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1. BASIC INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION OF THE ROMA MINORITY

A new estimate for the total number of Roma population in Macedonia is not prepared in 2011. According to the last census, in Republic of Macedonia live 53,847 Roma, which amounts to 2.66% of the total population in Macedonia

Overall level of poverty rate in Republic of Macedonia is approximately 30%. Roma are particularly affected by poverty and social exclusion because of a range of factors such as lack of education and unemployment, consequently the rate of poverty among Roma is approximately three times higher than at the national level and is approximately 88%.

Most vulnerable neighborhoods mainly inhabited by Roma:

Municipality:	Location:
Bitola	Bair
Kumanovo	Sredorek
Prilep	Trizla
Veles	Ramina
Kocani	Stamen Manov
Chair	Topaana
Stip	Radanski road

2. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR ROMA INCLUSION AND INTEGRATION

Republic of Macedonia has prepared a Strategy for Roma in Republic of Macedonia and in accordance with the Strategy and the Decade for Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 National Action Plans are prepared. Links online: <http://www.mbr-ds.gov.mk/>

Further to that, municipalities where Roma population predominantly lives, in larger municipalities in Macedonia (Tetovo, Gostivar, Shtip, Delchevo, Kochani, Prilep, etc.), have prepared Local Action Plans that are consistent with the National Plans and are locally implemented in accordance with the available budget.

Representation of Roma in public administration

Total 34 724	Roma 198
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3. EDUCATION

The language used in the education process is an important prerequisite for continuous education. Roma often live in closed environments where Romany is used. Curricula in schools is taught in Macedonian language, and taking into account that the number of children who have preschool preparation is small, pupils usually encounter serious difficulties in learning the subject matter, which is one of the major barriers in the education cycle

- **Policies and programs implemented in preschool education:**

The project “Inclusion of Roma children in kindergartens”, in cooperation with the Roma Education Fund and 18 units of Local self-government with the aim to fulfil some of the measures and actions arising from the Decade and the Strategy for Roma in Republic of Macedonia.

The main goal of the project is to improve and support the integration of Roma children by increasing the number of Roma children in pre-school institutions, a year before starting primary school.

Direct beneficiaries 2010/2011:

- 459 Roma children aged from 3.8 to 5.7 years (one year before starting primary school)
- At least 820 Roma parents whose children will be supported during the project implementation but also closer family members
- Project activities are implemented in 18 municipalities throughout Macedonia.
- For the purposes of this project 18 nursery nurses from the Roma ethnic community were engaged and 14 Roma NGO partners were involved in the implementation of the Project.

For the implementation of this project the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs has so far provided from its budget.

- **Policies and programs implemented in primary education:**

Handbook of Non-discrimination in the Education System in Macedonia

The Department for development and promotion of education in the languages of the communities in cooperation with the NGO National Roma Centrum from Kumanovo and other departments of the Ministry of Education and Science prepared a Handbook for protection and prevention against discrimination in the education system in Macedonia.

General objective of this Handbook is to achieve cooperation and coordination between all institutions and individuals involved in the education system with the aim to ensure equal



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conditions and opportunities for quality education for all children regardless of religious, ethnic, or any other basis and to establish a monitoring system that will facilitate the smooth functioning and quality education for all children through mutual cooperation and involvement of all stakeholders. The present Handbook is published and it is available in Macedonian, Albanian, Bosnian, Vlachs, Roma, Serbian and Turkish language. The Handbook is disseminated in all primary and secondary schools in Macedonia and two training sessions were held for the authorised state and local education inspectors to monitor its implementation. In the Handbook a special focus is placed on Roma as one of the most vulnerable categories.

This project is financially fully supported by the Roma Education Fund from Budapest, Hungary.

