



DECADE OF
ROMA
INCLUSION
2005 - 2015

PROGRESS REPORT 2010

GOVERNMENT OF MACEDONIA

June 2011



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1. BASIC INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION OF THE ROMA MINORITY

- According to the latest Census of Population, Households and Dwellings in 2002, the Republic of Macedonia has 2,022,547 inhabitants.
- According to estimations of the population (as of 30.06. 2009), in the Republic of Macedonia there are 2,050,671 inhabitants.
- According to the data from the last census from 2002, in the Republic of Macedonia live 53,879 Roma representing 2.66% of the population.
- According to the State Statistical Bureau, in 2008 the percentage of poverty in the Republic of Macedonia equals 28.7%¹.
- Domestic Product - GDP US \$ 9.58 billion (2010 estimate).²
- GDP per capita - current prices US\$ 4,634 (2010 estimate).³

2. INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION AND EVALUATION OF ROMA INTEGRATION POLICY

- Roma Information centers Project Ministry of Labour and Social Policy
- Preschool education MLSP
- Project for increasing the employment
- Scholarship for Roma children in high school
- Roma health mediators
- Free legal advice for Roma community

Included Roma NGOs - Partners in the implementation of the project "Inclusion of Roma children in JOUDG:

1. Berovo – CA “Terno Vas“;
2. Delcevo - “Kham”;
3. Vinica – “Kham”;
4. Stip – “Association for protecting the rights of Roma”;
5. Kocani - CA “Avena“;

¹ According to the State Statistical Office) Gross Domestic Product per Capita (GDP

² <http://www.gfmag.com/gdp-data-country-reports/229-macedonia-gdp-country-report.html>

³ <http://www.economywatch.com/economic-statistics/country/Macedonia/>

6. Suto Orizari - CAW “Esma”;
7. Karpos - CA “Lil”;
8. Gazi Baba - CA “Sumnal”;
9. Gostivar – “Mesecina”;
10. Kicevo - “Mesecina”;
11. Tetovo – “ Sonce”;
12. Prilep - “Romano pro angle”;
13. Kumanovo - “Daja”;
14. Veles – “Association for protecting the rights of Roma”;
15. Bitola – CA “Bairska Svetlina”;
16. Cair - CA “Mir”;
17. Centar - CA “Sumnal” ;
18. Suto Orizari - CA ”Progres Roma” ;
19. Suto Orizari - CAW „Esma“ ;
20. Kocani - “Phurt”;
21. Veles – “Jekipe”

NGOs involved in the implementation of the project-Roma Information Centres:

1. Gostivar – CA Mesecina;
2. Stip – Association for Roma right;
3. Kumanovo - CA Drom;
4. Tetovo – CA Sonce;
5. Delcevo – CA Kham;
6. Bitola - CA Bairska Svetlina;
7. Skopje - CDRIM;
8. Prilep – CA Romska solza;

Non Roma organizations which work on Roma issues in cooperation with MLSP:

1. IOM (International Organization for Migration) and MLSP implemented the project for “Prevention of Irregular Migration through the Enhancement of Decentralized Labour Promotion Measures for Vulnerable Groups” in cooperation with local Roma NGO (NGO Drom Kumanovo, NGOs Daja - Kumanovo, NGO Svetla Idnina – Kocani).
2. OSCE and MLSP implemented a project for legal advice for the Roma community in cooperation with Roma NGOs (NVO LIL, Ambrela, Sumnal, RHPPR - Stip, and Kham – Delcevo).
3. HERA and MLSP, Ministry of Health implemented a project for Roma health mediators.
4. UNDP and MLSP implemented a project for active measures for employment

Participation of Roma in public administration and decision-making process⁴

Representation in the administration:

- Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.....7 Roma, 2.0%
- Ministry for Culture3 Roma, or 2.2%
- Ministry of Interior, Roma..... 79 or 0.6%
- Ministry of Education and Science 1 Roma or 0.4%
- Ministry of Justice..... 1 Roma or 0.3%
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs..... 3% or 0.7
- Ministry of Health.....1 Roma or 0.4%
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management.....1 Roma or 0.1%
- Ministry of Defense..... 94 Roma or 1.1%
- Ministry of Finance..... Roma 2 or 0.3%

The Government of RM:

- General Secretariat, 1 Roma or 0.5%
- Department of General and Common Affairs, 2 Roma or 0.6%
- Secretariat for European Affairs, 1 Roma or 1.8%
- Secretariat for implementation of the framework agreement Roma, 18 or 2.0%

Centres for Social Affairs:

- The centers for social affairs have employed Roma in the following Centres for Social Affairs: Delcevo 1 person, 3 people in Gostivar, Skopje 2 people, 1 person Kicevo, Stip 1 person, 1 person Prilep) and the Center for Social affairs from Kumanovo 2 people or a total of 11 people.

Structure on local (municipality) level responsible for the implementation of the Decade National Action Plan / Roma Strategy:

- Roma Information Centers within the local municipalities in 9 cities.
- The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in December 2010 launched the process of institutionalization of the Roma Information Centers. These centers were removed from the premises of the local NGOs and in cooperation with the Local Government Units were physically situated in the Municipal Halls. Roma Information Centers should help the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, local-level institutions, and governmental services to respond to the needs and challenges of the Roma on the local level, at the same time helping for a greater efficiency and effectiveness in communication with representatives of the local-level institutions and services. Roma Information Centers (RIC) has been opened in the towns of Skopje, Tetovo, Gostivar, Bitola, Prilep, Stip, Kocani, Kumanovo and Delcevo. The hired staff has been selected through a public announcement process implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy.⁵

⁴ (data taken from: www.ombudsman.mk; Information on monitoring the application of the principles of equitable representation and non-discrimination. For monitoring the situation in terms of equitable representation of all communities the Ombudsman analyzed the data obtained from the competent authorities towards which he handled the situation until 31.12.2009).

⁵ More information about RIC is on part of employment.

- Roma officers in 6 municipalities:
Roma officers (members of the Roma community employed in local administration) in the municipality of Delcevo there is an Junior Officer for interethnic relations, in the municipality of Stip there are 2 officers for Roma issues, in Kocani, Vinica and Chair there is one employee in each local administration. The Roma officers are dealing with issues that are in the interest of the Roma community in accordance with the responsibilities of the municipality and are selected by the municipality and part of the local administration.
- Roma advisers in few council of the municipality:
The local community elects the Roma councilors and within the decision-making, the municipal council participates equally with all other councilors in the municipality. In the municipality of Suto Orizari there are 14 Roma advisers which participate in decision making of the council. In the city of Skopje, municipality of Centar, Gazi Baba and Butel have selected one counselor each, or four Roma advisers. In the municipality of Gostivar, Kicevo, Debar, Kumanovo, Kocani have selected a local councilor in the municipal council or five counselors. According to data of MLSP - the Unit for implementation of the strategy and the Decade of Roma at the municipal level there are 23 Roma advisers which come from different political parties.

3. SITUATION OF ROMA IN THE AREA OF EDUCATION

A. Area of early care and pre-school education.

Achievements of the project „Inclusion of Roma – Children in Public Pre-school Institutions in 2010”:

- The Project „Inclusion of Roma – Children in Public Pre-school Institutions” is implemented in cooperation with the Roma Education Fund, the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and Local Self Governments. The overall goal is to improve and support the integration of Roma children by increasing the number of Roma attendees in public pre-school a year before entering primary education.

The project has the following objectives:

- Improving capacities of Roma parents directly, as well as preschool teachers and Roma Assistants for supporting and encouraging development and education of Roma children, age 4.8 - 5.7 in 17 municipalities in Macedonia;
- Improving the social skills and proficiency in Macedonian language of Roma - children,
- Increasing the abilities of teacher and assistants personnel in combating prejudice and stereotypes against Roma;
- To raise the public conciseness about the problem with Roma children and to involve authority in the Local municipalities.

