a quota system would help **counteract the impacts of the impoverished economic situation** of the Roma community that prevents Roma from completing tertiary education.

On the other hand, there is a need for more awareness among Roma parents to understand the importance of children's education, specifically awareness on allowing girls' education. In this regard, MEST should promote education among Roma communities through awareness-raising campaigns – activities that are already included in the Strategy.

Employment

As reported by CAGs and supported by nationwide surveys conducted by UNDP and UNICEF, employment for the Roma community is affected by discrimination in public and private sectors, low education and capacities, and lack of institutional support for small businesses. In the absence of more notable policy actions, Roma continue to be engaged in seasonal work in public utilities for meagre compensation and no job security.

To improve the situation of Roma employment, a number of policy recommendations are put forward. Primarily, the Roma community is seeking **the implementation of the 10% employment quota system for communities**. This policy would help the Roma community undermine the discrimination and stigma they face, with improved access to employment in both public and private sectors. For this policy action to succeed, the employment quota system requires close monitoring and sanctions for those found breaching it.

Education and vocational training greatly affect the employment of Roma. The recommendation is to provide **long-term jobs to Roma complemented with on-the-job training**.

Municipal authorities are advised to garner the political will and necessary finances to develop an **institutional support package** for the Roma community to support internship opportunities, vocational training, job placements and subsidies for small businesses (including women entrepreneurs). In an incentive scheme, the central authorities can support

the local level by providing additional funding support to municipalities that respect the employment quota system and have other policies in place for Roma employment.

In coordination with community mediators and/or municipal officers from the Roma community, the municipal authorities need to **improve communication that disseminates information on employment opportunities** for Roma community in their respective municipalities. On the other hand, Roma communities need to be proactive in demanding information and employment opportunities from the relevant local institutions.

Housing

In Kosovo, the Roma community is particularly affected by lack of property and ownership documents. The Roma community live in houses with purchase contracts but do not possess ownership and cadastral documents. Lack of documentation is one of the key reasons why Roma are ineligible for grants or other type of support for building houses from the donors.

The recommendation for addressing the housing issue for Roma communities in a more comprehensive manner is to follow the examples of **Croatia and North Macedonia in the land property legalisation process for Roma settlements/households**. The legalisation process directly affects Roma households through the improvement of their quality of living and better access to communal resources, as well as through the freeing up of equity for any further investment.

Municipalities should have a list of families in need, which live in overcrowded units and poor housing and provide municipal land and financial support for **social housing and investment projects** in areas populated by the Roma community. Investment in infrastructure would increase the access to drinking water, public street lighting and other utilities, thereby directly improving the quality of life of the residents.

A roundtable with ROMACTED beneficiary municipalities needs to be facilitated to address this important subject with a bottom-up approach where the needed housing policy reforms can be identified and proposed to the central government for implementation.

Health care

As reported by UNICEF MICS, the Roma community face stark differences when compared to the non-Roma community in all areas of health measurements. The CAG representatives have also reported a lack of medication, in some cases, discrimination in health centres and lack of information sharing as serious issues afflicting the Roma community in the area of health.

It is recommended that ROMACTED partner municipalities regard **health care as a central issue for policy and action** in inclusion of the Roma community.

In lieu of medical benefits, establishing a municipal fund for **provision of health care and medications for recipients of social welfare** would be a major step forward in addressing a key barrier in health care for the Roma community.

To improve communication and facilitate the dissemination of health information between the municipal/health authorities and the Roma community, it is recommended to **engage community mediators**. The list of essential medication it is unknown for the majority of the

Roma community. Information on the essential medication list and access to free medicine has to be offered to the community as a matter of urgency.

Inclusiveness

Based on the findings from the MNCA, all ROMACTED partner municipalities have expressed the need for capacity-building in designing and implementing social equality and inclusion projects. The justification for this is based on the lack of capacity and/or human resources.

The recommendation is to set up a **comprehensive capacity-building programme targeting the municipal offices** that are responsible for designing and implementing social equality and inclusion projects. Such a capacity-building programme would include training municipal officers on various tools for social, economic and political participation of marginalised groups, budgeting, project implementation, monitoring and reporting of social inclusion projects.

Fundraising

Based on the findings of the MNCA, the municipal authorities are poorly equipped to deal with fundraising, due to lack of capacity and/or human resources. Additionally, IWGs from all ROMACTED

partner municipalities have reported a need for capacity-building in the area of project writing, implementation and reporting.

The recommendation is to set up a **capacity-building programme targeting the municipal offices** that are responsible for fundraising for projects targeting the Roma community. With specific interest, ROMACTED partner municipalities have requested capacity-building in accessing IPA funds.

4.1. Critical constraints

Based on the findings of the CNA and MCNA, and for the purposes of the Assessment Report, three main critical constraints limiting the full inclusion of Roma community in all aspects of social life in Kosovo have been identified below.

Economic situation of Roma community

One main obstacle for full inclusion of Roma community in Kosovo is the **economic situation. The effects of impoverished economic situation of Roma community appear to be felt significantly in education.** Due to lack of finances, Roma students are unable to attend, with some variance across municipalities, all levels of education from pre-school to tertiary. Buying school materials is putting a strain on the economic situation of the Roma households. This situation in turn has resulted in a spike of school drop-outs in primary and secondary education, and the inability of Roma students finishing their tertiary studies.

On the other hand, **education is one of the key issues affecting the employment of the Roma community.** Due to the impoverished economic situation, young Roma have to abandon their education and turn to income generating activities to support their families, which has created the false sense that Roma youth are not interested in education and vocational training. In this situation, the Roma community stands limited chances of

successfully competing in the employment market in Kosovo, because of the systematic disadvantage they face due to the economic situation.

Low institutional capacity

State administration in Kosovo is being built with the support of international partners for 20 years now. This on-going reform has been aimed at establishing accountable and democratic institutions in Kosovo, at both local and central levels. The efforts of institutional capacity-building are showing incremental progress. Notwithstanding, and as synthesised from the findings of the MNCA reports, the **institutional capacities of the state administration in Kosovo for developing and implementing successful policies that aim for the full inclusion of Roma communities in all aspects of social life in Kosovo are low.** In addition, many policies at local level are incompatible with policies at the central level and vice versa.

In fact, the capacity-building need is a general feedback that all ROMACTED partner municipalities have provided during the MNCA. Local institutions have expressed a clear need to build their capacities in fundraising and designing policies/programmes for the inclusion of the Roma community and all citizens in general.

Lack of budgeting in LAPs

Currently, **only two out of eight ROMACTED partner municipalities have made budgetary allocations for 2019 in their respective LAPs. At the central level, there is no clear budget**

allocation for implementation of activities coming from the Strategy, and so far, there has not been any funding allocation for the implementation of the Strategy. Nevertheless, the reporting of the AOGG on the Strategy, provides a table with the financial expenditure of the respective line Ministry that goes toward the implementation of the Strategy.

Although significant efforts were made to support the Roma community's socio-economic-political inclusion, much remains to be done. In the light of this, more strongly committed institutional support is needed to improve good governance in practical terms and promote empowerment of the Roma communities at the local level in Kosovo.

ROMACTED at a glance KOSOVO

The official launch of the ROMACTED Programme in Kosovo took place on 31 May 2018 as part of the efforts of the European Union and Council of Europe in the Western Balkans and Turkey. On this occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with eight partner municipalities: Gjakovë/Đakovica, Gračanica/Graçanicë, Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South, Lipjan/Lipljan, Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, Ferizaj/Uroševac, Istog/Istok and Obiliq/Obilić.

The action is co-ordinated and monitored by the Council of Europe Office in Pristina working closely with Advancing Together, as the support organisation, a focal point for Kosovo and a team of facilitators and local experts.

As part of the efforts to build capacities of the local authorities and communities for the process of programme implementation, four workshops on "Participatory Local Strategic Planning" were organised during April and May 2018 in the beneficiary municipalities with the participation of Community Action Groups and Institutional Working Groups. The workshops focused on the ROMACTED methodological steps of implementation.