Textbooks in Roma language for the facultative course in the language and the culture of Roma

Ministry of Education and Science under the project for free textbooks to all students, during the academic year 2012/13 for the textbooks in Romani language for the facultative course in the language and the culture of Roma for third, fourth and fifth grade in primary schools. These books are now available and are used during the lessons of this facultative course. Total circulation is 1,300 printed books

- **Policies and programs implemented in secondary education:**

Project for scholarship and tutoring for Roma students from 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th year 2012/2013

High-school students from the Roma community had the opportunity to bid for two new categories of scholarships awarded by the Ministry of Education and Science under the Project Scholarships for Roma Secondary School Students.

The first category refers to those students who have achieved an average success of 3.50 to 5.00 that will receive 2,200 denars per month for nine months.

The second category refers to students with an average success of 3.00 to 3.49 that will receive 1,500 denars a month for nine months.

The Project for scholarships and tutoring of Roma students 2012/13 is implemented in 3 phases:

1. Scholarships - **financial support of 600 students for the academic year 2012/13, of which 400 receive scholarships from the first category, and 200 receive scholarship from the second category.**



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2. Tutoring – The Commission, which is under the Ministry of Education, consists of **120 professors** of different technical and social subjects for which the Roma students have expressed the need for extra help to master the subject.

3. Help for successfully passing the state graduation of students from 4th year.

Results of the project for the academic year 2010/11:

1. As a result of the scholarships, **from a total number of 611 student** beneficiaries of high school scholarship, 597 students have successfully crossed into the next school year without repeating a year or dropping out.
 - 12 students have dropped out;
 - 2 students have repeated the academic year;
2. Out of 99 students that were monitored by the project team who were not receiving scholarships, but only used tutoring help, 46 students achieved average success of 3.00 or more, which shows the result of the program. These students are future potential beneficiaries of the scholarship. The remaining 53 students successfully moved into the next school year without repetition or dropout.
3. Out of 90 students in final year (18 with third degree and 72 with fourth degree), 22 of them and 1 student who is not receiving scholarship, used additional support and assistance in taking the state exam (16 students) and a final exam (7 students). All successfully passed the final exams.
4. 20 special needs students who are part of the programme have successfully completed the final exams in the schools “Partenie Zografski”- Skopje, “St. Naum Ohridski” – Skopje and “Iskra” - Stip.

Except continuity of education, increased average success of the students and easier learning of the school material, as project results should also be mentioned:

- Increased attendance of the students or reduced absence from school;
- Improved communication between the school-parent-child;
- Increased socialisation and participation in extra-curricular activities;
- Easier access to textbooks, transportation and other necessary school aids;

Reduced criteria for enrolment of Roma children in public secondary schools

Ministry of Education and Science in accordance with the National Roma Strategy and the Action Plan for Education, commencing from the academic year 2009/2010 in applications for admission to public high schools, provides that, students from the Roma ethnic community may enrol in a public school if they have 10% fewer points than the number of points defined in the competition for the relevant curricula and programmes, and, if they meet the additional criteria for the examination of knowledge and skills in the appropriate school.



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This measure was aimed at motivating Roma students to continue their education and gave the opportunity to enrol in prestigious public secondary schools in Republic of Macedonia.

Construction of a secondary school in the Municipality of Shuto Orizari

Currently a combined secondary school is being built in the Municipality of Shuto Orizari, where Roma population is a majority and with the same dynamics of work, is projected to be completed by the beginning of the next school year 2012/13.

- **Policies and programs implemented in higher education:**

Quotas for enrolment of Roma students in the institutions for higher education

This practice for years operates as a positive measure for easier access of Roma students in institutions for higher education.

Romany language as a facultative subject in the higher education

From the academic 2011 year, Romany language and culture operates as a facultative subject at the Faculty of Philology in Skopje.

4. EMPLOYMENT

According to the data from the State Statistical Office, in 2012 in the Republic of Macedonia the unemployment rate is about 30,8% at national level. The unemployment rate according to the same data source, in the Roma community is about 70%.