In 2010, 280 Roma Children were enrolled in pre-school institutions in 17 municipalities around Macedonia. The Roma children are included in mixed multiethnic classes keeping the ration of 30 – 40 per cent of the children to be of

Roma origin in one group. In order to ease the process of integration of the Roma children in the Kindergartens and to improve their social skills and proficiency in Macedonian language 17 Roma Teacher – Assistants is employed on temporary bases. Within the project 17 Local Partner Roma NGOs re also involved, which are cooperating with Roma parents and are organizing educational workshops with the Kindergarten personnel.

In the Republic of Macedonia, all students, whether from segregated or urban environments, are enrolled in the schools which they are selecting without any problems and obstacles.

The access is equal for all students in the country.

With the introduction of nine-year primary education which started in the 2009, the first academic year is regarded as preparatory education for all students,

B. Primary education

Statistical data

Table 1 Overview of Roma students enrolled in the first grade during from academic year 2009/2010.

No	Academic year	Male	Female	Total number of first graders
	2009/10	754	729	1483

Table 2 Overview of Roma pupils enrolled in the primary education in the academic 2009/2010 year.

No.	Academic year	Male	Female	Total number of Roma pupils enrolled
	2009/10	5528	5225	10753

Inclusion tools used by elementary schools (teacher assistants, individualized education plans, other inclusion measures).

1. Exemption from payment of the administrative fee for a certificate for the immunization.

The Ministry of Education and Science, through the department for promotion of elementary and secondary education and the Department for Development and improvement of education of the languages of the communities, this year in cooperation with the Ministry of Health liberated from paying the fee for a certificate of immunization which is one of the necessary documents for enrollment in first grade elementary school. This liberation mostly was felt by the Roma families to whom this expenditure was a serious obstacle for enrollment of their children in primary education.

2. Handbook of non-discrimination in the education system in Republic of Macedonia
The general or the common purpose of this handbook is to achieve cooperation and coordination between all institutions and individuals involved in the education system aimed at ensuring equal conditions and opportunities for quality education for all children regardless of religious, ethnic, religious or any other basis and establish a monitoring system that will provide for efficient functioning and quality of instruction for all children through the cooperation and involvement of all stakeholders.

3. Pedagogical research project "The situation and challenges in primary education of the communities in the Republic of Macedonia"

The Directorate for development and improvement of education of the languages of the Communities in cooperation with the OSCE mission in Skopje with the support of the High Commissioner on National Minorities of Hague conducted research on the pedagogical situation and challenges in primary education of the communities in Macedonia.

For that purpose, the board members participated in trainings for methodology for implementation of the pedagogical research, which was held by an consultant and then have designed 4 types of surveys (questionnaires for directors of primary school, the teachers, for parents and students. The questionnaires were submitted in the schools with significant numbers of students and members from the communities, they currently are collecting and analyzing the responses.

According to the predicted dynamics in June 2010, a promotion of a report was held in order to show the status and challenges in primary education of the communities in Macedonia.

4. Construction of the secondary school in the municipality of Suto Orizari

Secondary school in Shuto Orizari is under construction yet, will be ready for start from next school year.

C. Secondary education

Number of Roma students in vocational education, number of Roma students in high schools, identification of obstacles that Roma students face when transitioning to secondary school,

Table 3 Overview of the Roma pupils enrolled in the secondary school for the period between 2009 - 2010.

