



BEST PRACTICES
for
ROMA INTEGRATION
in the Western Balkans

Bi-Weekly Newsletters and Media Overview

Western Balkan's Insight 1-15 August 2012

Albania

Amnesty International: Albania must suspend discriminatory measures against Roma

Amnesty International is concerned at potential violations of Roma families' right to earn a living caused by local authorities in Tirana prohibiting them from collecting recyclable waste.

Source: Amnesty International
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/EUR11/008/2012/en/fa3802e1-4a5a-4325-835c-a00f97a46193/eur110082012en.pdf>

The Roma are part of the state aid system

Leonard Strazimiri, assistant director in the State Social Service rejects the finding from the Ombudsman presented recently, according to which the Roma are excluded from the state's social aid programs.

Source: ORA News Live
<http://www.ora-news.com/v2/index>.

[hp?on=details&id=49926&nid=4](http://www.vecernji.hr/regije/zaustavljena-odluka-prodaji-zemljista-romima-jednu-kunu-clanak-440908)

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Some new role models

Just few years ago, the Roma children that finished elementary school were a rarity. The Roma associations themselves were unable to stimulate the community to participate in the education system as a way to improve their inclusion in the society.

Source: Media Online
<http://www.mediaonline.ba/ba/?ID=474>

Croatia

A political fight stops the decision of selling the land to the Roma for 1 HRK - Kuna in Medzimirje

We decided that the price will be one Kuna for the Roma in order to make sure that they can pay the legalization of their homes, stated Ivica Lesjak, chairman of the Council in the Municipality.

Source: Vecernji List Newspaper
<http://www.vecernji.hr/regije/zaustavljena-odluka-prodaji-zemljista-romima-jednu-kunu-clanak-440908>

Kosovo*

Kosovo Asylum Seekers Put Visa Liberalisation at Risk

Hope of a speedy entry into the EU's visa-free zone for Kosovars could be dashed by the government's failure to cut asylum rates to Western Europe fast enough.

Source: Balkan Insight
<http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/kosovo-asylum-seekers-put-visa-liberalisation-at-risk?>

Improving the delivery of education to the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities of Kosovo

From 5-8 June ECMI Kosovo organized a training workshop for the municipal officials of Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje.

Source: European Centre For Minority Issues

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



Project funded by

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<http://www.infoecmi.eu/index.php/improving-the-delivery-of-education-to-the-roma-ashkali-and-egyptian-communities-of-kosovo/>

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Macedonian Roma upset over asylum rules

Under a direct EU threat to have its visa-free status suspended, Macedonia has undertaken measures to return its citizens to the border who attempt to seek asylum, or cannot justify their travel to the EU. Macedonia is also raising awareness about visa policies and the consequences of abuse. Some Roma in Macedonia -- one of the most numerous ethnic groups seeking asylum in the EU -- claimed the border measure is discriminatory.

Source: The Southeast European Times

http://www.setimes.com/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/features/2012/08/11/feature-01

Orav: Education is crucial for further progress

In an interview with Mr. Aivo Orav, the Head of the EU Delegation to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), we tackled issues regarding the country's Roma population and the implementation of the EU-supported Roma Decade project. We have also talked about the general problems that Roma people face on daily basis.

Source: Roma Transitions online media

<http://www.romatransitions.org/orav-education-is-crucial-for-further-progress/>

Montenegro

Blaze adds to misery for Romani refugees

Whether fleeing ethnic strife and conflict or escaping a raging inferno, life has proved to be an extraordinarily harsh battle for the Romani refugees from Montenegro's Konik 1 camp. In the 13 years since their arrival at the site on the outskirts of the capital city Podgorica, the 850 people dependent on it for a safe home have found it a demanding test of will and courage to continue to survive. Last month, a fire spread rapidly through the camp; 29 shacks that were refugee homes were burnt down, along with a community centre, a youth club and offices of the Red Cross and several NGOs.

Source: Romedia Foundation
<http://romediafoundation.wordpress.com/2012/08/13/blaze-adds-to-misery-for-romani-refugees/>

A fire leaves three Roma families homeless in Niksic

Three Roma families were left homeless after a fire broke out in the settlement Budo Tomovic in the town of Niksic, Montenegro. The fire completely destroyed three cottages in which the three families lived.