At the Employment Agency of Republic of Macedonia 12751 unemployed Roma are registered, of whom 3710 women (as to 31.12.2012). Qualification structure of many of them is unfavourable to the needs and demands of the employers, something that reduces their opportunities for employment, while the low level of education of a large number of them makes it more difficult to be included in some of the programmes and active employment measures and successful navigation on the labour market.

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REVIEW of registered unemployed Roma by level of education (Status by 31.12.2012)

Level of education										
	НKB (Not-qualified)	ПКВ и НСО (Half-qualified or inadequately qualified)	КВ (Qualified)	ВКВ (Highly qualified)	ССО (Secondary vocational education)	ВИШО СО (High secondary education)	ВИСОКО СО (Higher secondary)	МАГИСТРИ (Master degree)	ДОКТОРИ (Doctors)	Total
All	7835	229	471	-	471	5	28	2	-	9041
Women	3335	42	96	-	220	2	15	-	-	3710

* Registered unemployed Roma by level of education (status by 31.12.2012)

The Employment Agency in accordance with its programme objectives, directs its activities towards a successful preparation of unemployed people for employment, their involvement in active employment measures and mediation in employment.

Active Employment Measures

The Employment Agency implements active employment programmes / measures of the Operational Plan for active employment programmes and measures for 2012. They are implemented in accordance with the timetable and they include employers and unemployed Roma, together with the other registered people in the Employment Agency of the Republic of Macedonia.

The Operational Plan for active employment programmes and measures for 2011 include the following:

1. Programme for self-employment
2. Support programme to formalise the existing businesses
3. Support for additional employment in firms registered through Programme for self-employment 2007, 2008 and 2009 and the programme to formalise the existing businesses 2008 and 2009
4. Pilot Programme – Workforce mobility
5. Programme for preparation for employment through trainings



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- 5.1. Training, re-training and qualification of unemployed persons for known employer
- 5.2. Trainings in job clubs for acquiring knowledge and skills (foreign languages and computers)
- 5.3. Pilot - Training of registered unemployed young persons up to 29 years, for a known employer in the textile industry
- 5.4. Training for particular occupations that are deficient on the labour market
- 5.5. Training for advanced skills in the area of information technologies that are scarce on the labour market
- 5.6. Education for starting a business
6. Subsidising Employment
 - 6.1. Subsidising Employment
 - 6.2. Subsidising Employment of persons with disabilities
7. Internship Programme
8. Survey of available vacancies
9. Economic empowerment of women - victims of domestic violence

A Programme for support of Roma

The Operational Plan for 2012 has 2 programmes specifically aimed at employment of unemployed Roma:

- Self-employment Programme in which the unemployed Roma are one of the target groups.

The programme is implemented through training of unemployed people interested in learning about entrepreneurship, development of solid and sustainable business plans, assistance with registration of own business and subsidy for business start.

For the realisation of each self-employment a support is provided with grants amounting to 201,897.00 denars, of which 185,000.00 denars are in the form of direct support for procurement of equipment and materials, while the remaining 16,897.00 denars for support in the form of basic training of managing business, voucher system for preparation of a business plan and support for the registration of businesses.

Within the implementation of this programme during the period covered by this report until 29.09.2012, a total number of 128 Roma applied, and within the Programme for support for formalisation of existing businesses, 14 Roma applied. Regarding these programmes, it is important to note that the phase - registration of companies is currently ongoing, which means that the above figures are not final or will undergo changes, and that the final figure will be known after the completion of the programmes.

- A Programme for support of Roma

Trainings will focus on occupations that are deficient on the labour market, based on results from Analysis of skills needed on the labour market in the RM, as well as on the findings of the professional services of ESA and the findings of the realised programme - Survey of



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available vacancies, resources for organising and executing trainings and signed a Memorandum of Understanding between ESA and Vocational Education and Training Centre, and ESA and Adult Education Centre (AEC).