No.	Academic year	Male	Female	Total number of Roma pupils enrolled
	2009/10	1054	900	1954

- Drop out reasons,
 - Early marriage and lack of interest from the parents in the education of the children.
- Programs supporting Roma secondary school students, subsidies, scholarship program, number of supported students, evaluation of the effectiveness of program

Reduced criteria for registration of the Roma students in the public secondary schools

According to the National Strategy for Roma and Action Plan for Education, The Ministry of Education and Science students from the Roma ethnic community to enroll in a public high school during the 2009/2010 school year if they have 10% fewer points than the number of points as defined in the competition for the relevant curricula and if they meet additional criteria for the examination of knowledge and skills in the relevant school.

- Free textbooks, transportation and accommodation in dormitories
- Scholarships and mentoring for Roma students

Considering the positive experiences of such programs, The Ministry of Education and Science of the school year 2009/10 together with the Roma Education Fund has launched a project for scholarships and mentoring to 800 Roma students and tutoring for all 1606 students enrolled Roma in secondary education for an additional measure assistance in order to achieve better outcomes for all students.

Project for awarding scholarships, mentoring and tutoring of Roma high school students.

The general objective of the project is through positive interventions to increase the success of Roma students from 1, 2 and 3 year from all public and private high schools in the country. The project started to be implemented on 01.11.2009 under the Department for Development of Education in the communities in the MES and ended 8/30/2010.

The project was implemented in three phases:

1. Scholarships - Financial assistance in the amount of 2,200.00 Euros for nine months of 444 Roma high school students with middle average of 3, 00 and more, for academic year 2009/10 year.
2. Mentoring - 93 teachers engaged in mathematics from secondary schools to work with Roma secondary school students who are scholars and all other Roma who are not scholars but are entitled to use mentoring and tutoring assistance. The learning process in this case, a supervisor working on a further 16 hours with a group of 15-20 students, monitor progress of all students, their

attendance, inform them of the regime and the conditions for learning, opportunities for involvement in extracurricular activities and the possibilities for using student service departments, exercised contacts with parents mentored students informed of their progress to the project team.

3. Tutoring-68 teachers engaged in different professional and social subjects that the students themselves are asking extra help in order to master the particular subject. All high school students regardless of ethnicity or whether they are recipients of scholarship or not have the right to mentoring and tutoring assistance.

Results for the academic year 2009/10:

1. Due to the positive result from the scholarship program, out of 444 scholarship beneficiaries, 437 of them have successfully passed into the next academic year without repeating or leaving school.

- 5 students repeated the academic year,
- 2 students dropped-off.

2. As a result of the mentoring and tutoring assistance, the total number of 444, total 349 students completed with average above 3,00, while the average has decrease 88 of the students which were recipients of scholarship.

3.10 students which were not part of the program since last year have repeated, but were beneficiaries of the mentorship and tutoring, this school year they have successfully passed with solid results with average of 5.00. With the project, despite the passable results, the increase in mean achievement of students and easier learning of the school material, it is important as results to be mentioned:

- Increased attendance of students, or reduced school absenteeism.
- Improved communication on the relationship school-parent-child.
- Increased socialization and participation in activities outside school.
- facilitated access to schoolbooks, transportation and other necessary training accessories.

D. Tertiary education,

Programs supporting Roma students (scholarships, affirmative action etc.),
Enrollment quotas for Roma students in higher educational institutions

Roma language as an optional in higher education.

This academic in 2010 the first Roma language and culture is introduced as an optional subject at the Philological Faculty.

SITUATION OF ROMA IN THE AREA OF EMPLOYMENT

There are a total of 321,341 unemployed persons on national level. The Employment Agency of the Republic of Macedonia has registered 15,377 unemployed Roma persons, of whom 6,508 are women.

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of registered unemployed Roma persons by level of education

Level of Education	Non- Qualified	Semi- Qualified and Incomplete Secondary Education	Qualified	Highly- Qualified	Secondary Vocational Education	Higher Education	University Education	Masters	Doctors	Total
Total	13640	320	745	1	619	4	46	2	-	15377
Women	6020	58	152	-	258	1	19	-	-	6508

Ministry of labour and social policy with Employment Agency implements the active measures/programs regarding the employment from the Operational Plan for Active Measures and Programs on Employment. These are implemented in accordance with the defined timeframe and it covers both employers and unemployed Roma persons.