In addition to these workshops, beneficiary municipalities were provided with the following:

- Workshop on "Principles and Tools for working with the Roma communities at local level" – April 2019;
- Training on "Project Cycle Management" – June 2019;
- Training on the "Promotion and Protection of Women's Rights in Kosovo" – November 2019;
- Workshop on "European Union financial assistance for local authorities - Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance" (IPA) – January 2020.

The Advisory Group meeting took place in June 2019, bringing together the representatives from the local authorities, as well as central and international stakeholders.

A comprehensive Capacity and Needs Assessment study was carried out during 2018, completed in 2019, and presented to the various stakeholders of the programme.

The 4 steps of the ROMACTED Methodology

STEP 1: PREPARING THE PROCESS

ROMACTED was initially introduced to the municipal mayors where they ensured their commitment to the overall objective of the programme. The two main ROMACTED implementing mechanisms - the Community Action Groups (CAG) and the Institutional Working Groups (IWG) - were officially established in all eight municipalities during the first

quarter of 2018. Two municipalities have established IWG with the decision of the mayors, others with designations. With the aim of offering better access to the programme, an additional CAG was established at a later stage in Janjeve/Janevo village, Lipljan/ Lipjane municipality. The average number of Roma community members participating in the CAGs is 8 (2-3 women on average). The mayors delegated municipal contact points whose role is crucial in communicating with the local target groups.

STEP 2: ASSESSING NEEDS AND PRIORITISING

With the aim of assessing the existing situation and identifying and prioritising the needs of the community and the municipalities, a Capacity and Needs Assessment was carried out and completed in 2018. The identification and prioritisation of the needs and capacities were then used for addressing the issues on the Joint Meetings with beneficiary municipalities (CAG and IWG).

Local Action Plans for the “Integration of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities” are in place in all eight beneficiaries. The actions set in LAPs are in line with the community’s needs, the timeframes fall within the ROMACTED Programme’s duration, and plans have been approved by the local assemblies. Therefore, ROMACTED considered working with the current LAP and supporting their enactment and implementation.

In addition to the Local Action Plans, long term municipal planning in capital projects in the beneficiary municipalities was monitored and followed. The CAG members presented written requests for inclusion of the infrastructural projects, which in turn led to the inclusion of projects to improve the infrastructure of Roma settlements in the municipal plan in the late 2018. Projects on sewage, water pipes, street lighting, and road repairs were implemented during 2019 in some of the beneficiaries (Obiliq/Obilić and Ferizaj/Uroševac).

STEP 3: ADOPTING A JOINT ACTION PLAN

Two cycles of the Municipal Taskforce Group (MTG) meetings have taken place with the CAG and IWG in all eight municipalities. As part of the community mobilisation and empowerment, CAG members took the role of presenting priority needs to the IWG members and discussing them. Two issues were taken up by the municipalities in a unified approach. The first issue concerns scholarships for tertiary education, and the second one, internships for current students. Regarding the first one, Obiliq/Obilić revised the Municipal Regulation on Scholarships and included an affirmative approach for the Roma students. Other municipalities, depending on the approach and internal procedures, have either taken a decision to issue university scholarships for Roma students (eight in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje; four in Istog/Istok; one in Lipjan/Lipljane) or are in the process of taking a decision on the issuance of scholarships. With regard to internship opportunities within public institutions, beneficiary municipalities have offered a number of internships (2 to 5) for current Roma students. Applications from interested students are expected in each municipality. In addition, the MTG meetings initiated some other actions that were jointly carried out by the community and municipality as follows:

- A radio programme in the Romani language has been initiated on Radio Gračanica/Graçanicë. The programme is broadcast once per week;
- Bilateral meetings took place between Lipjan/Lipljan and Gračanica/Graçanicë municipalities in order to try and find a solution for the provision of transport for secondary school students in Janjeve/Janjevo;
- Action was taken to clean the Ali Ibra neighbourhood in Gjakovë/Đakovica through community mobilisation after an initiative from the municipal contact point. ROMACTED provided 100 caps for the volunteers taking part in the action;
- A number of community requests for specific community needs were addressed to the local and central institutions;
- Issues on environmental protection and safety were discussed and actions taken i.e. requesting/ providing trash bins and awareness-raising on the environmental protection in the Roma neighbourhood;
- Systematic medical check-ups for Roma women in the municipal healthcare institutions were taken up in each municipality.
- The revised Municipal Regulation on Scholarships in Obiliq/Obilic municipality which included an affirmative approach for Roma students was taken as a good practice with other municipalities encouraged to review the same regulation. Other municipalities, depending on the approach and internal procedures, have either decided to issue university scholarships for Roma students or are in the process of deciding on issuance of scholarships.
- Thematic meetings to discuss property rights were organised and facilitated with municipal authorities and the Roma communities in all beneficiary municipalities.

STEP 4: FINANCING AND PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Some beneficiary municipalities (Obiliq/ Obilić, Gjakovë/ Đakovica, and Lipjan/ Lipljan) have allocated funds for the implementation of the Local Action Plans in their respective municipalities. So far, other municipalities have not planned funds for the implementation of the plans, which represents an overall constraint for the implementation of the policy documents concerning Roma inclusion. Through regular meetings with the local institutions and specific training on the importance of the Roma inclusion, Roma-responsible financing has been put on the radar of the municipal officials.

All the participating municipalities have applied to the ROMACTED small grants scheme and nine projects are currently being implemented.

Synergies and co-operation

■ Ministry of Local Government Administration (MLGA) - a complimentary synergy has been developed with regards to building the capacity of local administrations i.e. principles of good governance, Roma social inclusion, project cycle, etc. Co-operation was extended with the Ministry about the indicators on Municipal Performance. A specific indicator has been developed by ROMACTED, based on the format and the parameters of the Ministry, and in line with ROMACTED objectives. This indicator has been shared with the Ministry for consideration;

■ Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MEST) - synergy created to provide support in education, namely on enacting administrative instructions and/or affirmative action about inclusive policies at municipal level;

■ Office of Community Affairs in Prime Minister's Cabinet (OCA) – co-operation has been agreed regarding community-related projects with ROMACTED municipalities. Also, synergies in co-ordination of the Roma-related issues at policy level have been established;

■ Roma Versitas Kosovo (RVK) – co-operation and support of the fifth edition of the Rolling Film Festival in Pristina. The event gathered together film makers of Roma and non-Roma origin who promoted Roma culture and history. The festival was attended by a plethora of interest groups from various backgrounds. In addition, with Roma Versitas, co-ordination has been established with regard to the data collection about the number and scope of studies of the Roma students in all beneficiary municipalities. Lists of students with detailed information has been shared by Roma Versitas. An outreach with potential students was conducted in some of the ROMACTED municipalities together with Roma Versitas;

■ UNDP ReLOaD – information was shared and co-ordinated with respect to the UNDP ReLOaD grant application procedure for two municipalities, including with Roma NGOs on the procedures of the application procedure. A practice of regular co-ordination meetings between the two programmes has been established;

■ Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD) – co-operation has been established regarding the agricultural grants for small farmers. The call was co-ordinated with the

Deputy Minister with the aim of distributing the information to potential Roma farmers. ROMACTED identified and shared information with the farmers;

▮ Peace Corps - The support team was invited to present the ROMACTED Programme during a training event for the 6th cohort of Peace Corps volunteers in Kosovo. Following this co-operation, a Peace Corps volunteer was placed with the Roma NGO to help the NGO Bram for a three-month period to build its capacities and provide support with English language learning;

▮ Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) – co-ordination and exchange on Roma-related issues has been established specifically with the Department of Human Rights and Communities. In the co-ordination effort, OSCE staff from the region were invited to participate at the Joint Meetings between the CAG and IWG of the beneficiary municipalities. In addition, OSCE’s call for Summer School participants was shared among young CAG members. Several of them participated in the school, which was aimed at promoting cross-regional exchanges and building upon the professional skills of young political experts;