Trainings will be conducted for the following occupations:

- Electrical installer and fitter for residential buildings (in Skopje, Bitola, Strumica, Prilep and Shtip)
- Electrical installer and fitter for industrial buildings (in Skopje, Bitola, Strumica, Prilep and Shtip)
- Installer and fitter of water and gas installation (Skopje, Bitola and Shtip)
- Maintainer of mechatronic systems (in Skopje, Bitola, Strumica and Shtip)
- Maintainer of mechatronic systems of light vehicles (Skopje)
- Argon welder (Skopje)
- Gypsum-fitter (Gostivar or Tetovo, Skopje, Strumica)
- Waiter- catering chef (Krushevo, Ohrid and Tetovo)
- Maintaining upper parts of footwear (Kumanovo)
- Carpenter-maker and installer of plate furniture (Skopje)
- Assistant beautician (Bitola, Kumanovo and Skopje)
- Nurse in a medical institution (Bitola and Skopje)
- Nurse – working with instruments (Bitola and Skopje)
- Maintaining lifts and escalators (Skopje)

Persons who will be involved in the training, a compensation will be provided during the days of the training, to cover the costs of food and transportation, in the amount of 4700.00 denars per month per person including personal income tax and insurance in case of an accident at work and occupational illness. Participation is open to registered unemployed persons who were not involved previously in the Programme for preparation for employment through training for deficient occupations.

The training will be implemented over a period of 3 months in institutions. After the training, candidates will carry out practical work in real situation at employers for a period of 1 month, after which a confirmation of realised practical work for the employer will be received. After successfully passing the exam unemployed person receives a Certificate for professional competence.

Due to the high number of applicants, the need to develop selection criteria arose. Based on the experience of previous years of losing candidates at the signing of contracts or at training, the members of TRG agreed that it is necessary to prepare criteria and to have a reserve list of candidates.

It was also emphasised the need for adequate representation of all CVs at places where the training will be conducted. For this purpose, a meeting of TRG was held 03.03.2011, where it was agreed within the selection criteria to be specified and a criterion for realisation of any



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training in secondary vocational school if a sufficient number of candidates to form a group exist.

Due to the large number of candidates that have been assessed (67) with the first 4 criteria, it was decided to introduce another 2 extra - equal representation of all trades by reducing trainings that are repeated, and equal representation of all secondary vocational schools - that applied in 7 cities (according to OP 2011)

Trainings started with the implementation on 15.03.2011 in 11 schools with a total number of 34 candidates that signed agreements with CVs, except for occupational training nurse-working with instruments in Skopje and Bitola, because the name of the programme for this occupation longer exist in the formal education.

For the implementation of this programme 2,000,000.00 denars from the budget of MLSP to ESA were allocated.

Since the implementation of active employment programmes and measures of the Operational Plan for active employment programmes and measures in 2011 is underway, the inclusion of unemployed Roma and the effects of the employment measures will be presented in the annual report.

Except the active employment measures, at the employment centres as part of their regular operation, to the unemployed Roma are offered other services such as, mediation in employment, services in job clubs (information, counselling, and various types of training) and others. The objectives of the activities in job clubs at the employment centres were to encourage initiative and to strengthen the capacities of persons seeking employment, the successful introduction on the labour market, active job search and employment.

The Employment Centres are run in continuous cooperation with employers in order to inform them about the situation on the labour market, legal regulations, opportunities, conditions, advantages and benefits of employing unemployed persons. Employers receive services such as assistance in organising trainings, retraining or qualification training of unemployed persons for the needs of employers, providing a skilled labour force, employment mediation and other.

In the cities that have Roma Information Centres, the Employment Agencies have responsible person for cooperation with them, to inform them about the services provided by Employment Centres.

The activities of the Employment Agency of the Republic of Macedonia that will be realised in the future, within the implementation of the Action and Operational Plans of the Decade for Roma Inclusion (2005 - 2015), as well as the Strategy for Roma in the Republic of Macedonia, will be constantly adjusted to the needs and priorities of this target group.