The 2010 Operational Plan for Active Programs and Measures on Employment includes the following programs and measures on employment:

1. Self-employment program.
2. Support program for formalization of existing businesses.
3. Support for additional employment in firms registered through the Self-Employment Program in 2007, 2008 and 2009 and program for formalization of existing businesses in 2008 and 2009.
4. Pilot Program – Workforce Mobility.
5. Preparation Program for Employment through Training.
 - 5.1. Training, re-qualification or training completion of unemployed persons for a known employer.
 - 5.2. Training in employment clubs for acquisition of knowledge and skills (foreign languages and computers).
 - 5.3. Pilot-training of registered unemployed young persons under 29 years of age, for a known employer in the textile industry.
 - 5.4. Training for certain vocations deemed deficient on the labour market.
 - 5.5. Training for advanced skills in the field of information technologies that is deemed deficient on the labour market.
 - 5.6. Education on business launching.
6. Employment Subsidies.
 - 6.1. Subsidy for employment.
 - 6.2. Subsidy for employment of disabled persons.
7. Internship programs.
8. Survey on vacant job positions.
9. Economic strengthening of women – victims of domestic violence.
10. Support Program for the Roma.

Active measures for employment

The 2010 Operational Plan for Active Programs and Measures on Employment also includes the following measures and programs on employment:

The 2010 Operational Plan contains 2 programs specifically aimed at the employment of unemployed Roma persons:

- Self-Employment Program, where one of the target groups are the registered unemployed Roma. This Program is implemented through trainings for unemployed persons interested in acquiring knowledge about entrepreneurship, elaboration of solid and sustainable business plans, assistance when registering own business and subsidies for launching own business.

- Roma Support Program:

The training will be aiming at vocations deemed deficient on the labour market, based on the results from the Analysis of Necessary Skills on the labour market in the Republic of Macedonia. The training will be implemented in the period of 3 months in particular institutions. Upon completion of the training, the candidates will perform practical work in real conditions with the potential employers in duration of 1 month, after which the employer awards them a certificate for completed practice. After successful passing of the exam, the unemployed person will receive a certificate for vocational qualification.

Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and IOM implemented a joint project on - "Prevention of Irregular Migration through the Enhancement of Decentralized Labour Promotion Measures for Vulnerable Groups".

The following are the activities implemented as part of this project:

- A total of 80 beneficiaries (Roma from Kocani, Kumanovo and Stip) attended training courses for vocations deemed deficient on the labour market. All beneficiaries passed the final exam with success and were awarded certificates for the acquired qualifications. Upon completion of the training courses, the firms, where the practical training took place, expressed their interest to employ 30 persons, out of whom 23 have already started to work, and 6 persons will commence their work in the shoemaking business as of June 1, 2011.
- A total of 30 beneficiaries (Roma from Kocani, Kumanovo and Stip) started with their on-the-job coaching in identified firms.
- A total of 21 beneficiaries from Kumanovo and Stip attended primary education for adults and have acquired diplomas for completed primary education. Implementation of primary education lessons for adults for additional 15 persons from Kocani who have not completed their primary education is ongoing.
- 60 women of Roma ethnic background visited sessions on topics relating to: active measures for employment of the Roma population, health protection,

discrimination and methods for protection against discrimination, implementation of the right to social protection. These lectures were delivered by relevant representatives from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the Ministry of Health.

- Two workshops were organized for the preparation of Local Action Plans on Employment for the Municipalities of Kumanovo, Kocani and Stip. Activities were organized for capacity building of the Roma Non-Governmental Organizations focusing on project management, project development, fundraising, lobbying and promotion of activities for social and economic inclusion of the Roma population, as well as training in English language in the field of project reporting.