▮ International Labour Organisation (ILO) - participation in the workshop following the closure of the project on “Promoting Decent Work Opportunities for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Youth in Kosovo”. The ROMACTED Community Needs Assessment in the area of employment was presented in the workshop. The findings from the ILO and ROMACTED were the same, and in a way validated the assessment done in the municipalities with CAGs. An added value from the ROMACTED side was the “potential solutions” that were given by the community itself, all with the objective to encourage mobilisation and motivation from the community on problem-solving;

▮ GIZ project on Capacity Development in Basic Education (CDBE) – co-ordination efforts were focused on three joint beneficiary municipalities, with an exchange of information and project-related activities;

▮ Advancing Together (ROMACTED Support Organisation) – Synergies and co-operation were developed with the Documentation and Cultural Centre of German Sinti and Roma on the 75th Anniversary of the Roma Genocide. The educational and commemoration event “Dikh He Na Bister” was held in Krakow and Auschwitz, Poland, and gathered together ROMACTED CAG and IWG members of the beneficiary municipalities and a number of Roma youngsters representing Kosovo;

▮ Roma Ashkali Egyptian Women’s Network (RAEWN) – contributed with their expertise to a half-day training with Roma women. This synergy greatly contributed to the sharing of information and increasing knowledge of the legal framework for the protection and promotion of women’s rights in general. This expertise could be utilised in future activities concerning women;

▮ The mayors of Fushe Kosove/Kosovo Polje (2018) and Lipjan/Lipljan (2019) received the “Most Roma-friendly mayor” prize for Roma Integration in the framework of the project “Joint initiative to empower Roma civil society in the Western Balkans and Turkey”, implemented by ERGO Network and Roma Active Albania. The ROMACTED support team has been actively involved in encouraging the local actors to apply for the prize.

COVID-19 action:

Describe the actions taken in the framework of the programme, preferably breaking it down per municipality.

In the effort to contain the pandemic and ensure that the most vulnerable families within the Roma communities in ROMACTED beneficiaries are not left behind in the COVID-19 response, ROMACTED in Kosovo has been coordinating the efforts with the municipal authorities (LA), community action groups (CAGs), and international organisations (IO). The overall assessment in the field has shown that the situation in the Roma neighborhoods puts Roma communities at the highest risk from COVID-19 infection. In this regard, ROMACTED took the following actions in each partner municipality by mapping the overall support offered by the municipality and other organisations (national and international) and based on the need for additional support.

Ferizaj/Uroševac – In collaboration with Roma Versitas Kosovo, 61 most vulnerable families (with around 350 individuals) were provided with food and non-food packages in four Roma neighbourhoods (Sallahane, Halit Ibishi, Koxe Xoxe and Dubrava village). In addition to the packages, 700 masks and 700 gloves were provided in all four neighbourhoods. The municipal emergency headquarters provided transport for the distribution that CAG members were also involved in.

Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje – Considering that the municipality had capacities to provide considerable food and non-food supplies in addition to the assistance provided by local and international organisations, ROMACTED has supported the four most vulnerable families (with 24 individuals) with food and non-food packages. At a later stage, after assessing that the health component was not covered by many organisations but was a prevailing need for the most vulnerable families with chronic illness, nine individuals were provided with one month's worth of medical supplies.

Gjakovë/Đakovica – With the synergy created with CoE anti-discrimination project, 130 most vulnerable families (with 650 individuals) will be supported with food and non-food packages residing in Ali Ibra (Kolonia) neighbourhood. Municipality will provide the transport of the packages and CAG members will enable distribution.

Gračanica/Gračanice – During March and June, food and non-food packages were provided for 21 families (with 105 individuals) for Roma and non-Roma communities and few Albanian and Serb vulnerable families. In addition to this, 150 masks and 150 gloves were provided the Roma families in Gračanica/Gračanice and Preoce village. The municipal emergency headquarters provided transport, and distribution was enabled by the municipal contact person and CAG members.

Istog/Istok – Vulnerable families were identified in three remote villages (Veric, Srbobran, Gurrakoc) and Istog/Istok municipality. 22 vulnerable families (with 110 individuals) were provided with food and non-food packages during March and June. In addition, 250 masks and 250 gloves were distributed in the community. The distribution of the materials was enabled by the ROMACTED Focal Point and CAG members.

Lipjan/Lipljan – During quarantine time in Janjeve/Janjevo village, 70 vulnerable families (with 350 individuals) were assisted with food and non-food packages. 50 families were Roma, 10 families were Albanian and 10 Croats. In addition to this, 300 masks and 300 gloves were given to the families in Janjeve/Janjevo village and 300 masks and 300 gloves were given to the Roma community in Lipljan/Lipljane municipality.

Mitrovicë/Mitrovica South – In the Roma mahalla 35 women households (with 170 families) were assisted with food and non-food packages that included few women essential items. In addition to this, 300 masks and 300 gloves were given to the families in the Roma mahalla, and 300 masks and 300 gloves were given to the Roma families in 2 Korriku neighbourhood. The transport and distribution was facilitated by the municipal emergency headquarters and CAG members.

Obiliq/Obilić – In co-operation with the Roma Versitas Kosovo, 40 vulnerable families (with 160 individuals) were jointly assisted in Plemetina village. Most of the families assisted were returnees from the third countries and the region. The municipal emergency headquarters provided the transport and facilitated the distribution together with CAG members.

ROMACTED at a Glance Local

Name of the municipality: Ferizaj/Uroševac municipality

Mayor of the Municipality: Mr Agim Aliu

ROMACTED Contact Person in the Municipality: Mr Selim Marevci (chief of the cabinet) and Mr Elbasan Osmani (official for European integration)

ROMACTED facilitators/s: Jehona Xhaferi

Website of the Municipality: <https://kk.rks-gov.net/ferizaj/>

Milestones:

In May 2018, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed as between the Council of Europe and the Mayor of Ferizaj/Uroševac municipality. A ROMACTED municipal contact point was appointed by the Mayor to provide support and facilitate the process of implementation at the municipal level.

The Community Action Group (CAG), Institutional Working group (IWG) and the Municipal Taskforce Group (MTG) were officially established in Ferizaj/Uroševac municipality during 2018.

Local documents prepared within ROMACTED:

- Operational guide for Institutional Working Group – March 2018
- Operational guide for Community Action Group – March 2018
- Municipal Needs Assessment – September 2018
- Community Needs Assessment – September 2018
- Stakeholders Mapping – September/ October 2018

2. Education:

- University scholarships are foreseen to be issued during 2020;
- Municipal regulation on scholarships has been initiated for review on inclusion of an affirmative action for Roma community students;
- Roundtables (1) on awareness-raising on school dropouts were organized by the department of education and OSCE;
- Project on 'Mediation and prevention of the school dropout for the Roma children in primary education' is co-financed by the Municipality and the ROMACTED small grants scheme.

3. Employment:

- Three students were engaged in internship programme. Two in the office of the deputy mayor for communities one in municipal employment office.

4. Housing and property:

- 504 Roma houses have been identified by the Municipal Office on Communities and Return in the need of formal registration;
- Meeting with the Roma community and relevant departments was held to deliberate on the issue of the property rights.

5. Investment in infrastructural projects (asphalting, sewage system and electricity):

1. Road rehabilitation in Sallahane and Dubrava neighbourhood;
2. Tendering process for asphalting in Halit Ibishi neighbourhood is expected to be completed in 2020;
3. Sewage renovations have been done in Sallahane neighbourhood and Dubrava village;
4. Lighting is completed in Halit Ibishi neighbourhoods and Dubrava village.

6. Culture:

1. In 2018 MuralFest was extended to a Roma neighbourhood (Sallahane) for the first time with mural on 'Tolerance'

7. Environment:

- Garbage collection and preventing a dump site in Dubrava village;
- Cleaning of the Nerodimka river stream in Dubrava village

8. Capacity building:

- Workshop on the Participatory Local Strategic Planning (CAG 3, IWG 7 participants) – May 2018;
- Training with Local authorities on 'Principles and Tools for Roma inclusion at the local level' (IWG 2 participants) – April 2019;
- Training with CAG and IWG on Project Cycle Management (CAG 3, IWG 3 participants) – April/May 2019;
- Workshop with youth on the platform www.ndrege.com interactive map on citizens requests/complaints (CAG 2 participants) – October 2019;
- Training on the legal framework on gender equality (total 23 participants) – November 2019;
- Workshop on Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IWG 4 participants) – January 2020.

