

Roma housing and social integration in Republic of Macedonia



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REPORT METHODOLOGY

In the preparation of this report standard reporting methods were used, an overview of the existing literature in the field, interviewed stakeholders and experts in the areas subject to this report, as well as presentation of positive examples.

The purpose of this report is preparation of advocacy and lobbying tool for improvements in the areas of housing and health in terms of Roma community needs in Republic of Macedonia.

During the preparation of this report the existing literature was reviewed and the research team found many examples and positive approach practices in solving problems with inadequate housing as well as a range of disadvantages shown as conclusions with proposed solutions in the form of recommendations.

INTRODUCTION

Republic of Macedonia compared to other countries has been a leader in the process (first country which brought the National action and operational plans within the Decade and a special Strategy for Roma in Republic of Macedonia, which was adopted by the Parliament). The adoption of the two key documents gave a good base for the commencement of the process.

In the middle of the implementation process we were under the impression that within the plans there are huge differences between desires, possibilities and deadlines foreseen for the activities implementation. Intervention priorities, including housing, were recorded on paper, while in practice there was a lack of practical use. Therefore an approach was made towards revision of Decade's National action plans and Strategy for Roma in Republic of Macedonia for the period 2009- 2011, which corresponded to the positive climate for the survival of the action.

Within the reviewed Decade's National action plans and the Strategy for Roma in Republic of Macedonia, for the first time an implementation structure was foreseen (with a primary accent on the line ministries in the areas of education, housing, employment and health, Minister without Portfolio - National coordinator, Ministry of Labor and social Policy - Department for the implementation of the Strategy and the Decade of Roma and the National Coordinating Body - consisted of representatives of relevant ministries and state institutions and NGO representatives).

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE STATE OF ROMA HOUSING AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION

In Republic of Macedonia the housing situation is one of the key issues in Roma community. Within the Roma Strategy and Action Plans of the Decade of Roma Inclusion for the period 2005-2015, the housing is targeted as one of the key action areas.

In Republic of Macedonia many Roma live in substandard living conditions. All that linked to the poor socio-economic condition, lack of identity documents, health care problems, education, employment, discrimination or if we summarize the problems regarding housing cause deficiency identified as inability to have an access to a dignified life.

Often used terminology shows that the access is already known. For some time we use words as process, project, action plans, national strategy, social housing, Roma Decade, inclusion, integration. This described approach often facilitates the vision of the situation of Roma community in Republic of Macedonia, but even after ten years of social commitment in Republic of Macedonia, which is supported on regional level, still the problem of housing and in that context cyclically Roma integration in society remains an essential need.

According public policies targeting Roma, the Government of Republic of Macedonia committed to improve the living standards of Roma by having more measures. Considered as measures in favor of the Roma community in Macedonia are: legalizing illegal buildings, inclusion in social programs for housing (social housing), and allocation of state land for new buildings with legal status.

More often the members of the Roma community are asking questions like: what has been done; how was the process conducted; whether housing still remains the worst link in dealing with the problems facing Roma community; whether the allocation of national resources for the implementation of action plans was sufficient enough to encourage the realization process; what were the effects felt by the Roma community.

Even today when the Decade of Roma is elapsing, the large expectations of Roma community, with special emphasis on housing and Roma community infrastructure, the majority of Roma heard of Roma Decade, but in reality few of them knew the essence of the conducted process, despite the

reasonable expectations, proportionally grew the more increasing needs and problems within priority areas of the Decade of Roma.

As response to often asked questions the institutions, individuals tried to respond but they always remained on several key conclusions when it comes to Roma housing in Macedonia.

Generally we can say that more than 95% Roma in Macedonia live in cities and the access of Roma communities to adequate housing is a key condition for the termination of the cycle of poverty, reducing discrimination and successful dealing with priority areas of the Roma Decade.