Source: Pobjeda Newspaper
<http://www.pobjeda.me/2012/08/16/u-niksickom-naselju-budo-tomovic-izbio-pozar-tri-romske-familije-bez-krova-nad-glavom/>

Serbia

A "gasterbeiter" village full of mansions

Out of the 3.000 inhabitants in the village of Draginje in Serbia, 1.000 are Roma. Half of them work in Vienna, Austria so it is no wonder

why the village is full with newly built villas and mansions.

Source: B92 Media
http://www.b92.net/info/vesti/index.p?yyyy=2012&mm=08&dd=10&n_av_category=12&nav_id=633745

Government adopts decision to establish an Office for Human and Minority rights

The Government decided to establish a special Office for Human and Minority rights at the beginning of August. A newly appointed Director should present the structure of the Office, which will have the responsibility to contribute to the protection and the improvement of the Human rights and the rights of the Minorities in the country.

Source: Government of the Republic of Serbia
<http://www.srbija.gov.rs/vesti/vest.php?id=174140>

MP Srdjan Sajn informs Macedonia's ambassador in Serbia Ljubisha Georgiveski about the OSCE/ODIHR BPRI Program

MP Srdjan Sajn informed Georgiveski about the initiative to organize first regional meeting from inter-parliamentary group, as part of the OSCE ODIHR Best Practices for Roma Integration program and the help from the local OSCE/ODIHR office in Serbia.

Source: The National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia
http://www.parlament.gov.rs/Narodni_poslanik_Sr%C4%91an_%C5%A0ajn_razgovara_sa_ambasadorom_Makedonije_u_Srbiji_Ljubi%C5%A1om_Georgievskim.15700.941.html





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Albania

Ombudsman appeals to Berisha and Noka to facilitate the registration of Roma as residents

In a letter addressed to the prime-minister Sali Berisha and the Minister of interior Flamur Noka, the Ombudsman Igli Totozani asked for a possible legislation change to enable easier registration of the Roma in the residents register.

Source: Shekulli

Deliberately set fire burns down Roma market in the city of Elbasan

A fire destroyed the Roma neighborhood market in Elbasan and destroyed all the goods. The fire at the used clothes market is believed to be started deliberately and the Police already arrested a 44 years old citizen of the town of Elbasan.

Source: Top Channel / Ora News Live

Roma families expelled from an ex-train station still wait for a housing solution

Eight Roma families that were expelled from an ex-train station in Tirana are still waiting for a solution for their housing problem, two years after they were expelled. Even though they were promised to receive some help for this issue from the authorities, the Roma families are still wondering the streets and parks, trying to

find temporary solution.

Source: Balkanweb

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Two political parties propose constitutional changes to allow minorities to enter elections

Two political parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina (HDZBiH and HDZ) declared that a new set of constitutional amendments will be presented and proposed soon aiming to allow minorities to be equal part of the political life in the country. Even though the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, already made a decision that Bosnia and Herzegovina is braking the international human rights by not allowing the Roma and the Jews as minorities to be elected and represented in the highest political bodies in the country in 2009, the long expected change is yet to be seen.

Source: Nezavisne Novine

Roma children might leave school, if they are left without schoolbooks

Many Roma children might leave the education system in the school year 2012/2013 because they haven't received the support for acquiring schoolbooks, even though an Action plan for education needs of the Roma should guarantee that they will receive the support they need. The Federal Ministry of education failed to transfer the

money for obtaining schoolbooks for the Roma children, according to the Centre for support, informing and joint acting of Roma organization in the Bosnian Federation.

Source: Vijesti

A two year old child died in a fire in the Prutace Roma settlement in Brcko

A two year old child died in the fire that burned one of the cottages in the Roma settlement Prutace in Brcko. The settlement and the wooden cottages built in 1997 have been seen as inhabitable for almost ten years, but many Roma still live there and it is yet to be seen if there was a permit for the Roma family who lost their two year old child in the fire, for their housing in the burned building.