Description of the Community Action Group (number of CAGs, structure of the group, average number, gender balance, frequency of meetings, etc.):

CAG was established in March 2018. The average number of members is three, out of which one is a woman. The group gathers together youth, returnees, community leaders and representatives of the Roma civil society organisations. CAG meets twice per month.

Description of the Institutional Working Group (structure of the group/ municipal services or departments taking part, average number of participants, gender balance, frequency of meetings, etc):

IWG was established in April 2018. The group comprises of municipal departments and institutions, whose work is relevant to Roma-related issues. The average number of participants is five, out of which two are women. The groups comes together twice per month.

Description of the Municipal Taskforce Group (structure of the group, average number of participants, frequency of meetings, etc):

MTG gathers together members of both IWG and CAG, as well as other relevant institutions. The average number of participants is eight, out of which two are women. The groups comes together twice per month or upon need.

Joint Action Plan in place? (adopted among the MTG members, closely considering the needs and priorities identified from the community and submitted to the Local Council/Mayor for approval):

Local Action Plan¹⁶ in place? (broader document at municipal level, which actions are in line with the Strategy at the central level):

ROMACTED has utilised the already existing Local Action Plans on Roma Integration at the local level considering that:

- a) Local Action Plans have been approved by the local assembly;
- b) They derive from the Strategy for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in the Kosovo Society 2017-2021;
- c) Support implementation of the actions at the local level;
- d) Correspond to the community needs based on the needs assessment conducted by ROMACTED.

ROMACTED Municipal Taskforce Group meetings offered a platform on reviewing community priority needs that corresponded to the implementation of the local action plan. Following areas were taken into account: education, employment, housing and property, infrastructure, culture, environment and ROMACTED small grants community project.

List the projects which were designed and funded in the framework of the Programme, as well as the ones which were designed with the contribution of the Programme but funded by other resources: ROMACTED small grants community project

A project on 'Mediation and prevention of the school dropout for the Roma children in primary education' is co-financed by the Municipality (60%) and under the ROMACTED small grants scheme (40%). The project covers four primary schools with a considerable number of Roma children.

Synergies established at local level:

- Coordination meeting with stakeholders on Roma-related projects/ programmes took place in October 2018;
- OSCE participated in one of the MTG meetings in August 2019;
- Co-operation with MuralFest which resulted in mural on 'Tolerance' painted in the Roma neighbourhood Sallahane.

¹⁶ If the Programme contributed to creation or revision of the LAP, please mention it. In some cases, there was no need to adopt the Joint Action Plan separately, but rather to revise the LAP with community needs and priorities.

ROMACTED at a Glance Local

Name of the Municipality: Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje

Mayor of the Municipality: Mr Burim Berisha

ROMACTED Contact Person within the Municipality: Mr Muhamet Xhigoli (official of treasury)

Email: Muhamet.Xhigoli@rks-gov.net

ROMACTED facilitator/s: Burhan Gashi

Website of the municipality: <https://kk.rks-gov.net/fushekosove/>

Milestones:

In May 2018, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed as between the Council of Europe and the Mayor of Fushë Kosovë/ Kosovo Polje municipality. A ROMACTED municipal contact point was appointed by the Mayor to provide support and facilitate the process of implementation at the municipal level.

The Community Action Group (CAG), Institutional Working group (IWG) and the Municipal Taskforce Group (MTG) were officially established in Fushë Kosovë/ Kosovo Polje municipality during 2018.

1. Local documents prepared within ROMACTED:

- Operational guide for Institutional Working Group – March 2018
- Operational guide for Community Action Group – March 2018
- Municipal Needs Assessment – August 2018
- Community Needs Assessment – September 2018
- Stakeholders Mapping – November 2018

2. Education:

- In 2019 municipality has offered financial support to eight Roma university students. The same will be considered during 2020;
- In 2019 municipality has financially supported six secondary school pupils;
- Municipality is considering reviewing the municipal regulation on university scholarship during 2020 by including the affirmative approach;
- Financial support for the transport of some of the Roma university students is being considered for 2020;
- Issue of diversity in Selman Riza primary school is being dealt jointly by the Department of Education and Community in the framework of ROMACTED Programme. Possibility of training will be explored during 2020;
- Two students were engaged in internship programme. One with the Municipal Office for Communities and Returns, one with Municipal Department for Social Welfare.

3. Health and Social Welfare:

- In 2018, there have been interventions from the mobile health teams in the Roma neighbourhoods 28 and 29. Intervention was focused on children's vaccination.

4. Environment:

- Request from CAG for the dump site in neighbourhood 28 has been put forward to the local authorities. Dump site was cleared several times but needs a more sustainable solution to prevent recreating the dump site again.

5. Housing and property:

- Meeting with Roma communities and relevant departments was held to deliberate on the issue of the property rights.

6. Investment in infrastructure (asphalting, sewage system and electricity):

- Several requests were put forward by CAG members regarding infrastructural projects. In that light, the following projects were developed: Street lightning in Meshari road, namely neighbourhood 28 and 29;
- Asphalting and road repairs in Meshari road with 3 side roads; Sewerage system in Meshari road, namely neighbourhood 28 and 29.

7. Capacity building:

- Workshop on the Participatory Local Strategic Planning (CAG 5, IWG 8 participants) – May 2018;
- Training with Local authorities on 'Principles and Tools for Roma inclusion at the local level' (IWG 2 participants) – April 2019;
- Training with CAG and IWG on Project Cycle Management (CAG 3, IWG4 participants) – April – May 2019;
- Workshop with youth on the platform www.ndrege.com, interactive map on citizens requests/complaints (CAG 2 participants) – October 2019;
- Training on the legal framework on gender equality (total 23 participants) – November 2019;
- Workshop on Instrument for (IPA) Pre-Accession Assistance (IWG 2 participants) – January 2020.

Description of the Community Action Group (number of CAGs, structure of the group, average number, gender balance, frequency of meetings, etc.):

CAG was established in March 2018. The average number of members is six, out of which two are women. The group gathers together youth, returnees, community leaders and representatives of the Roma civil society organisations. CAG meets twice per month.

Description of the Institutional Working Group (structure of the group/ municipal services or departments taking part, average number of participants, gender balance, frequency of meetings, etc):

IWG was established in April 2018. The group comprises of municipal departments and institutions, whose work is relevant to Roma-related issues. The average number of participants is five, out of which two are women. The groups comes together twice per month.

Description of the Municipal Taskforce Group (structure of the group, average number of participants, frequency of meetings, etc):

MTG gathers together members of both IWG and CAG, as well as other relevant institutions. The average number of participants is eight, out of which three are women. The groups comes together twice per month or upon need.

Joint Action Plan in place? (adopted among the MTG members, closely considering the needs and priorities identified from the community and submitted to the Local Council/Mayor for approval):

Local Action Plan¹⁷ in place? (broader document at municipal level, which actions are in line with the Strategy at the central level):

ROMACTED has utilised the already existing Local Action Plans on Roma Integration at the local level considering that:

- a) Local Action Plans have been approved by the local assembly
- b) They derive from the Strategy for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in the Kosovo Society 2017-2021
- c) Support implementation of the actions at the local level
- d) Correspond to the community needs based on the needs assessment conducted by ROMACTED

ROMACTED Municipal Taskforce Group meetings offered a platform on reviewing community priority needs that corresponded to the implementation of the local action plan. Following areas were taken into account: education, health and social welfare, employment, environment, housing and property, infrastructure and the ROMACTED small grants community project.

List the projects which were designed and funded in the framework of the Programme, as well as the ones which were designed with the contribution of the Programme but funded by other resources: ROMACTED small grants community project

A project on 'Connection of Meshari neighbourhood to water and sewage system' is co-financed by the Municipality (60%) and under the ROMACTED small grants scheme (40%). The project will complete the remaining part of the neighbourhood that is not covered with sewerage.