In this context, it is necessary to note something really worrying, the difficult position of Roma women, who often face multiple discrimination - based on gender and ethnic origin – as well as other human rights violations because of the position that Roma women have in the family.

Unfortunately, still there is a lack of updated and comprehensive information about the location of the most legally and illegally built settlements populated by Roma in Macedonia.

The interrelationship of housing with other areas is huge, because poor substandard conditions often lead to health problems, without adequate housing it's difficult to find quality education and without education it's hard to find appropriate employment. Given the causal links between housing and other areas, the approach in addressing the issue of adequate housing of Roma community is essential.

Bearing in mind that the problems of Roma housing most acutely manifest in the context of local circumstances and living conditions, it is understandable that the success of the National Strategy is primarily determined by its practical implementation at local level. As a result, some municipalities where the majority of Roma is concentrated, together with Roma non-government organizations raised incentives for the adoption of local action plans, in order to transfer activities from central to local level. However, due to the absence of divided funds and resources for the implementation of local action plans, most of the activities remained only on paper.

Housing is often associated as one of the reasons for social exclusion of the Roma community. The social exclusion of Roma leads to unused benefits which arise through programs and measures from

the activities of the central government. According Roma organizations field data, some Roma families failed to submit the required documentation (last paid bill for electricity or unregulated legal- owners relations in housing, staying in rented dwellings, where relations with the landlords are not properly regulated), which is perhaps one of the reasons that part of Roma community can't benefit from the subsidies. While good intentions remain on paper, part of the stated examples may be replicated again in any follow up activity.

The general feature of the implementation of the National Action Plan on housing in Republic of Macedonia is the discontinuity in the implementation of activities. This conclusion can be taken as confirmation that the competent authorities do not allocate permanent assets in the respective budgets. Resolving the issue of housing requires engagement of large material assets, resources, human resources and, above all, political will.

"Pretty plans, but very little money for many programs" is common clause practiced by the central and local government neglecting capital projects related to infrastructure in places inhabited with Roma population giving priority to projects that carry out more political votes, regulations and mechanisms in the field of housing.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The right to housing is contained in numerous international documents impose on States signatories to take actions to improve the living conditions of all persons who are unable to exercise their right to adequate housing. The International Convention on economic, social and cultural rights, in its General Comment no. 4 of the Convention, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the United Nations defines adequate housing as: Legal ownership security; Availability of services, materials and infrastructure; Location, access to employment, health, education, child care and other social benefits.

The provisions contained in this document and numerous international legal instruments determine our framework for security and protection of the right to housing in Republic of Macedonia. In Republic of Macedonia still there are no adequate provisions in the Law on housing to define the notion of adequate housing, although within the Ministry of Labor and Social policy a Law on social housing is being prepared. This law will further establish the system and method of achieving social housing, definition of the concept and understanding of social housing, which is supposed to include the housing of the most vulnerable categories of the population, among which the Roma population. In the EU legislation separately in all Member States social housing is regulated as part of the domestic law (in some EU Member States there is a system of so-called municipal housing, where municipalities define the highest rents for social groups, housing conditions, etc.).

The most important regulations in the field of housing in Republic of Macedonia is the Law on housing,¹ The Law on dealing with illegal buildings,² the Law on sale of socially owned apartments,³ the Law on Ownership and Other Property Rights,⁴ The Law on construction,⁵ The Law on

¹ "Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia", no. 99/2009; 57/2010; 36/2011; 54/2011; 13/2012; 55/2013 and 163/2013.

² "Official Gazette" of Republic of Macedonia", no. 23/2011; 54/2011; 155/2012; 53/2013 and 72/2013.

³ "Official Gazette of SRM" no. 36/1990 and "Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia", no. 62/1992; 7/1998; 24/2003 and 24/2011.