Source: Vijesti

Croatia

A group of Roma attacked the local police in Otocac

A group of some 15 Roma attacked the local police in Otocac, after a fight in a local bar. According to the media reports, the group attacked the three policemen that came after the fight broke out. Several people were arrested.

Source: Dnevnik



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The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Bonding while changing windows

Teachers and parents whose children learn in the primary school “Bratsvo Migjeni” from Tetovo were part of an action for changing the windows of the school, designed to enable bonding between the people coming from different nationalities, Macedonians, Albanians, Roma and Turks. The project is supported by USAID as part of the actions to improve interethnic relations and the integration of the different ethnic groups in the society.

Source: Nova Makedonija

A protest for increased implementation of the Ohrid Framework agreement in regards to Roma employment

Some 100 Roma gathered in front of the building of the Government on a protest to express their discontent for the implementation of the Ohrid Framework agreement in regards to the Roma community, especially to the employment of Roma in the public administration. Supported by the citizens organization Romano Avazi, they filed a petition to the Secretariat in charge of the implementation of the Framework agreement for at least 200 Roma to be employed as soon as possible.

Source: Telma TV

Half of the Roma children go to “special schools”

Almost half of the children in the special classes and the special schools intended for the children with disabilities are Roma, according to a research done by the European Roma Rights Centre. These data are staggering, ERRC stated, having in mind that officially only 2.66% of the population in the country are Roma, according to the 2002 Census.

Source: Alpha TV

100 new houses to be built for Roma families in the city of Shtip

The municipality of Shtip started a project for building 100 houses for Roma families who currently inhabit objects in the city where major infrastructure projects are planned or families who are currently homeless. Though designed to be with an average size of 25 square meters, the wooden houses are still expected to contribute towards significant improvement of the living conditions for the families that will inhabit them.

Source, Sitel TV

Kosovo*

Handicrafts fair of the RAE communities in Mitrovica

Nongovernmental organization “Mundesia” in partnership with the organization “The Group of Roma women for Roma women” and “Women’s Group July 2nd” opened the handicraft fair and fashion runway the RAE community girls. These activities are supported by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), are held in the premises of the Cultural Centre in Mitrovica.

Source: M-Magazine

Montenegro

No Roma candidate’s list at the elections in October

There won’t be any Roma candidate’s list on the elections in October, according to Muhamed Ukovic, vice-president of the Roma and Egyptians association in Montenegro. This, according to Ukovic, comes as a product of the lack of organization of the Roma and the Egyptians in the country.

Source: Vijesti

8,000 Euros for the Roma and Egyptians minority from the Minority Fund

The National council of Roma and Egyptians will receive 8,000 Euros as a support for projects from the Minority Fund, out of the total budget for projects that the Fund supported of 170,000 Euro. This is the second time that the Fund distributes project support for the minorities in the country.

Source: Pobjeda

A solution for the Roma from Konik camp in two months

Montenegro’s Government announced that the containers to be used for housing of the Roma that lost their homes in the fire that burned down the Konik camp will be acquired and installed in less than two months. A total of 200 containers will be secured.

Source: E-Novine

Serbia

Three people attacked several Roma in Medjuhane

Three young people are accused of assaulting and molesting several Roma from the village of Medjuhane in the Municipality of Blace.

Source: Blic

Legally invisible citizens

Most of the people who aren’t registered in the evidence books are Roma. Their registering is set to be made easier with the new legal amendments, which should allow them to receive personal identification documents.

Source: RTS TV

Serbia get’s the seventh Roma political parties

With the latest addition in the name of Democratic Union of Roma from the city of Nis, the total number of Roma political parties in Serbia, climbed up to seven.

Source: Novi Magazin

Roma protest at the old fair

The Roma Islamic community started protests at the old fair location in Belgrade due to the restrictions they say they’ve felt from the state in the expression of their identity, the violation of their rights and their religious expression.

Source: Danas

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Albania

Homeless and jobless, on the outskirts of the city of Korca, Roma live in miserable conditions

About 100 Roma residents live in deplorable conditions on the outskirts of the city of Korca. For 20 years they face extreme poverty, being homeless, jobless and having less than minimal living conditions. Though the list of difficulties that they face is quite long, probably the most challenging is the survival itself, during the winter season.