Synergies established at local level:

- Coordination meeting with stakeholders on Roma-related projects/ programmes took place in October 2018;
- OSCE is participated in one of the MTG meetings in August 2019.

¹⁷ If the Programme contributed to creation or revision of the LAP, please mention it. In some cases, there was no need to adopt the Joint Action Plan separately, but rather to revise the LAP with community needs and priorities.

ROMACTED at a Glance Local

Name of the municipality: Graçanicë/Gračanica municipality

Mayor of the Municipality: Mr Srdjan Popović

ROMACTED Contact Person: Mr Leutrim Ajeti (Municipal Office for Communities and Return - MOCR)

ROMACTED facilitator/s: Dejan Radivojevic

Website of the municipality: <https://kk.rks-gov.net/gracanice/>

Milestones:

In May 2018, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed as between the Council of Europe and the Mayor of Graçanicë/Gračanica municipality. A ROMACTED municipal contact point was appointed by the Mayor to provide support and facilitate the process of implementation at the municipal level.

The Community Action Group (CAG), Institutional Working group (IWG) and the Municipal Taskforce Group (MTG) were officially established in Graçanicë/Gračanica municipality during 2018.

1. Local documents prepared within ROMACTED:

- Operational guide for Institutional Working Group – March 2018
- Operational guide for Community Action Group – March 2018
- Municipal Needs Assessment – August 2018
- Community Needs Assessment – August 2018
- Stakeholders Mapping – September/ October 2018

2. Education

- Scholarships for students are considered from the mayor using the subvention as financial assistance;
- Mediators in the area of education were planned through donor's grant application by the municipality;
- Municipal scholarship regulation will be initiated for amendment in including affirmative approach.

3. Employment

- Five students were engaged in internship programme. Three were engaged at the deputy mayor's office, two with Municipal Department of the Public Services.

4. Housing and property:

- Informative meetings on the property rights have taken place between Roma communities and respective municipal departments.

5. Investment in infrastructure (asphalting, sewage system and electricity):

- Land allocation was issued for cemeteries in Preoce, Livadje villages and Gračanicë/Gračanica municipality
- Street lightning in the street "Slobodana Penezića" is under consideration for 2020.

6. Language and Culture

- Radio programme in the Roma language has been supported by the deputy mayor for 10 months period. Furthermore, a project on 'Extension of the information space for the media Program in the Roma language' was developed in this regard and obtained funding from the Municipality and under the ROMACTED small grants scheme.

7. Agriculture subsidies

- Two farmers were assisted to apply for subsidies for the grant scheme in the Ministry of Agriculture. The application is still pending decision.

8. Fundraising:

- Municipal authorities (IWG) and community (CAG) were supported by ROMACTED local expert to apply for REF innovative grants with projects of supporting education for Roma children in the primary education.

9. Capacity building:

- Workshop on the Participatory Local Strategic Planning (CAG 6, IWG 3 participants) – May 2018;
- Training with Local authorities on 'Principles and Tools for Roma inclusion at the local level'(IWG 2 participants) – April 2019;
- Training with CAG and IWG on Project Cycle Management (CAG 3, IWG 2 participants) – April/ May 2019;
- Workshop with youth on the platform www.ndreqe.com interactive map on citizens requests/complaints (CAG 2 participants) – October 2019;
- Training on the legal framework on gender equality (total 23 participants) – November 2019;
- Workshop on Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IWG 2 participants) – January 2020.

Description of the Community Action Group (number of CAGs, structure of the group, average number, gender balance, frequency of meetings, etc.):

CAG was established in March 2018. The average number of members is seven, out of which one is a woman. The group gathers together youth, returnees, community leaders and representatives of the Roma civil society organisations. CAG meets twice per month.

Description of the Institutional Working Group (structure of the group/ municipal services or departments taking part, average number of participants, gender balance, frequency of meetings, etc):

IWG was established in April 2018. The group comprises of municipal departments and institutions, whose work is relevant to Roma-related issues. The average number of participants is four, out of which one is a woman. The groups comes together twice per month.

Description of the Municipal Taskforce Group (structure of the group, average number of participants, frequency of meetings, etc):

MTG gathers together members of both IWG and CAG, as well as other relevant institutions. The average number of participants is six, out of which one is a woman. The groups comes together twice per month or upon need

Joint Action Plan in place? (adopted among the MTG members, closely considering the needs and priorities identified from the community and submitted to the Local Council/Mayor for approval):

Local Action Plan¹⁸ in place? (broader document at municipal level, which actions are in line with the Strategy at the central level):

ROMACTED has utilised the already existing Local Action Plans on Roma Integration at the local level considering that:

- a) Local Action Plans have been approved by the local assembly;
- b) They derive from the Strategy for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in the Kosovo Society 2017-2021;
- c) Support implementation of the actions at the local level;
- d) Correspond to the community needs based on the needs assessment conducted by ROMACTED.

ROMACTED Municipal Taskforce Group meetings offered a platform on reviewing community priority needs that corresponded to the implementation of the local action plan. Following areas were taken into account: education, employment, housing and property, infrastructure, language and culture, agricultural subsidies, fundraising and ROMACTED small grants community project.

List the projects which were designed and funded in the framework of the Programme, as well as the ones which were designed with the contribution of the Programme but funded by other resources: ROMACTED small grants community project

A project on 'Extension of the information space for the media Program in the Roma language' is co-financed by the Municipality (60%) and under the ROMACTED small grants scheme (40%). The project contributes to promotion and preservation of the Roma language and employs four Roma (three male one female).

Synergies established at local level:

- Coordination meeting with stakeholders on Roma-related projects/ programmes took place in October 2018;
- OSCE participated in one of the MTG meetings in August 2019;
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry application for farmers subsidies – September 2019;
- Radio programme in Romani language has been set up in close co-operation with Radio Gracanica.

¹⁸ If the Programme contributed to creation or revision of the LAP, please mention it. In some cases, there was no need to adopt the Joint Action Plan separately, but rather to revise the LAP with community needs and priorities.

ROMACTED at a Glance Local

Name of the Municipality: Gjakovë/Đakovica municipality

Mayor of the Municipality: Mr Ardian Gjini

ROMACTED Contact Person: Mr Armend Behluli (Head of Municipal Office for Communities and Return)
ROMACTED facilitator/s: Mimoza Gavrani

Website of the municipality: <https://kk.rks-gov.net/gjakove/>

Milestones:

In May 2018, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed as between the Council of Europe and the Mayor of Gjakovë/Đakovica municipality. A ROMACTED municipal contact point was appointed by the Mayor to provide support and facilitate the process of implementation at the municipal level.

The Community Action Group (CAG), Institutional Working group (IWG) and the Municipal Taskforce Group (MTG) were officially established in Gjakovë/Đakovica municipality during 2018.

1. Local documents prepared within ROMACTED:

- Operational guide for Institutional Working Group – March 2018
- Operational guide for Community Action Group – March 2018
- Municipal Needs Assessment – September 2018
- Community Needs Assessment – September 2018
- Stakeholders Mapping – September/ October 2018

2. Education:

- List of students in the tertiary education is prepared by CAG. Municipality is considering supporting few Roma students with scholarships in future;
- Municipal Office for Community and Return has put in the discussion the review of the municipal scholarship regulation to the municipal communities committee

3. Health and Social Welfare:

- Medical check-ups for women in the community have been initiated by the Department of Health and the support of Caritas Kosova. More cases will be preceded during 2020;

4. Employment:

- Four students were engaged in internship programme. Three at the Municipal Centre for Social Welfare, one with Municipal Office for Communities and Returns.