⁴ "Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia", no. 18/2001; 92/2008; 139/2009 and 35/2010.

construction site,⁶ The Law on physical and urban planning,⁷ The Law on management of housing and business area,⁸ The Law on Local self-government⁹ and the Regulation on the criteria and the method of determining the selling price of socially owned apartments.¹⁰

Competent authorities for establishing and implementing the housing policy in the country, according to the Law on Housing, are the Government of Republic of Macedonia, the joint stock company for the construction and management of housing and business area of importance for the Republic, the Commission on Housing Affairs in the Government of Republic of Macedonia and municipalities.

⁵ "Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia", no. 130/2009; 124/2010; 18/2011; 36/2011; 54/2011; 13/2012; 144/2012; 25/2013; 79/2013; 137/2013 and 163/2013.

⁶„Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia“, no. 17/2011; 53/2011; 144/2012; 153/2012; 25/2013; 137/2013 and 163/2013.

⁷„ Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia “, no. 51/2005; 137/2007; 151/2007; 91/2009; 124/2010; 18/2011; 53/2011; 144/2012; 55/2013 and 163/2013.

⁸„ Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia “, no. 2/1994.

⁹„ Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia “, no. 5/2002.

¹⁰„ Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia “, no. 68/1992.

CURRENT SITUATION ON ROMA COMMUNITY HOUSING IN REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

The general conclusion is that the living conditions of Roma community are very poor, often below the level of the proclaimed standards of adequate housing. Often populated settlements with unclear ownership status outside of urban planning, with no basic infrastructure and the services of the state system are difficult to obtain. According to some estimates, around 70% of Roma have no documents of ownership of their habitat.

The data show that most Roma in Macedonia live in urban settlements (95%), concentrated in poorer areas (ghettos) or suburban areas. According to statistics and data from the population census conducted in RM in 2002, most of the Roma population with officially registered residence (about 45%) lives in just 10 municipalities: Bitola, Vinica, Gostivar, Debar, Kumanovo, Kichevo, Prilep, Tetovo and Shtip. In terms of regional population distribution, it is important to emphasize that almost as many live on the territory of the city Skopje (43.06%), and only half of them, in the municipality of Shuto Orizari. Roma live in difficult living conditions, with very poor and underdeveloped infrastructure. Around 28% of the Roma population lives in makeshift homes, in poor settlements with illegal buildings, or in a settlement that is not legally registered, with extremely poor, substandard conditions, large families and more people in one room. Around 50% of Roma homes have no sanitation and about 61% have no toilet or bathroom inside the home (UNDP 2003).

Bearing in mind the actual situation of Roma community in terms of housing, as well as the elapsing of the Roma Decade regional process, the perception, the community observations of the benefit of that process are contained in the final report of the Decade Watch 2012, entitled "Report of the civil society on the implementation of the Strategy for Roma in Republic of Macedonia and Actions Plan for the Decade in Macedonia in 2012" where Roma activists assess the progress of the Decade of Roma Inclusion.

According this report, a large majority of respondents state as a major problem the lack of documents for the ownership of their homes. Therefore, often the lack of proper documentation contributes to waive the benefit of some social services. Despite these indications for progress

assessment in the area of housing, there are also the official policies for integration and inclusion within the Roma Decade and Strategy.