Source: Ora News - 5th of September 2012

Factors Affecting Roma Integration in Albania

This study from the Open Society Foundation for Albania and the Institute for Development Research and Alternatives was completed in June 2012. It provides a picture of the situation of Roma living in Albania and analyzes the root causes of the high rates of social marginalization affecting them.

Source: Decade of Roma Inclusion - 5th of September 2012

Bosnia and Herzegovina

First mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina by the UN Independent Expert on minority

issues

United Nations expert Rita Izsák will visit Bosnia and Herzegovina from 17 to 25 September 2012, to examine the human rights situation of different minorities, including the Roma and other recognized national minorities. This will be the first visit to the country by an Independent Expert mandated by the UN Human Rights Council to consider minority issues.

Source: Roma Buzz Monitor - 13th of September 2012

EU expresses 'great disappointment' as Bosnia misses deadline for changes in the country's constitution barring Jews and Roma from standing for high office

European Council President Herman Van Rompuy called on Bosnia and Herzegovina to "strive for progress" in its efforts to achieve EU integration, on meeting with President Bakir Izetbegovic in Sarajevo on Sunday.

Source: European Jewish Press - 10th of September 2012

Gračanica: Free schoolbooks for 40 Roma students

The municipality of Gračanica donated schoolbooks to 40 Roma elementary school students. Nusret Helic, the president of the municipality gave the books to the students directly,

expressing pleasure from the interest of these students to get educated and to grow into contributing members of the society.

Source: 24 Sata - 7th of September 2012

Croatia

Roma return to Škabrnja: We are scared, but we have no choice

The local citizens in Škabrnja molested and offended the Roma community that lives in the area. This was the reason why several Roma families decided to leave the area. Now, they are back, as it seems that they didn't have any other choice.

Source: 24 Sata - 4th of September

"Minorities in Croatia have better protection than in many other countries"

The standards of protection of minority rights, including those of the Roma community are much higher than those in most of the European countries. The municipality of Medjumorje is one of those which are most successful in the process of inclusion of the Roma in the society, stated Neven Mimica, vice president of the Government.

Source: T-Portal - Vijesti - 14th of September 2012



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“With the help of the EU, you can buy 1,000 houses for the Roma community”

According to Zeljko Balog, the president of the Roma community's association from Medjumorje, the municipality and the Government of Croatia can buy 1,000 houses for the Roma community in the country, as a solution for improved integration and inclusion of the Roma in the society. The houses will settle families who currently live in extremely bad conditions in 12 Roma settlements.

Source: Vecernji List - 10th of September 2012

Kosovo*

Roma ask for cemetery improvement

The Roma community in the municipality of Kamenica calls on the authorities to make the required investments in the local cemetery, which are in poor condition.

Source: Koha net - 13th of September 2012

We, the racists

Being a Roma while living in Kosovo has been tough and dangerous in the past years. This goes double for the Ashkali and the Egyptians, even though many of them are much closer to the majority of the people in Kosovo since they speak the Albanian language even between them.

Source: E-Novine - 15th of September 2012

Montenegro

Free schoolbooks for all “poor” children

The ministry for education and sports along with the ministry for labor and social care distributed free schoolbooks to 7,138 children coming from socially endangered families, including many Roma children.

Source: Pobjeda - 6th of September 2012

The rain drowns the fire and

the hope

The living conditions in the Konik camp are worsened by the recent rainfalls, even though it was the rain itself that helped for the fires to be put under control.

Source: Pobjeda - 14th of September 2012

Red Cross Montenegro – Free school accessories for 250 Roma children

The Red Cross from Montenegro organized an action for distribution of school accessories for 250 Roma children from the elementary school Bozidar Vukovic Podgoricanin.

Source: Vijesti - 12th of September 2012

Serbia

A parliamentary committee to take a look at the “Roma theft”

The Parliamentary Committee for human and minority rights will check if there are in fact special “civil guards” formed to protect from the thefts allegedly caused by the Roma in the northern part of the country.