5. Environment:

- Request on the dumpsite in "Ali Ibra" neighbourhood prepared by CAG has made a small step forward. Namely, the waste collection point has been moved to a more remote destination. Nevertheless, there is still

need for action to be taken by municipal authorities to eliminate the long overdue ecological and health problem;

6. Investment in infrastructure (asphalting, sewage system and electricity):

- Asphalting of the road in Brekoc village and Gropishte neighbourhood;
- Sewerage system in Skivjen village
- Project on 'Construction of the sewage system in Ali Ibra neighbourhood', co-financed by the municipality and the ROMACTED small grants scheme;

7. Capacity building:

- Workshop on the Participatory Local Strategic Planning (CAG 7, IWG 6 participants) – May 2018;
- Training with Local authorities on 'Principles and Tools for Roma inclusion at the local level' (IWG 2 participants) – April 2019;
- Training with CAG and IWG on Project Cycle Management (CAG 3, IWG 3 participants) – April – May 2019;
- Training on the legal framework on gender equality (total 23 participants) – November 2019;
- Workshop on Instrument for (IPA) Pre-Accession Assistance (IWG 3 participants) – January 2020.

Description of the Community Action Group (number of CAGs, structure of the group, average number, gender balance, frequency of meetings, etc.):

CAG was established in March 2018. The average number of members is five, out of which two are women. The group gathers together youth, returnees, community leaders and representatives of the Roma civil society organisations. CAG meets twice per month.

Description of the Institutional Working Group (structure of the group/ municipal services or departments taking part, average number of participants, gender balance, frequency of meetings, etc):

IWG was established in April 2018. The group comprises of municipal departments and institutions, whose work is relevant to Roma-related issues. The average number of participants is seven, out of which four are women. The groups comes together twice per month.

Description of the Municipal Taskforce Group (structure of the group, average number of participants, frequency of meetings, etc):

MTG gathers together members of both IWG and CAG, as well as other relevant institutions. The average number of participants is nine, out of which four are women. The groups comes together twice per month or upon need.

Joint Action Plan in place? (adopted among the MTG members, closely considering the needs and priorities identified from the community and submitted to the Local Council/Mayor for approval):

Local Action Plan¹⁹ in place? (broader document at municipal level, which actions are in line with the Strategy at the central level):

ROMACTED has utilised the already existing Local Action Plans on Roma Integration at the local level considering that:

- a) Local Action Plans have been approved by the local assembly;
- b) They derive from the Strategy for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in the Kosovo Society 2017-2021
- c) Support implementation of the actions at the local level;
- d) Correspond to the community needs based on the needs assessment conducted by ROMACTED.

ROMACTED Municipal Taskforce Group meetings offered a platform on reviewing community priority needs that corresponded to the implementation of the local action plan. Following areas were taken into account: education, health and social welfare, employment, environment, infrastructure and ROMACTED small grants community project.

List the projects which were designed and funded in the framework of the Programme, as well as the ones which were designed with the contribution of the Programme but funded by other resources:

ROMACTED small grants community project

A project on 'Construction of the sewerage system in Ali Ibra neighbourhood' is co-financed by the Municipality (60%) and under the ROMACTED small grants scheme (40%). Project aims to improve the sanitary and health issue in the neighbourhood.

Synergies established at local level:

- Coordination meeting with stakeholders on Roma-related projects/ programmes took place in October 2018;
- OSCE participated in one of the MTG meetings in August 2019;
- CARITAS Kosova assisted women with transport for medical check ups

¹⁹ If the Programme contributed to creation or revision of the LAP, please mention it. In some cases, there was no need to adopt the Joint Action Plan separately, but rather to revise the LAP with community needs and priorities.

ROMACTED at a Glance Local

Name of the Municipality: Istog/Istok

Mayor of the Municipality: Mr Haki Rugova

ROMACTED Contact Person: Mr Abedin Neziraj (officer for sustainable return- MOCR)

ROMACTED facilitator/s: Mimoza Gavrani

Website of the municipality: <https://kk.rks-gov.net/istog/>

Milestones:

In May 2018, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed as between the Council of Europe and the Mayor of Istog/ Istok municipality. A ROMACTED municipal contact point was appointed by the Mayor to provide support and facilitate the process of implementation at the municipal level.

The Community Action Group (CAG), Institutional Working group (IWG) and the Municipal Taskforce Group (MTG) were officially established in Istog/ Istok municipality during 2018.

1. Local documents prepared within ROMACTED:

- Operational guide for Institutional Working Group – March 2018
- Operational guide for Community Action Group – March 2018
- Municipal Needs Assessment – August 2018
- Community Needs Assessment – August 2018
- Stakeholders Mapping – September/ October 2018

2. Education:

- List of Roma students have been submitted by CAG to the IWG for scholarships. Four students were supported with scholarships during 2018-2019;
- Although municipality provides scholarships for the Roma students, the municipal regulation still needs to be reviewed and include affirmative approach for the Roma students thus institutionalize the process.

3. Health and Social Welfare:

- Request for a doctor in Dubrava village health care centre has been considered and designated doctor has started with the work.

4. Housing and property:

- Meeting with Roma communities and relevant departments was held to deliberate on the issue of the property rights.

5. Employment:

- Three female students were engaged in internship programme. Two in the Municipal Department for Administration, one in the Municipal Office for Communities and Return.

6. Environment:

- In Serbobran village a container has been put and citizens are exempted from collection of the monthly fee;
- Information session on prevention of creating dump site and environmental protection will be held during 2020.

7. Agricultural subsidies:

- One farmer was assisted to apply for subsidies for the grant scheme in the Ministry of Agriculture. The application is still in the process for decision.

8. Investment in infrastructure:

- Project on 'Construction of sewerage system in Serbobran village, co-financed by the Municipality and ROMACTED small grants scheme.

9. Capacity building:

- Workshop on the Participatory Local Strategic Planning (CAG 8, IWG 8 participants) – May 2018;
- Training with Local authorities on 'Principles and Tools for Roma inclusion at the local level'(IWG 2 participants) – April 2019;
- Training with CAG and IWG on Project Cycle Management (CAG 3, IWG 4 participants) – April/ May 2019;
- Workshop with youth on the platform www.ndrege.com interactive map on citizens requests/complaints (CAG 2 participants) – October 2019;
- Training on the legal framework on gender equality (total 23 participants) – November 2019;
- Workshop on Instrument for (IPA) Pre-Accession Assistance (IWG 2 participants) – January 2020.

Description of the Community Action Group (number of CAGs, structure of the group, average number, gender balance, frequency of meetings, etc.):

CAG was established in March 2018. The average number of members is five, out of which one is a woman. The group gathers together youth, returnees, community leaders and representatives of the Roma civil society organisations. CAG meets twice per month.

Description of the Institutional Working Group (structure of the group/ municipal services or departments taking part, average number of participants, gender balance, frequency of meetings, etc):

IWG was established in April 2018. The group comprises of municipal departments and institutions, whose work is relevant to Roma-related issues. The average number of participants is five, out of which two are women. The groups comes together twice per month.

Description of the Municipal Taskforce Group (structure of the group, average number of participants, frequency of meetings, etc):

MTG gathers together members of both IWG and CAG, as well as other relevant institutions. The average number of participants is six, out of which one is a woman. The groups comes together twice per month or upon need.

Joint Action Plan in place? (adopted among the MTG members, closely considering the needs and priorities identified from the community and submitted to the Local Council/Mayor for approval):

Local Action Plan²⁰ in place? (broader document at municipal level, which actions are in line with the Strategy at the central level):

ROMACTED has utilised the already existing Local Action Plans on Roma Integration at the local level considering that:

- a) Local Action Plans have been approved by the local assembly;
- b) They derive from the Strategy for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in the Kosovo Society 2017-2021;
- c) Support implementation of the actions at the local level;
- d) Correspond to the community needs based on the needs assessment conducted by ROMACTED.

ROMACTED Municipal Taskforce Group meetings offered a platform on reviewing community priority needs that corresponded to the implementation of the local action plan. Following areas were taken into account: education, health and social welfare, housing and property, employment, environment, agricultural subsidies and ROMACTED small grants community project.