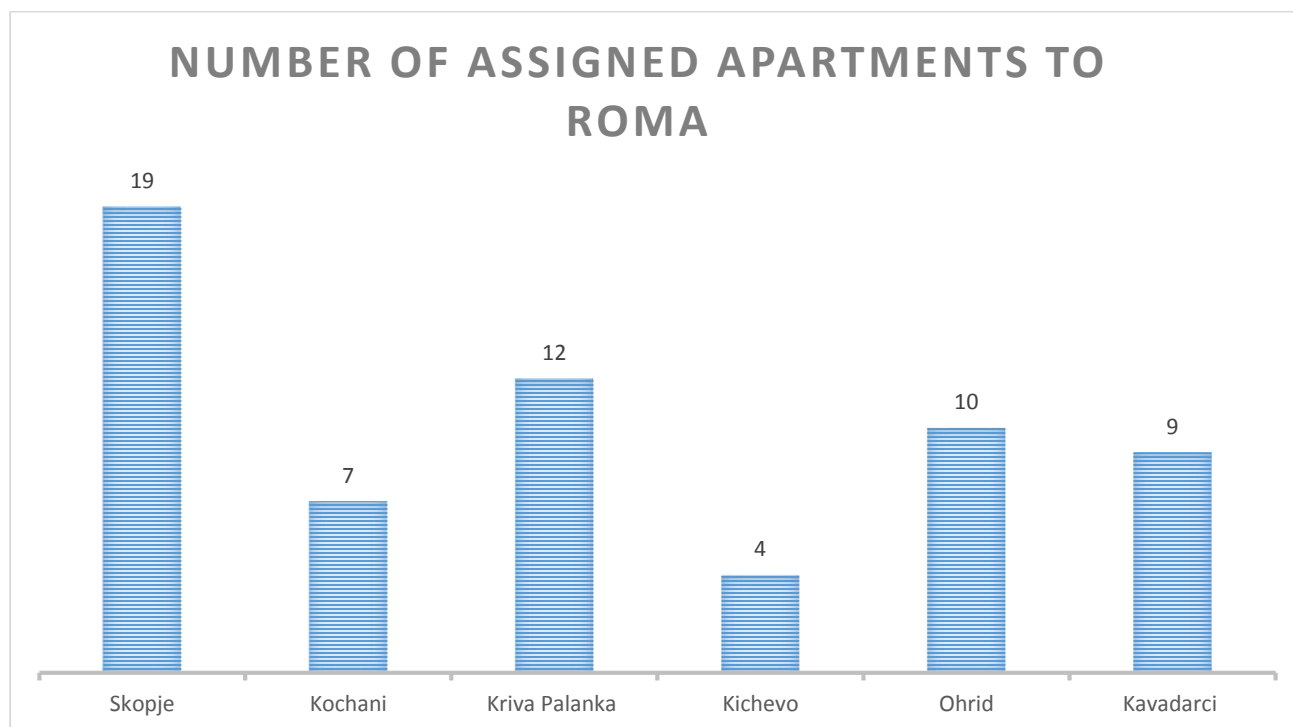
Regarding Roma housing situation, as a main source of information are data taken from reports of the civil organizations. The state so far has not yet prepared quantitative data and systematic information that would have suggested to a certain condition of the ethnic community in terms of housing, although the Roma Strategy highlights the need for collecting statistical data on the most vulnerable groups who are insufficiently covered by existing measures. That fact on the other hand, prevents the evaluation of policies and programs, the development of indicators to reflect multidimensional nature of social exclusion and neglect of certain groups' rights. As in other countries, Republic of Macedonia has no accurate data on the total number of homeless Roma, unregistered ghettos, although there are measures and identified problems presented in the revised National Action Plan for Housing.

Within the revised National Action Plans (NAP) of the Decade and the Strategy for Roma in Republic of Macedonia in the area of housing are identified several priority issues related to the target groups: children, women, homeless single parents who live on the streets, homes that are not, and can't be included in the Detailed Urban Plan (DUP), and the General Urban Plan (GUP), households that were manipulated (bought homes with no right on selling - need of full housing). From the above stated we can conclude that in terms of the NAP, most efforts and money were invested on households that need to be moved elsewhere because of the dense population in the areas mostly inhabited by Roma. As a general objective of the National Action Plans of the Decade and Strategy for Roma in Macedonia for housing, it is foreseen housing of Roma households (at least 400) according minimum housing standards, for the period 2009- 2011, through social housing and reconstruction of homes, urbanization and administrative support on documentation and infrastructure improvement (roads, water, drain) of 13 settlements mostly inhabited by Roma. The Ministry of transport and communications, as a competent Ministry in the area of housing, within a special program for support of the implementation of the Decade of Roma Strategy provides funding for the implementation of the National Action Plans of the Decade and the Strategy for Roma in Republic of Macedonia (from the budget of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, in 2009. 5,000,000 denars were allocated for the Decade of Roma). In terms of infrastructure the projects implemented by the Ministry of Transport and Communications for the period 2008, 2009, 2010, the