Source: B-92 - 14th of September 2012

Step by step to better living conditions

The regional secretary for economy, employment and gender equality, Miroslav Vasin and the chairman of the Office for Roma inclusion in the Government, Dusko Jovanovic participated in the ceremony following the signing of the agreement for subventions for self-employment of unemployed Roma in Vojvodina.

Source: Danas - 7th of September 2012

Students teach Roma children to read

A group of 33 adult Roma from the settlement Mali Leskovac finished the course for reading and writing successfully, on the classes taught by students from the Belgrade University and the Faculty of drama arts. For their work

with the Roma, the students will receive one year long scholarships.

Source: Kurir - 5th of September

Five million Euros for improvement of the living conditions and better inclusion of Roma from the IPA Funds

Serbia will be able to use as much as five million Euros from the IPA funds for improvement of the living conditions of the Roma community and for improved inclusion of this community in the society.

Source: Vesti Na Dlanu - 4th of September 2012

Photo exhibition “Family album” illustrates Roma families life

An exhibition entitled Family album will be presented today in the space on the ground floor of the trade house Beograd, located on Knez Mihajlova street. The exhibition portrays the life of Roma families.

Source: Blic - 10th of September 2012

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

“Roma trumpet fest 2012”

The seventh annual traditional festival called Roma trumpet fest will be held today at the city square in Kumanovo,

Source: Plus Info - 6th of September 2012

Improved living conditions for the Roma in Prilep

The minister without portfolio, Nezdeto Mustafa was present at the ground works of the sewage system for the Roma settlement called Trizla, in the city of Prilep. The building of the sewage system is part of the efforts of the Municipality of Prilep for improved living conditions for the Roma.

Source: Kanal 77 - 7th of September 2012

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Albania

Totozani: Take measures for Roma or risk integration

The Public Ombudsman, Igli Totozani urged three ministers in the Albanian Government to urgently act towards protection of the rights of the Roma in the country and their integration in order not to jeopardize the country's EU integration process.

Source: Ora News – 18th of September 2012
<http://www.ora-news.com/v2/index.php?on=details&id=52526&nid=4>

Roma protest in Lezhë

Several dozen members of the Roma community in Lezhë protested in front of the municipality building, because of the delays in the payment of the social assistance from the municipality.

Source: Top Channel – 28th of September 2012
<http://www.top-channel.tv/artikull.php?ref=rss&id=243098>

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Two million KM for Roma housing

The Council of Ministers made a decision to allocate two million KM (1,02 million €) in projects for improvement of Roma housing, 710.000 KM for

employment of Roma and 210.000 KM for health protection.

Source: Klix – 18th of September 2012
<http://www.klix.ba/vijesti/bih/za-stambeno-zbrinjavanje-roma-bit-ce-utroseno-dva-miliona-km/120918139>

Ethnic and religious differences deepened from politics

The differences between the people from different ethnic and religious background are deepened further by the political differences, according to Rita Izsak, UN expert on minorities.

Source: FENA – 25th of September 2012
<http://www.source.ba/clanak/3166187110569/vijesti/Etnicke-i-vjerske-razlike-u-BiH-produbljuju-se-politickim-razlikama/?v=13>

Croatia

Council of Europe's Anti-Racism Commission publishes new report on Croatia

The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) published its fourth report on Croatia. ECRI's Chair, Mr Jenö Kaltenbach, said that, despite positive developments, there were issues of concern, such as the impact on inter-ethnic relations of the under-representation of persons belonging to national minorities in the public administration and the courts, and in particular the low

number of Serbs in the police at local level, and the fact that many Roma still do not have personal identity or citizenship documents.

Source: Council of Europe – 25th of September 2012
http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/ecri/Library/PressReleases/118-25_09_2012_Croatia_en.asp

Local citizens protest against Roma children going to school together with their children

Around 50 Roma children were stopped from going to schools by local citizens of Gorni Hrascan protesting against them visiting the same school as their children do.

Source: Radosarajevo – 17th of September 2012
<http://www.radosarajevo.ba/novost/90122/prosvjedovali-jer-ne-zele-romsku-djecu-u-svojoj-skoli>

Roma students return to school

After two days of protests, the Roma children from Gorni Hrascan in Medzumorje returned to the school.