List the projects which were designed and funded in the framework of the Programme, as well as the ones which were designed with the contribution of the Programme but funded by other resources: ROMACTED small grants community project

A project on 'Construction of sewerage system in Serbobran village is co-financed by the Municipality (60%) and under the ROMACTD small grants scheme (40%). The project will enable closure of the septic tanks and establish sewerage system for the first time. Serbobran village is also one of the return sites in the municipality.

Synergies established at local level:

- Coordination meeting with stakeholders on Roma-related projects/ programmes took place in October 2018;
- OSCE participated in one of the MTG meetings in July 2019;
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry application for farmer's subsidies – September 2019.

²⁰ If the Programme contributed to creation or revision of the LAP, please mention it. In some cases, there was no need to adopt the Joint Action Plan separately, but rather to revise the LAP with community needs and priorities.

ROMACTED at a Glance Local

Name of the Municipality: Lipjan/Lipljan municipality

Mayor of the Municipality: Mr Imri Ahmeti

ROMACTED Contact Person Mr Lulzim Qerimi (deputy mayor for communities)

ROMACTED facilitator/s: Burhan Gashi

Website of the municipality: <https://kk.rks-gov.net/lipjan/>

Milestones:

In May 2018, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed as between the Council of Europe and the Mayor of Lipjan/Lipljan municipality. A ROMACTED municipal contact point was appointed by the Mayor to provide support and facilitate the process of implementation at the municipal level.

The Community Action Group (CAG), Institutional Working group (IWG) and the Municipal Taskforce Group (MTG) were officially established in Lipjan/Lipljan municipality during 2018.

1. Local documents prepared within ROMACTED:

- Operational guide for Institutional Working Group – March 2018
- Operational guide for Community Action Group – March 2018
- Municipal Needs Assessment – September 2018
- Community Needs Assessment – September 2018
- Stakeholders Mapping – September/ October 2018

2. Education:

- Scholarship for one student was issued from the municipal subsidies;
- Draft municipal regulation on scholarships is currently on a public discussion for finalisation. Affirmative approach for the Roma students is under considered to be included.

3. Employment:

- In cooperation with VoRAE organization five students were engaged in internship programme. Two students with Municipal Office for Communities and Return, three with Municipal Centre for Social Welfare.

4. Environment:

- Upon the CAG request, garbage dumpsite in Hallaq village has been inspected and necessary measures have been taken by municipal authorities.

5. Investment in infrastructure (asphalting, sewage system and electricity):

- Water supply in Medvec village has been improved after CAG request to the municipal authorities and Water Company;
- Cleaning of the river bad in Janjevë /Janjevo village is planned;

- Project on 'Installation of the street lightening in Medvec village' is co-financed by the Municipality and ROMACTED small grants scheme.

6. Youth:

- Project on 'Establishment of the youth/community centre in Janjevë /Janjevo village' is co-financed by the Municipality and ROMACTED small grants scheme.

7. Capacity building:

- Workshop on the Participatory Local Strategic Planning (CAG 8, IWG 5 participants) – May 2018;
- Training with Local authorities on ' Principles and Tools for Roma inclusion at the local level' (IWG 2 participants) – April 2019;
- Training with CAG and IWG on Project Cycle Management (CAG 3, IWG 4 participants) – April/ May 2019;
- Workshop with youth on the platform www.ndreqe.com interactive map on citizens requests/complaints (CAG 3 participants) – October 2019;
- Training on the legal framework on gender equality (total 23 participants) – November 2019;
- Workshop on Instrument for (IPA) Pre-Accession Assistance (IWG 3 participants) – January 2020.

Description of the Community Action Group (number of CAGs, structure of the group, average number, gender balance, frequency of meetings, etc.):

CAG was established in March 2018. The average number of members is eight, out of which two are women. Additional CAG was established in Janjevë/ Janjevo village, comprising of six members, out of which two are women. The groups gather together youth, returnees, community leaders and representatives of the Roma civil society organisations. The meetings take place twice a month.

Description of the Institutional Working Group (structure of the group/ municipal services or departments taking part, average number of participants, gender balance, frequency of meetings, etc):

IWG was established in April 2018. The group comprises of municipal departments and institutions, whose work is relevant to Roma-related issues. The average number of participants is seven, out of which one is a woman. The groups come together twice per month.

Description of the Municipal Taskforce Group (structure of the group, average number of participants, frequency of meetings, etc):

MTG gathers together members of both IWG and CAG, as well as other relevant institutions. The average number of participants is nine, out of which three are women. The groups come together three times per month or upon need.

Joint Action Plan in place? (adopted among the MTG members, closely considering the needs and priorities identified from the community and submitted to the Local Council/Mayor for approval):

Local Action Plan²¹ in place? (broader document at municipal level, which actions are in line with the Strategy at the central level):

ROMACTED has utilised the already existing Local Action Plans on Roma Integration at the local level considering that:

- a) Local Action Plans have been approved by the local assembly;
- b) They derive from the Strategy for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in the Kosovo Society 2017-2021;
- c) Support implementation of the actions at the local level;
- d) Correspond to the community needs based on the needs assessment conducted by ROMACTED.

ROMACTED Municipal Taskforce Group meetings offered a platform on reviewing community priority needs that corresponded to the implementation of the local action plan. Following areas were taken into account: education, employment, environment, infrastructure and ROMACTED small grants community project.

List the projects which were designed and funded in the framework of the Programme, as well as the ones which were designed with the contribution of the Programme but funded by other resources:

Projects on 'Installation of the street lightening in Medvec village' and 'Establishment of the youth/community centre in Janjevë/Janjevo village' are co-financed by the Municipality (60%) and under the ROMACTED small grants scheme (40%).

Synergies established at local level:

- Coordination meeting with stakeholders on Roma-related projects/ programmes took place in October 2018;
- OSCE participated in one of the MTG meetings in August 2019;
- The Idea Partnership joint meetings with community and exchange data on the village - March 2019.

²¹ If the Programme contributed to creation or revision of the LAP, please mention it. In some cases, there was no need to adopt the Joint Action Plan separately, but rather to revise the LAP with community needs and priorities.

ROMACTED at a Glance Local

Name of the Municipality: Mitrovicë/ Mitrovica South municipality

Mayor of the Municipality: Mr. Agim Bahtiri

ROMACTED Contact Person Mr Fitim Rama (Human Rights Coordinator)

ROMACTED facilitator/s: Jehona Xhaferi

Website of the municipality: <https://kk.rks-gov.net/mitroviccejugut/>

Milestones:

In May 2018, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed as between the Council of Europe and the Mayor of Mitrovicë/ Mitrovica South municipality. A ROMACTED municipal contact point was appointed by the Mayor to provide support and facilitate the process of implementation at the municipal level.

The Community Action Group (CAG), Institutional Working group (IWG) and the Municipal Taskforce Group (MTG) were officially established in Mitrovicë/ Mitrovica South municipality during 2018.

Local documents prepared within ROMACTED:

- Operational guide for Institutional Working Group – March 2018
- Operational guide for Community Action Group – March 2018
- Municipal Needs Assessment – August 2018
- Community Needs Assessment – September 2018
- Stakeholders Mapping – November 2018

2. Education:

- Municipality is considering to financially support at least one student from the Roma community with scholarship in 2020 when the call for application will be published;
- Municipal regulation on scholarship was discussed in the public hearing in early 2020. ROMACTED municipal contact person has recommended inclusion of the affirmative approach for the Roma students.

3. Employment:

- Municipality has considered internships for the Roma students but no request was put forward from the community.

4. Housing and Property:

- Information meeting on property rights has been organised between the community and relevant municipal departments. Five individual cases were taken up by geodesy and cadastre department.

5. Infrastructure:

- Municipal project on "Sitnica river" is being implemented and covers '2 Korriku' neighbourhood. Besides repairs of the riverbank that will prevent flooding, this project covers also; sidewalk, and street lightening. Project is expected to be finalized in 2020.

6. Environment

- Cleaning of the 'Trepca River' which is close to '2 Korriku neighbourhood' has been done and it is being maintained.

7. Civil registration for repatriated children:

- Department of Administration and Public Services has exempted the payment fee for vulnerable groups regarding obtaining civil documents, which includes the Roma communities as well.