following has been done: improving the infrastructure of Roma settlements, a total amount of 10,894,000.00 denars (177,000.00 euros) were set in the Budget of Republic of Macedonia for year 2010, to support the implementation of the Decade and the Roma Strategy for the construction of utility infrastructure.

SOCIAL BUILDINGS FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS

This is one of the Government programs to solve the housing problems of vulnerable groups. Also, in relation to the allocation of social housing for Roma families certain activities are undertaken, allowing them housing according minimum housing standards through social housing (general purpose of the National Action Plans of the Decade and the Strategy for Roma in Macedonia). In year 2010 an apartment distribution was performed in 8 buildings with 339 social apartments, 61 were assigned to Roma families (according to Government decision, 10% of the projected social housing to be distributed to Roma population).



City / Municipality	Number of assigned apartments to Roma
Skopje	19
Kochani	7
Kriva Palanka	12
Kichevo	4
Ohrid	10
Kavadarci	9

In terms of need for greater communication between Roma community and institutions, administrative and logistical support for certain documents (identified as a problem in the National Action Plan on housing), the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy through Roma Information centers contributed to increase Roma community awareness in respect of certain administrative procedures and documents required for the fulfillment of certain rights. Thus, most of the announcements and activities in the relevant area are available to the Roma community.

ACQUISITION OF STATE LAND

According to the Ministry of Transport and Communications, on construction land owned by the Republic of Macedonia, construction can be performed on buildings intended for individual housing in the initial price of the public bidding for the sale of construction land of 61 denars (1 euro) per 1 m². Between 2002 and 2006, the initial price of the public bidding for the sale of land owned by the Republic of Macedonia, depending on the area ranged from 400 to 1,500 denars per 1 m² in the central area of the city, from 300 to 1,000 denars 1 m² out of the central area, from 150 to 700 denars per 1 m² in the suburbs, from 100 to 500 denars per 1 m² area in the newly established municipalities and from 25 to 200 denars per 1 m² in the countryside.

PROGRAM „BUY A HOUSE, BUY A FLAT“

The Government of Republic of Macedonia through the Ministry of Finance in order to help those who haven't solved the housing issue and don't own a home started with the implementation of two projects. Both projects are Half-half rate for the first five years and 50% participation for buying an apartment or building a house.

The first project will subsidize half of the monthly installment for a period of five years, with a maximum loan amount of 50,000 Euros that will be used to build a house or buy a flat. If the loan is greater than 50,000 Euros, the subsidy will not apply for the amount that exceeds this amount. Moreover, if you buy an apartment, the selling price with VAT must not exceed 900 Euros per square meter of usable net area. Interest on the loan in the first three years must not exceed 4.99 percent annually.

Funds to subsidize half-half installment are irreversible, meaning that after the period in which the state pays half of the home loan installment, the user has no obligation to return them. The funds will be used for a new apartment or house, buying or building a larger apartment / house by selling the existing apartment / house.

After a period of three years, in the next two years the interest rate can't be increased by more than 10 percent, and will be in the amount of 5.5 percent annually. Funds to subsidize the monthly installments of the banks will be paid in advance for the whole year. The deadline for returning the loan must not be shorter than 20 years.