Source: AlJazeera Balkans – 18th of September 2012
<http://balkans.aljazeera.net/makale/romska-djeca-u-hrvatskoj-ponovno-u-skoli>



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Lustig calls for tolerance of Roma

Branko Lustig, film producer and double Academy award winner, as well as survivor of the Holocaust, asked for increased tolerance towards the Roma on an addressing in school in Medzumorje, after the incident in Gorni Hrascan.

Source: **AlJazeera Balkans – 20th of September 2012**

<http://balkans.aljazeera.net/makale/hrvatska-lustig-stao-u-odbranu-roma>

Roma family receives 6,000 Kuna from the state

The fact that a Roma family receives 6,000 Kuna from the state caused another misunderstanding in Medzumorje, as the local population feels that the amount presented as a social aid for a Roma family with five members is much larger than the social help for the other communities.

Source: **Vecernji List – 27th of September 2012**

<http://www.vecernji.hr/vijesti/hns-romska-obitelj-petero-djece-drzave-dobiva-6000-kuna-clanak-457946>

Kosovo*

“Art in action” calls for integration of the RAE community

The second part of the project for raising awareness of Roma integration, “Art in Action”, supported by the Kosovo Foundation for Open Society “SOROS” and the Dutch Embassy was finalized.

Source: **Koha – 25th of September 2012**
<http://www.koha.net/?page=1,5,116538>

Community Centre “Jeta e Re” in Prizren, continues with education activities for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian pupils of pre-primary and primary school education

OSCE field teams visited community centre “Jeta e Re” in Prizren, which serves Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities and learned of their con-

tinuing implementation on activities. Currently, the centre is implementing two projects, respectively for 30 children of pre-primary education and 83 pupils of primary and lower secondary education. The main aim of these projects is to increase education knowledge and capacities of the pupils and to prepare them for primary and upper secondary education. The project for pre-primary education is financed by German Foundation Karl KübelStiftung, while for after-school activities by Kosovo Education Centre

Source: **OSCE Mission in Kosovo - Regional Centers**

OSCE hosts “donor’s conference” on the implementation of the local action plan for the integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities

Within the unified budget project, “Enhance capacity of non-majority communities and other marginalized groups to take active role into the political, social and economic life” OSCE field teams, in cooperation with Prizren municipality, hosted a “donors conference” on the implementation of the local action plan (LAP) for integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Prizren. Following a statement of the municipal assembly chairperson and the deputy mayor for communities on the allocation of a budget line for the implementation of the LAP, international donors also committed themselves for funding the relevant components of the LAP. Apart from municipal stakeholders, representatives of Kosovo Foundation of Open Society (KFOS), Swiss Caritas, UN-HCR, ArbeiterSamariter Bund (ASB), European Centre for Minority Issues (ECMI), People in Need, Balkan Sunflowers, Kosovo Caritas, Academy for Training and Technical Assistance (ATTA), Communities Consultative Council, Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian civil society, and media, attended the event. Noteworthy, participants praised the OSCE initiative in organizing the event to support implementation of the LAP in Prizren.

Source: **OSCE Mission in Kosovo - Regional Centers**

Caritas Switzerland organizes roundtable discussion with implementation partners in Prizren

The Head of International Cooperation for Caritas Switzerland visited Prizren to meet and discuss with local partners about the continuing role of the organization in the implementation of gender and youth policies and the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians (RAE) local action plan. During the visit, best practices with local partners were highlighted, and municipal officials presented their planned activities on the respective issues for 2013. Approximately 20 participants attended the meeting, including the municipal youth officer, municipal officer for communities and return, “Institute for Sustainability and Development of Youth”, head of the local youth action council, and representatives from both the Roma non-governmental organization (NGO) “Iniciativa 6” and the women’s NGO “Dora Dorës”.

Source: **OSCE Mission in Kosovo - Regional Centers**

Montenegro

A cottage burns down to the ground in the Roma settlement in Niksic

Nobody was injured in the fire that caught one of the cottages in the Roma settlement near Trebjes in Niksic though as much as nine people were there when the fire broke out. The cottage and the furniture of the Adzovic family were completely destroyed by the fire.