Roma Information Centers:

Roma Information Centers (RIC) have been opened in the towns of Skopje, Tetovo, Gostivar, Bitola, Prilep, Stip, Kocani, Kumanovo and Delcevo. The hired staff has been selected through a public announcement process implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in January 2007.

The aim of RICs is to share information between Roma community, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Local Government Units, local-level services of ministries and institutions about the objectives and activities deriving from the Roma Strategy and Action Plans for implementation of the Decade for Roma Inclusion, and assistance to members of the Roma community in implementation of the rights deriving there from.

RICs objectives are:

1. Institutions and the Roma community are adequately and timely informed:
 - To establish communication and cooperation with the local team on information;
 - To improve the quality of information of the Roma community;
 - To improve the quality of information to institutions and other actors;
2. RICs efficiency has increased:
 - To increase the skills and know-how in field work from other towns (experience exchange);
 - To improve the level of expertise and efficiency in the RIC operation;
3. Communication opportunities with local institutions and the Roma community have increased :
 - To accompany and assist members of the community in implementation of cooperation with the local institutions;
 - To sign Memorandum for Cooperation with the local institutions;
 - To increase the coverage in the local media.

4. SITUATION OF ROMA IN THE AREA OF HOUSING

Ministry of Transport and Communication in cooperation with the municipalities has implemented the following projects in 2010:

1. Municipality of Stip, out of the funds in the amount of 1,000,000.00 MKD allocated for implementation of the project: “Reconstruction of water supply and sewerage system in portion of the Kosovska street in Stip” has realized an amount of 497,906.00 MKD.
2. Municipality of Bitola, out of the funds in the amount of 1,394,000.00 MKD allocated for implementation of the project: “Replacement of the water supply network and repairs on the Mirce Acev street in Bitola” has realized an amount of 1,379,542.00 MKD.
3. Municipality of Prilep, out of the funds in the amount of 2,000,000.00 MKD allocated for implementation of the project: “Construction of sewerage and drainage system in the Rade Ivanovski street in Prilep” has realized an amount of 925,189.00 MKD, and for the project: “Construction, adaptation and asphaltting of the Gostivarska street in Prilep” has realized an amount of 952,850.00 MKD or has realized a total amount of 1,878,039.00 MKD.
4. Municipality of Kocani, out of the funds in the amount of 1,000,000.00 MKD allocated for implementation of the project: “Construction of support wall in the Stamen Manov street – alley 1 in Kocani” has realized an amount of 995,554.00 MKD.
5. Municipality of Delcevo, out of the funds in the amount of 500,000.00 MKD allocated for implementation of the project: “Reconstruction of the water supply network in the Marsal Tito street in Delcevo” has realized an amount of 500,000.00 MKD.
6. Municipality of Veles, out of the funds in the amount of 1,000,000.00 MKD allocated for implementation of the project: “Reconstruction of the Stojan Burceski – Buridan in Veles” has realized an amount of 998,240.00 MKD.
7. Municipality of Vinica, out of the funds in the amount of 500,000.00 MKD allocated for implementation of the project: “Paving the Vanco Prke street in Vinica with bekaton tiles” has realized an amount of 286,681.00 MKD and for the project: “Reconstruction of the water supply system in the Ivo Lola Ribar street in Vinica” has realized an amount of 199,944.00 MKD, or has realized a total amount of 486,625.00 MKD.
8. Municipality of Kicevo, out of the funds in the amount of 500,000.00 MKD allocated for implementation of the project: “Construction of the sewerage system in the Skopska street in Kicevo” has realized an amount of 500,000.00 MKD.
9. Municipality of Debar, out of the funds in the amount of 500,000.00 MKD allocated for implementation of the project: “Regulation of the Vakovska River in Debar” has realized an amount of 485,381.00 MKD.
10. Municipality of Kumanovo, out of the funds in the amount of 1,000,000.00 MKD allocated for implementation of the project: “Construction of the sewerage system in the Gjuro Pucar – Stari street in Kumanovo” has realized an amount of 999,926.00 MKD.
11. Municipality of Gazi Baba, out of the funds in the amount of 500,000.00 MKD allocated for implementation of the project: “Construction of sewerage system

on the 12th street in the settlement of Jurumleri” has realized an amount of 500,000.00 MKD.