The Law on subsidizing home loans with the second project allows the state to pay 50% of loan participation for an apartment purchase or building a house. The remaining 50 percent of participation will be provided by the buyer. Participation must not exceed 25 percent of the loan for the entire apartment / house and the loan may not exceed 50,000 Euros. If the loan is greater than 50,000 Euros, the subsidy will not apply for the amount that exceeds this amount. If it is a loan to buy an apartment, the selling price with VAT must not exceed 900 Euros per square meter of usable net area. The repayment period can't be shorter than 20 years, and the interest rate should be lower than EUROLIBOR +4.5 percent.

The funds provided by the Budget of Republic of Macedonia the users will begin to return after 20 years, without interest, in five equal annual installments.

The conditions for using loans from this program will be, the apartment that's being bought / house that is built to be newly build with all necessary documentation (property, licenses and building permits), to be bought directly from the investor or contractor of residential facility, the borrower or his spouse should not own residential facility and submit a statement under full material and criminal responsibility, the borrower can sell his own residential facility to build a house, the user of housing loan and his spouse should not to be burdened with another housing loan and the joint earnings of the user of housing loan and his spouse should not exceed 900 Euros per month.

The projects will be implemented in cooperation with banks, and on conclusion of the agreement a ban will be provided on the real estate lease (rent), a ban on additional burden of the real estate with mortgage and an obligation to report the whereabouts of the address of the new apartment / house within 15 months from the date of signing of the purchase agreement.

In order to improve the living standards of citizens the Government with these two projects, wants to help the citizens that have housing problems for the first time, especially for young people and married couples.

UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE

In the Budget of Republic of Macedonia for the year 2013,¹¹ in Subprogram 11 - Support the implementation of the Decade and the Roma Strategy, funds in the amount of 10 million denars (about 164,000 euros) have been awarded to the Ministry of Transport and Communications intended to support the implementation of projects on utility infrastructure, according the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015 and the Roma Strategy of Republic of Macedonia and planned activities and measures in accordance with the Action plan for Roma housing in Republic of Macedonia. Funds were distributed to several municipalities that submitted required documentation to the Ministry of Transport and Communications.¹² The same amount of funds was awarded in the period 2012-2012, funds used by several municipalities, mostly for building road and sanitary network.

¹¹„Official Gazette of Republic of Macedonia“, no. 167/12.

¹² Construction of roads, water supply, sewerage and retaining wall in municipalities Berovo, Bitola, Vinica, Gazi Baba, Kochani, Prilep, Probishtip and Shtip.

DETERMENING THE LEGAL STATUS OF ILLEGAL BUILDINGS AND THEIR LEGALIZATION

Citizens of Republic of Macedonia with the Law on dealing with illegal buildings got the opportunity to legalize their total built property that in the past period for various reasons remained illegal and was not recorded in their property lists. The procedure is carried out based on the adopted law, and it starts by applying, the applicant may be an individual, legal entity and institution which posses illegal constructions, as well as foreign entities or institutions. Roma should feel great benefits from this law. From the current legalization procedure very few Roma can show positive experiences or satisfaction. For many Roma procedures are still being solved and for some of them it has already been announced by the Units of local government that their buildings are in areas where legalizations is very difficult. However, we expect to see results by the end of the project.

What should we know in terms of legalization?

Respect the deadline until 03.09.2011 for submission of the application, 6 months from the date of entry into force of the Law on dealing with illegal buildings. With the request the following should be attached and submitted:

Certificate of citizenship or a copy of ID for domestic individual or permit for permanent residence for foreign individual, and for domestic and foreign legal entity, a certificate from the Central Registry of Republic of Macedonia, or the relevant institution in the country in which the foreign entity has its head office.

Proof on the connection of utilities infrastructure and / or utility bills (electricity, water, etc.), and if the illegal building has no infrastructure connections, notarized statement given under criminal and material responsibility confirming that the applicant has build the illegal constructions before the entry into force of this law and geodetic elaborate to determine the actual condition of the illegal building with the property deed for the land on which the facility has been illegally built.

If the illegal object has no infrastructure connections a statement certified by a notary public should be submitted so the applicant will confirm that the facility is built before the entry of this law.