Source: **Nezavisne – 27th of September 2012**
<http://www.nezavisne.com/novosti/ex-yu/Izgorjela-baraka-u-romskom-naselju-160480.html>

To stop the hepatitis among Roma children

The Institute for Public Health once again organized action for vaccination to prevent the spreading of hepatitis among Roma children in the refugee camp Vrela Ribnicka.

Source: **Montenews – 30th of September 2012**
<http://www.montenews.me/vijesti/podgorica/185383.html>

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Redjep Begenaj: The Roma children from Konik don't have a childhood

Redjep Begenaj, the front man of the hip-hop band Boyz in Da Hood claims that the children from Konik camp don't have a chance to enjoy a proper childhood.

Source: Pobjeda – 17th of September 2012
<http://www.pobjeda.me/2012/09/17/redjep-begenaj-romska-djeca-sa-konika-nemaju-djetinjstvo/>

Serbia

Programmes to help impoverished Roma

The Serbian government has initiated numerous projects to improve life for the estimated 500,000 Roma in Serbia, but critics said the results are far from satisfactory as many Roma continue to live in poverty and be disproportionately affected by unemployment.

Source: SETimes – 20th of September 2012
http://setimes.com/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/features/2012/09/20/feature-01

More than half of the children don't have access to kindergartens

More than half of the children in Serbia don't have access to kindergartens, says Judita Rajhenberg from UNICEF. Rajhenberg states that this is especially worrying because the children at age between three and five years coming from poor families, the Roma children and the children in the rural areas are left completely without an option for kindergarten.

Source: B-92 – 25th of September 2012
http://www.b92.net/info/vesti/index.php?yyyy=2012&mm=09&dd=25&nav_category=12&nav_id=645976

Systematic persecution of Roma

2,369 people are evicted by force in Belgrade, in the period between April 2009 and April 2012, most of which are Roma.

Source: E-Novine – 28th of September 2012
<http://www.e-novine.com/intervju/intervju-drustvo/72022-Sistemski-progon-Roma.html>

Additional funds for Roma in the state budget

The president of the Serbian Roma Party, Sdjan Sajn stated that additional funds for Roma integration processes are to be secured with the upcoming adjustment in the state budget in coordination with the Minister of finance.

Source: 24 Sata – 18th of September 2012
<http://www.24sata.rs/vesti/aktuelno/vest/dodatna-sredstva-za-rome-u-budzetu/55840.phtml>

23 Roma families evicted from Belgrade

Total off 23 Roma families were evicted from an old factory building in Novi Beograd, in a two day action following a decision from the Courts.

Source: Blic – 21th of September 2012
<http://www.blic.rs/Vesti/Beograd/343886/Iseljene-23-romske-porodice-s-Novog-Beograda>

Swastika drawn on a Roma family's house

A swastika was drawn on the wall of a Roma family's house in Kragujevac. The family thinks that it is a death threat from some of the neighbors.

Source: Kurir – 20th of September 2012
<http://www.kurir-info.rs/na-kuci-romske-porodice-osvanuo-kukasti-krst-i-poruka-smrt-clanak-420516>

A new street for the Roma neighborhood

Around 600 Roma in Surdulica now have a new street made of cobblestone connecting the Roma neighborhood with the center of Surdulica.

Source: Glas Javnosti – 27th of September 2012
<http://www.glas-javnosti.rs/clanak/srbija/glas-javnosti-27-09-2012/romska-mahala-dobila-ulicu>

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Young Macedonian Roma De-

mand the Right to Equal Representation

Roma activists in Macedonia engaged in the protest campaign Rromano Avazi! (Roma Voice!) to demand equal representation in public life explain the challenges they face and affirm their determination to continue the fight for democracy and equal opportunities.

Source: Open Society Foundations – 27th of September 2012
<http://www.soros.org/voices/young-macedonian-roma-demand-right-equal-representation>

Roma Decade in Kocani

The mayor of the Municipality of Kocani, Ratko Dimitrovski signed a Memorandum for cooperation with the directors of the schools in the Municipality and the Roma Education Fund for increased cooperation on the field of education for the Roma in Kocani.