Based on the announcement published in 2009 in daily newspapers for allocation of apartments constructed as part of the Housing Project for Socially Vulnerable Groups in 2010 in the City of Skopje, out of the 102 apartments in two buildings, 19 apartments were allocated to Roma families, whereas in Makedonska Kamenica 29 apartments were allocated, but no Roma families applied for any. In the announcement published in 2010 for allocation of apartments constructed as part of the Housing Project for Socially Vulnerable Groups, for the apartments constructed in the towns of Ohrid 71 apartments, Kicevo 32 apartments, Kavadarci 30 apartments, Kocani 29 apartments and Kriva Palanka 46 apartments, a final ranking list was published for candidates who have been awarded a social apartment to rent. In compliance with the final ranking list, and based on the information available to the Commission for allocation of these apartments within the Ministry of Transport and Communication, the number of candidates from 7 socially vulnerable categories who own no apartments and for whom these apartments are intended, members of the Roma community who have received an apartment to rent and who have applied for social apartments on grounds of all categories is as follows: in Ohrid 10 families, in Kicevo 4 families, in Kavadarci 9 families, in Kocani 7 families and in Kriva Palanka 12 families.

From the implemented allocation by 2010 in 8 constructed buildings as part of the Housing Project for Socially Vulnerable Groups, out of the 339 social apartments 61 social apartment was allocated to members of the Roma community.

6. SITUATION OF ROMA IN THE AREA OF HEALTH

78 health education lectures have been implemented on the topic “Influenza” in the primary school “Brakja Ramiz i Hamid” in the Municipality of Suto Orizari with the purpose to provide basic information about this disease and basic preventive measures for personal protection. 148 health education lectures were delivered on the topic “Viral Hepatitis A + B” in the primary school “26 Juli” in the Municipality of Suto Orizari with the purpose to provide basic information about this disease and basic preventive measures for personal protection. 174 lectures were given on the topic HIV/AIDS and Brucellosis for the students in the primary schools “Brakja Ramiz i Hamid” and “26 Juli”.

Physical examinations for lice were made on 419 students in the primary schools in Suto Orizari. Prophylactic disinfection was also made by the DDD Service – Epidemiology Department as part of the Public Health Institute – Public Health Centre Skopje.

As part of the European Immunization Week vaccination activities were implemented for pre-school and school children, and also activities for identification of unregistered unvaccinated Roma children, whereby on the entire territory of the Republic of Macedonia preventive immunization teams carried out vaccination of 749 children of the Roma community (246 pre-school children, with regular vaccination according to the Immunization Calendar, 43 girls aged 12 with HPV-vaccine and 154 school children with vaccines according to the Immunization Calendar). In this period

185 health education lectures were delivered on the topics “Influenza”, “Type A Hepatitis”, “Lice” and “Intestinal Infections” in the primary schools “Brakja Ramiz” and “26 Juli”, in the special primary school “Idnina”, all in the municipality of Suto Orizari.

25 lectures were given on topic of “Lice”, “Type A Hepatitis” and “Scarlet Fever” in groups with older children in the pre-school institution “Snezana”, extension “Veselko” in the municipality of Suro Orizari, with the purpose to provide basic knowledge and measures for personal protection. 3,000 students were physically examined for lice in the primary schools “Brakja Ramiz”, “26 Juli” and the special school “Idnina”, and also 90 pre-school children in the pre-school institution “Snezana”, extension “Veselko”, on the territory of the municipality of Suto Orizari.