If the illegal object is built on land not owned by the applicant or Republic of Macedonia, it is necessary to submit a long-term lease agreement for the land with the landowner.

If the illegal object is built on land transferred from the former owner on the basis of the purchase contract on which as user is registered the former owner and the applicant uses the land more than 20 years from the date of contract conclusion, it is necessary to submit a purchase contract of the land notarized statement given under criminal and material responsibility confirming that the applicant or the person whose successor is the applicant bought the land from the former owner.

If the illegal object is built on land with unregistered rights, the competent authority upon official duty submits a request to the Agency for Real Estate Cadastre for the implementation of an appropriate procedure for registration of rights on the land, conducted officially by the Agency for Real Estate Cadastre.

If a request is submitted to determine the legal status of an illegal object built on land with unresolved property relations, because probate proceedings is not performed, it is necessary to submit a notification of the notary public trustee of the inheritance court that there is a probate proceedings on the land in question.

If a request is submitted to determine the legal status of residential buildings for collective housing, it is necessary the application to be submitted by the community of tenants or signed by more than half of the apartment owners in the building also a list of tenants is submitted, purchase agreements for the apartments in the building, as well as a certificate of citizenship or a copy of the identity card of all apartment building holders.

Upon the submitted request the procedure is conducted by the Commission formed by the Mayor that determines the facts and prepares minutes for the insight with technical data on illegal constructions and photos. The members of the Commission are employed in the municipal administration.

If with the request are not submitted some of the stated evidence or the land on which the illegal object is built is with unregistered rights, the competent authority within ten working days of request receipt decides on proceedings termination or submits report to the applicant for a request supplement or submits request to the Agency for Real Estate Cadastre for implementing proper procedure for registration of rights on the land in question.

If with the request for determination of the legal status is submitted a report by the notary public trustee of the inheritance court that there is a probate proceedings for the land on which the illegal facility is built the competent authority within ten working days of receipt of the application decides on proceedings termination.

In case of submission of more opposed requests for determination of the legal status of a spurious facility by more applicants the authority within ten working days of receipt of the application decides on proceedings termination and refers the applicants to litigation proceedings in front of the competent court.

The municipality is obligated within 6 months of receipt of the application to determine whether the conditions for integration of the illegal construction in urban planning documentation are fulfilled and based on all documents and conducted checks on-site issues urban consent.

If the conditions are not fulfilled the municipality decides to reject the application for determination of legal status. The urban consent is issued if the following conditions are met:

The request for determination of legal status has been submitted in the prescribed period;

An on-site report for the conducted check is being prepared;

The illegal facility was built before the entry into force of this law and it represents a construction and functional unit;

The illegal facility is built on land on which the applicant has the ownership right or the right to use the land or if its property of Republic of Macedonia or a land on which the applicant has signed a long-term lease agreement with the owner of the land or it's a land transferred from the former owner on the basis of purchase contract on which the former owner is registered as a user;

The illegal facility meets standards of geo-mechanics if it is located in potentially unstable zone; there is a consent from the competent authority, if the illegal facility is located in listed areas and zones where the construction is prohibited or there is a need for special permission;

The illegal facility can be included into urban-planning documentation in accordance with the standards.

The amount of compensation on housing facilities in residential homes is 61.00 denar per m² of the illegal facility built area, which is determined by geodetic elaborate for establishing the illegal facility actual situation. The amount of compensation on other facilities, except on individual houses, will be equal to the amount of compensation for the land regulation which is calculated in the procedure for obtaining a building permit for this type of facility, which is determined by the Municipality. In this regard the building area of the illegal facility is taken into consideration, established by geodetic elaborate for determination of illegal facility's actual situation (buildings, skyscrapers for collective habitation and other facilities). Applicants who are welfare recipients do not pay compensation fee to establish the legal status of an illegal facility.