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5. HOUSING

General conclusion is that the conditions in which Roma live are very poor, often below the proclaimed standards of adequate housing. Considering the abovementioned situation, the Cabinet of the Minister without Portfolio Nezhdet Mustafa - National Coordinator of the Decade and Strategy for Roma in 2010 signed a Memorandum for Cooperation with 19 municipalities, aimed at taking coordinated actions to address the problems of Roma as well as to provide budget paragraphs for certain interventions at local level for Roma.

As a result of the Memorandum for Cooperation, together with the Budget of the Republic of Macedonia in 2012 (“Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia” No. 180/2011 and 71/2012) in Section 130.01-Ministry of Transport and Communications, Programme 1 - Administration, Sub-programme 11 - Supporting the implementation of the Decade and Strategy for Roma, paragraph 488 - Capital grants to municipalities, subparagraph - 488190-11 other Capital grants, allocated funds in the amount of **10,000,000.00** denars for implementation of projects under the Decade and Strategy for Roma in Republic of Macedonia and Action Plan for Housing. The following projects are implemented:

1. Municipality Bitola 1.000.000,00 denars for project: Reconstruction of the kanalizacion on the street Ljubojno.
2. Municipality Vinica 1,000,000.00 denars for project: to build part of the street Gotse Delchev in Vinica, from km 0 to km 0 +000,00 +201.99
- 3.
4. Municipality Gazi Baba, 1,000,000.00 denars for project: Construction of faecal sewerage on street 12 in settlement Jurumleri.
5. Municipality Kochani, 1,000,000.00 denars for project: Reconstruction of the street Stamen Manov.
6. Municipality Prilep, 1,000,000.00 denars for project: Construction of faecal sewerage and kanalizacion sewerage drawn down the street Berovska.
7. Municipality Stip, 3.000,000.00 denars for project: Construction of reinforced concrete retaining wall in street Vardarska.

1.000.000,00 denars is not used by Municipality Veles.



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6. HEALTH

Poverty, in which a considerable part of the population lives, is the most significant factor that adversely affects the health of Roma, which do not have proper nutrition. As barriers for the access to the medical services is the low level of health education and insufficient awareness of their rights.

Roma health mediators in municipalities working to realize the following activities:

In the area of health care RHM:

- assisted in the realization of the right to doctor / doctor / dentist of 270 people
- assisted in the realization of the right to health insurance 300
- educational counseling committed to healthy lifestyles in 720 families
- discovered in 1100 unvaccinated or vaccinated children irregularly and made the appropriate services

In the area of social protection RHM:

- assisted in the realization of the right to social assistance to 180 people

In the area of administrative assistance RHM:

- assisted in providing personal documentation of 94 people

In order preventive protection of irregular response of parents to immunise their children, the following activities by the Ministry of Health were realised:

- Continued vaccination with mandatory vaccines under the Calendar for immunisation for all susceptible persons, with particular attention to the scope of MRP - vaccine for epidemic of Morbilli (measles) in the area of Skopje;
- Through the control of the scope of MRP - vaccination of preschool children in the Polyclinic “Shuto Orizari” - Skopje, it is noted that the scope of vaccinated children born in 2005 is 100%, of children born in 2006 is 99.76%, of children born in 2007 is 100 %, of children born in 2008 is 99.54%, of children born 2009 is 100%. Of those born in 2010, subject to MRP - vaccinations are 320 children of which 258 or 80.62% were vaccinated.
- The intensive field work to detect unrecorded and unvaccinated persons of Roma nationality in the area of Skopje (settlement Shuto Orizari, village Zlokukjani, village Katlanovo, village Ognjanci, village Indzikovo, and Municipality Gazi Baba) and their immunisation continues.
- In the reporting period there have been 176 health lectures on “Fly”, “Infectious hepatitis type B”, “Intestinal infectious diseases” and “Skarlatina” in PS “Vasil Glavinov” in order to gain basic knowledge about these diseases and basic preventive measures for personal protection.