In this period prophylactic disinfection was made by the DDD Service – Epidemiology Department as part of the Public Health Institution – Public Health Center Skopje, as a program task, in the primary schools “Brakja Ramiz” and “26 Juli” and in the pre-school institution “Snezana”. Due to the occurrence of two cases of Morbilli in the Roma children on the territory of the municipality of Suto Orizari, Skopje, epidemiological inspection was made, and also a survey, in areas nearby the infected children, and control of vaccination status of the diseased (only one of the infected children was vaccinated).

With the financial support by FIOM and HERA ToR was prepared for the Roma Health Mediators.

7. SITUATION OF ROMA IN THE AREA OF SECURITY

7.1. Extremism,

Incidence of racially motivated criminal action and right-wing movement, for example:

- physical attacks against Roma families/communities,
- hate speech in the media or internet,
- marches and other anti-Roma public events by extremists,

- National policy and actions on the fight against extremists, the creation and implementation of targeted strategies on the local level, evaluation of their impacts on the life of people.

7.2. Crime and other risk factors in excluded environment:

- Overview of the structure and development of crime in excluded Roma communities.
- Programs to improve cooperation between the Roma community and the police and an overview of activities realized in cooperation in 2010.
- Involvement of Roma in the area of crime prevention.
- Evaluation of accessibility of appropriate programs of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention of addictions in excluded Roma communities.

7.3. Migration of Roma,

- The migration of Roma on country level, its causes and impacts.
- The migration of Roma to abroad, the most frequent destinations and the reasons behind it.
- The reasons of the return and the situation of returnees, barriers returnees face (estimated numbers, attitudes of local authorities toward this target group, willingness to support).

8. DEVELOPMENT OF ROMA CULTURE AND LANGUAGE

In compliance with the reforms in the Law on Primary Education and the 9-year Primary Education Concept, students – members of the Roma community – were given the opportunity to learn their language and culture by way of introduction of an elective subject Language and Culture of the Roma. This subject is taught from third grade onwards until completion of the primary education.

The Roma ethnic community has 53,879 members or 2.66% of the total population in the Republic of Macedonia. Both in the primary and in the secondary education this community attends lessons in Macedonian language of instruction. The Roma used to have an option to learn their language as a facultative lesson, but as of school year 2008/9 it is an elective subject, called Language and Culture of the Roma, beginning from 3rd grade, with 1 lesson a week, until the 9th grade, with 2 lessons a week. For this purpose the Bureau for Development of Education had elaborated curriculum for 3rd to 6th grade and has opened competition of a textbook for 3rd and 4th grade. The Language and Culture of the Roma is elective subject in the following schools:

Table No.1 Overview of Schools that Implement Lessons in the Elective Subject “Language and Culture of the Roma”.

Primary Schools that Implement Lessons in the Elective Subject “Language and Culture of the Roma”					
No.	Town	School	Total number of Roma students	Number of Roma students who attend lesson in the elective subject	%
1.	Tetovo	Goce Delcev	121	50	41.3
2.	Kicevo	Sande Steriovski	354	107	30.2
3.	Skopje	B. Ramiz i Hamid	2,126	1,595	75.0
4.	Skopje	26 Juli	476	345	72.4
5.	Stip	Dimitar Vlahov	118	73	61.8
6.	Stip	Goce Delcev	198	21	10.6
TOTAL:	4	6	2,761	2,191	79.3%

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

- The most serious problems that the Roma facing which should be resolved with high priority in 2011.
- Recommendations for systemic changes on national level.

Increasing the budgetary allocations at national level for implementation of the Decade of Roma:

- Increasing the human resources within the line ministries (employment of Roma in public administration at national and local level).
- Preparation of LAPs or revise them if they are already prepared, in order to have faster implementation of the Decade of Roma at local level.
- Larger access to EU funds and opportunity for their usage.
- Increased cooperation between the countries involved in the decade for joint implementation of projects and utilization of EU funds.