8. Capacity building:

- Workshop on the Participatory Local Strategic Planning (CAG 4, IWG 12 participants) – May 2018;
- Training with Local authorities on ' Principles and Tools for Roma inclusion at the local level' (IWG 4 participants) – April 2019;
- Training with CAG and IWG on Project Cycle Management (CAG 2, IWG 4 participants) – April/May 2019;
- Workshop with youth on the platform www.ndreqe.com interactive map on citizens requests/complaints (CAG 4 participants) – October 2019;
- Training on the legal framework on gender equality (total 23 participants) – November 2019;
- Workshop on Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IWG 4 participants) – January 2020.

Description of the Community Action Group (number of CAGs, structure of the group, average number, gender balance, frequency of meetings, etc.):

CAG was established in March 2018. The average number of members is eight, out of which two are women. The group gathers together youth, returnees, community leaders and representatives of the Roma civil society organisations. CAG meets twice per month.

Description of the Institutional Working Group (structure of the group/ municipal services or departments taking part, average number of participants, gender balance, frequency of meetings, etc):

IWG was established in April 2018. The group comprises of municipal departments and institutions, whose work is relevant to Roma-related issues. The average number of participants is eight, out of which two are women. The groups comes together twice per month.

Description of the Municipal Taskforce Group (structure of the group, average number of participants, frequency of meetings, etc):

MTG gathers together members of both IWG and CAG, as well as other relevant institutions. The average number of participants is eight, out of which two are women. The groups comes together twice per month or upon need.

Joint Action Plan in place? (adopted among the MTG members, closely considering the needs and priorities identified from the community and submitted to the Local Council/Mayor for approval):

Local Action Plan²² in place? (broader document at municipal level, which actions are in line with the Strategy at the central level):

ROMACTED has utilised the already existing Local Action Plans on Roma Integration at the local level considering that:

- a) Local Action Plans have been approved by the local assembly;
- b) They derive from the Strategy for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in the Kosovo Society 2017-2021;
- c) Support implementation of the actions at the local level;
- d) Correspond to the community needs based on the needs assessment conducted by ROMACTED.

ROMACTED Municipal Taskforce Group meetings offered a platform on reviewing community priority needs that corresponded to the implementation of the local action plan. Following areas were taken into account: education, employment, housing and property, infrastructure, environment, civil registration for repatriated children and ROMACTED small grants community project.

List the projects which were designed and funded in the framework of the Programme, as well as the ones which were designed with the contribution of the Programme but funded by other resources: ROMACTED small grants community project

A project on 'Improvement of the infrastructure in 2 Korriku neighbourhoods' is co-financed by the Municipality (60%) and under the ROMACTED small grants scheme (40%). The project covers three streets within the neighbourhood.

Synergies established at local level:

- Coordination meeting with stakeholders on Roma-related projects/ programmes took place in October 2018;
- OSCE participated in one of the MTG meetings in July 2019.

²² If the Programme contributed to creation or revision of the LAP, please mention it. In some cases, there was no need to adopt the Joint Action Plan separately, but rather to revise the LAP with community needs and priorities.

ROMACTED at a glance in local

Name of the Municipality: Obiliq/Obilić municipality

Mayor of the Municipality: Mr Xhafer Gashi

ROMACTED Contact Person Ms Majlinda Kutllovci (official in department of education)

ROMACTED facilitator/s: Dejan Radivojevic

Website of the municipality: <https://kk.rks-gov.net/obiliq/>

Milestones:

In May 2018, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed as between the Council of Europe and the Mayor of Obiliq/Obilić municipality. A ROMACTED municipal contact point was appointed by the Mayor to provide support and facilitate the process of implementation at the municipal level.

The Community Action Group (CAG), Institutional Working group (IWG) and the Municipal Taskforce Group (MTG) were officially established in Obiliq/Obilić municipality during 2018.

Local documents prepared within ROMACTED:

- Operational guide for Institutional Working Group – March 2018
- Operational guide for Community Action Group – March 2018
- Municipal Needs Assessment – August 2018
- Community Needs Assessment – September 2018
- Stakeholders Mapping – September/ October 2018

2. Education:

- Leading municipality to review the municipal regulation on scholarships for tertiary education and to include the affirmative approach for Roma students;
- Despite the opportunity for the academic year of 2019-2020, no student from the Roma community applied for the scholarship.

3. Employment:

- Two students were engaged in internship programme with Municipal Office for Communities and Return.

4. Agriculture subsidies

- One farmer was assisted to apply for subsidies for the grant scheme in the Ministry of Agriculture. The application is still in the process for decision.

5. Housing and Property

- Informative meeting on housing rights was organised between CAG and community members and relevant municipal departments.

6. Infrastructure (sewage system, asphaltting and street lightening)

- Repairs on a sewage and water network is done in Plemetina village;
- Road rehabilitation was done in Sokoli street in Plemetina village;
- Request along with petition from CAG member was submitted to Kosovo Energy and Distribution Service for replacement of the electric transformer for upgraded electricity in Plemetina village.;
- Project 'Construction of Community park in Plemetina village' is co-financed by the Municipality and the ROMACTED small grants scheme.

7. Environment

1. Trash bins and where necessary containers have been requested by Roma community. Municipality has included these requests in the Local Action Plan to be provided during 2020.

8. Capacity building:

- Workshop on the Participatory Local Strategic Planning (CAG 5, IWG 4 participants) – May 2018;
- Training with Local authorities on 'Principles and Tools for Roma inclusion at the local level'(IWG 3 participants) – April 2019;
- Training with CAG and IWG on Project Cycle Management (CAG 3, IWG 3 participants) – April – May 2019;
- Workshop with youth on the platform www.ndreqe.com interactive map on citizens requests/complaints (CAG 0 participants) – October 2019;
- Training on the legal framework on gender equality (total 23 participants) – November 2019;
- Workshop on Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IWG 2 participants) – January 2020.

Description of the Community Action Group (number of CAGs, structure of the group, average number, gender balance, frequency of meetings, etc.):

CAG was established in March 2018. The average number of members is eight, out of which one is a woman. The group gathers together youth, returnees, community leaders and representatives of the Roma civil society organisations. CAG meets twice per month.

Description of the Institutional Working Group (structure of the group/ municipal services or departments taking part, average number of participants, gender balance, frequency of meetings, etc):

IWG was established in April 2018. The group comprises of municipal departments and institutions, whose work is relevant to Roma-related issues. The average number of participants is five, out of which two are women. The groups comes together twice per month.

Description of the Municipal Taskforce Group (structure of the group, average number of participants, frequency of meetings, etc):

MTG gathers together members of both IWG and CAG, as well as other relevant institutions. The average number of participants is seven, out of which one is a woman. The groups comes together twice per month or upon need.

Joint Action Plan in place? (adopted among the MTG members, closely considering the needs and priorities identified from the community and submitted to the Local Council/Mayor for approval):

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ROMACTED Municipal Taskforce Group meetings offered a platform on reviewing community priority needs that corresponded to the implementation of the local action plan. Following areas were taken into account: education, employment, agricultural subsidies, housing and property, infrastructure, environment and ROMACTED small grants community project.

List the projects which were designed and funded in the framework of the Programme, as well as the ones which were designed with the contribution of the Programme but funded by other resources: ROMACTED small grants community project

A project on 'Construction of Community park in Plemetina village' is co-financed by the Municipality (60%) and under the ROMACTED small grants scheme (40%). The project will convert the dump site into the community park and has envisaged the second phase of the project to include a sports field.

Synergies established at local level:

- Coordination meeting with stakeholders on Roma-related projects/ programmes took place in October 2018;
- OSCE participated in one of the MTG meetings in July 2019;
- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry application for farmer's subsidies – September

²³ If the Programme contributed to creation or revision of the LAP, please mention it. In some cases, there was no need to adopt the Joint Action Plan separately, but rather to revise the LAP with community needs and priorities.

ROMA RECONNECTED

*Promoting good governance
and Roma empowerment
at local level*

ENG

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