

# Support to the implementation of The Roma Strategy

No.2

Newsletter of the Project "Support to the Implementation of the Roma Strategy" funded by European Union and implemented by BBI Consortium

## SECOND ISSUE

### Study visit in Brussels

Providing a learning platform about the functioning of the EU institutions in relation to the enlargement process and the implementation of the EU - level policies for Roma inclusion and improving cooperation between the staff of the Unit for Implementing Strategy and Decade for Roma (UISDR) and the Cabinet of the Minister without Portfolio (MwP), as well – were the aims of the five-day (13 – 18 November 2011) study tour in Brussels. It was organized by the project with the assistance of the beneficiary institutions and the EU Delegation in Skopje. In view of the importance of European experience in different fields, the study tour put emphasis on the identification of lessons learned from EU institutions, organisations, advocacy groups, etc., which are potentially transferable to the environment of the beneficiary country. The participants were the Minister without, Portfolio Nezhdet Mustafa and staff from his Cabinet, Mabera Kamberi - Head of Sector for Coordination and Technical

Assistance to the Minister / MLSP, two members of the UISDR and one from the Sector of European Affairs.



Study tour in Brussels, Belgium 13 – 18 November, 2011

This Study visit agenda was arranged with hosting institutions, organisations and networks and was successfully carried out through:

*-Improved knowledge of the participants about the visited EU institutions and EU-level organisations and networks. It also enabled participants to learn about various EU funding programmes relevant to their work on the inclusion of Roma people and about other upcoming pertinent opportunities and actions at EU level.*

*-Established and/or improved international contacts for the participating staff.*

*-Improved networking between the two main project beneficiaries.*

The visit agenda included also participation in the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting

of the European Platform for Roma Inclusion organized by the European Commission. There they learned more about the roles of each stakeholder in making of the EU Framework a success.

The study visit received positive feedback from the participants and the project team, especially in terms of achieving the objectives of the individual meetings and very positive in terms of selection of organisations and individuals for the meetings.



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## **Seminars for capacity building and developing human resources at local level for effective implementation of Roma Strategy**

The project team continues providing training courses referring to the implementation of the two project components: **1. Strengthening the operational coordination structure for implementing the Roma Strategy; and 2. Support for the implementation of Action Plans with a focus on local action plans.** In November the team organized a training seminar on EU institutions – their functioning and the EU enlargement policy. December was reserved for *Monitoring and Evaluation of the LAP and Web Communication* training courses.



*EU institutions training, Skopje, 7-8 November, 2011*

## Overview of the trainings conducted in the last two months

Topic	Venue and Time	Participant in the trainings
<b>EU Institutions</b>	Skopje, 7 – 8 November, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UISDR;</li> <li>- MWP Cabinet;</li> <li>- Municipal referents</li> <li>- Members of NCB</li> </ul>
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation of the Local Action Plans</b>	Skopje, 6 – 7 December, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Members of Roma Information Centres</li> <li>- Municipal referents</li> </ul>
<b>Web communication</b>	Skopje, 19 – 20 December, 2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Members of the Coordinating Team for Communication (UISDR and MWP Cabinet)</li> </ul>



*Monitoring and Evaluation of the Local Action Plans, Skopje, 6-7 December, 2011*



*Web communication, 19 – 20 December, 2011*





## Conference: Decent work for Roma



Inclusion of the Roma in the education system, improvement of their educational level and also inclusion in the active state policy measures for employment- are the only ways for Roma to become equal on the labour market and be treated well on their working places. These were the main points at the International Conference of Employment “Decent work for Roma,” organized within the country’s Presidency of the Roma Decade. The measures discussed could be the solution for overcoming the employment problem and finally making the country a better place for living. The Conference was opened by the Minister of Labor and Social Policy, Spiro Ristovski. Following him, the Minister without Portfolio, Nezhdet Mustafa, announced that in 2012 more Roma are expected to be employed. Until now, over hundred and seventy Roma work in the public administration.

## Second phase of LAP development: Revision of existing plans and drafting new ones



As part of the implementation of the second component the project team started the revision of the local action plans in the target municipalities. Let us remind that the process of implementation of this component consists of the following steps:

1. Assessment of the status of the progress in drafting/ implementation of the local action plans;
2. Support for the revision of existing action plans and drafting new ones;
3. Financial support to the implementation of identified local priority measures;
4. Assistance in the capacity building of the RICs, following the recommendations having resulted from the conducted RIC assessment;
5. Publication and dissemination of a catalogue with the best identified practices;



First workshop for development of Local Action Plans - Bitola, 13 – 14 December, 2011

After finishing the LAP assessment, the second phase started with LAP development work in Bitola, then Berovo and Sveti Nikole where the municipalities have committed to develop new local action plans in all four areas: employment, education, housing and health. Other municipalities also have demonstrated interest in cooperating with the project. This phase continues with revision of the existing, as well as, drafting new ones for Delchevo, Pehchevo, Kratovo, Shtip, Kochani, Rankovce, Prilep, Kriva palanka and Shuto Orizari. In addition, financial support will be provided to the implementation of priority measures identified within the LAPs and, as already mentioned, towards the project’s completion, a catalogue with the best practises will be published and disseminated.



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## Fourth meeting of the Project Steering Committee



4-th Project Steering Committee, 3 November, 2011

At the beginning of November the project organized the fourth meeting of the Steering Committee. At this meeting the SC endorsed the Third Quarterly Report of the project.

## Views about future-Next project steps

Currently the project team continues with the implementation of the planned activities. These are the steps coming up for the period January 2012 – July 2012:

With the purpose of strengthening the operational coordination structures at both national and municipal levels, implementation will continue of the training programme for building the capacity of the beneficiary staff of the UISDR and MwP Cabinet, members

of the National Coordination Body, representatives of the target municipalities, staff of the RICs, and NGOs.

Support will be provided for upgrading of documents and procedures of the UISDR, the MwP Cabinet, the NCB, and the RICs.

Support will be provided to the MwP in designing specific policies, improving co-operation with line ministries, strengthening dialogue with civil society and promoting the Roma Strategy priorities as part of national and sectoral policies.

As part of the awareness raising activities of the project, the implementation of the communication strategy will continue and will be coordinated by the already established Coordinating Team for Communication (CTC). The project web page will be further developed and information and/or summaries of all projects results and outputs will be uploaded. The project leaflets and newsletters will be disseminated.

The support will continue to the MwP and the UISDR for the running of the Roma Decade Presidency and the implementation of the Presidency Programme.

The activities of the project's second component will continue with the support to the revision, development and

implementation of LAPs, as well as, the capacity building of the RICs.

Upcoming trainings under the project:

- IPA funding priorities 2011-2013; fund raising through preparation of projects and access to EU funds;
- Monitoring and evaluation follow-up training - design and use of M&E techniques and tools to report about status of Roma Strategy implementation;
- Legal analysis and legal writing;
- HR/Admin working procedures and manuals;
- Effective office communication and drafting official correspondence;
- Partnership and networking; advocacy and lobbying.
- Team work and leadership.



**The project team consists of:**

- Project Director,  
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- Team Leader,  
Ognian Drumev
- Ass.Team Leader,  
Valery Pandzarov
- Key Expert,  
Fernando Villarreal
- Pool of short term  
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- Project support staff,  
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