The applicant pays the compensation within 10 working days of receipt of the calculation or delayed on twelve monthly installments. If the compensation is paid delayed, the applicant is obliged to conclude a contract with the municipality.

Against the decision on the determination of the legal status of an illegal facility and against the rejection of the request for the determination of the legal status of an illegal facility an appeal can be submitted within 15 days of receipt of the decision to the state administration responsible for work performance in the area of spatial affairs.

The holder of the illegal facility that is built on land owned by Republic of Macedonia, as well as the land which the applicant has the right to use, is obligated, within six months from the date of adoption of urban planning documentation that embeds the illegal facility, to submit a request for purchase of the construction land.

The illegal facilities that do not meet the requirements for issuance of urban consent or with a decision of request refusal for the determination of the legal status will be removed in accordance

with the provisions of the Law on construction. On a contrary it would mean destruction of the illegally built facility.

The Law on dealing with illegal buildings is valid 6 years from the date of entry into force. It was published in the "Official Gazette of R.M." no. 23 / 2011.

The persons who are beneficiaries of social financial help or permanent financial help, should have a certificate from the Centers of Social Work that they are users of such right and they should submit that certificate to the Agency for Real Estate Cadastre of the desk where they'll receive submission form to fill out and register their request, record the number of request for the basic legalization and then within the appropriate time the elaborate will be prepared by the State Cadastre.

The individuals who are not beneficiaries of social or permanent financial assistance, but are individuals with low income up to 168 thousand denars a year on a household level, should have a certificate from the IRS and as in the above mentioned procedure to submit it to the state Cadastre.

CONCLUSIONS

- Housing is the biggest problem for the members of Roma community in Republic of Macedonia. Although until 2011 the state did not take concrete measures and activities to overcome the problem through the Law on dealing with illegal buildings along with the adoption of other regulations in this area enables progress in this field.
- The allocation of public housing for Roma as a vulnerable category is a good step forward, as well as the special program to support Roma to improve housing and infrastructure conditions in Roma settlements.
- The policy is also important for the citizens so they can favorably buy state land that is under their homes as well to participate in bidding for the purchase of state land intended for housing facilities, under favorable conditions.
- As of 2010, the awareness of the units of local self-government is increasing on the problem of Roma housing, and it is essential that some municipalities have adopted local strategies / housing plans.
- Best practices are noticed in a small number of municipalities that have adopted a specific plan / housing strategy for Roma.
- On the other hand, the fact that there are no data on the number of Roma families that missed the applying deadline for the legalization of illegally built facilities is really worrying.
- The construction of social housing is slow, and a small number of Roma received social apartments.
- The funds that are allocated for the improvement of Roma settlements infrastructure are too small to achieve tangible effect.

- An obstacle for the legalization process are Roma settlements located on land which according DUP or GUP is not designed for housing and municipalities are very slow in managing to comply the urban planning with the real situation.
- The number of positively completed legalization procedures on homes owned by the members of the Roma community is too small.
- Some municipalities do not have statistics on the number of Roma who submitted requests, and some municipalities still haven't adopted local plans / housing strategies.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- All municipalities to create a data base to record the number of Roma families who submitted or didn't submitted requests for the legalization of illegal buildings.
- Municipalities to adopt special programs / housing strategies, and in those municipalities with a significant number of Roma or Roma settlements to adopt special programs for Roma housing.
- Municipalities to make further efforts in aligning the detailed urban plans where the illegal buildings owned by Roma should be inserted.
- The state to expedite the construction and allocation of social housing for citizens of vulnerable categories.
- It is necessary to increase the funds intended to support Roma in the field of housing, especially during allocating funds for infrastructure construction activities in the settlements where the majority of citizens are Roma.
- Allow free access to sanitary network owned by public enterprises for socially vulnerable Roma.
- Consider extending deadlines for submitting request for legalization for Roma who in 2011 did not have identification documents or didn't submit request from other justifiable reasons.

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