Source: Kurir – 24th of September 2012
<http://kurir.mk/republika/opstini/85690-Vo-Kocani-realizacija-na-Dekada-na-Romite>

Western Balkans

More and more Roma moving to Germany

They are pursued, marginalized and discriminated against in many countries. And many Roma end up in Germany - but few are allowed to remain. They don't want to stay in their home countries. In August this year, around 930 Serbs and more than 1,000 Macedonians applied for asylum in Germany. That was nearly four times as many as the month before, according to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF). Almost all of them are Roma and Sinti, minorities that are discriminated against and marginalized, sometimes even hunted down, in their home countries.

Source: Deutsche Welle - 24th of September 2012
<http://www.dw.de/dw/article/0,,16256679,00.html>





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Albania

Albania made good progress towards fulfilling the criteria for membership of the EU-report

Implementation of legislative and policy tools in the field of human rights, in particular regarding Roma, needs further improvement.

Source: **Balkans – 11th of October 2012**

<http://www.balkans.com/open-news.php?uniquenumber=159417>

No infrastructure in the Roma neighborhood

Due to the economic crisis in Greece, hundreds of Roma emigrants are returning to the so called Roma neighborhood in Gjirokastër even though the buildings and the infrastructure in it are in poor condition.

Source: **Top Channel 8th of October 2012**

<http://www.top-channel.tv/artikull.php?ref=rss&id=243688>

Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination: Roma prejudices in employment and education

According to a report by the Commissioner for protection from discrimination, published this year, members of the Roma community feel discriminated in the areas of education and employment.

Source: **Gazeta Shqiptare – 4th of October 2012**

<http://www.balkanweb.com/gazetav5/artikull.php?id=122342>

Food quotas for the Roma and Egyptian children

Food quotas for the Roma and Egyptian children in the Naim Frasheri school in Ko-

rçë have been introduced as a pilot project by the Council of Ministers.

Source: **Gazeta Shqiptare – 11th of October 2012**

<http://www.balkanweb.com/gazetav5/artikull.php?id=122659>

Bosnia and Herzegovina

UNICEF supports extended stay for the children in the ninth school in Prutača

In the ninth elementary school in the village Prutača in Maoča near Brčko an extended stay for children is now provided. With the assistance of a professional team, high-quality and continuous approach to working with children from poor families was created, with a special focus on Roma children and children from refugee families as well as providing technical support to teachers and parents.

Source: **Klix – 11th of October 2012**

<http://www.klix.ba/vijesti/bih/unicef-podrzao-rad-produzenog-boravka-u-prutacama/121011049>

Bijeljina: Sanita Smajic, best Roma student

Sanita Smajic is a student in the third grade at the agricultural school in Bijeljina and the first Roma student to finish high school in the town where there is a total of around 2,500 Roma inhabitants.

Source: **Klix – 11th of October 2012**

<http://www.klix.ba/vijesti/bih/bijeljina-sanita-smajic-najbolja-ucenica-iz-romske-zajednice/121011116>

Better life for the Roma

Eight projects that brought some hope and inspired the local community, managed by Roma associations in Bosnia and Herzegovina have been successfully concluded, according to Ševko Bajić, project manager

of Care International.

Source: **Vijesti – 12th of October 2012**

<http://www.vijesti.ba/licnosti-dana-dobar/110006-Bolji-zivot-Roma.html>

Country of children – Country of a better life

The non-governmental organization “Country of children” is the only shelter for the children living and working on the streets of Tuzla.

Source: **Tocak – 15th of October 2012**

<http://www.tocak.org/tema/zemlja-djece-zemlja-nekog-boljeg-zivota>

Will 27 Roma families spend the winter without a roof over their heads in Sarajevo?

Even though they were promised help from the authorities in regards to their housing problem on several occasions, 27 Roma families in Sarajevo still live in tents and improvised shelters made of cardboard.

Source: **Tocak – 9th of October 2012**

<http://www.tocak.org/tema/da-li-ce-27-sarajevskih-porodica-zimu-docekati-bez-krova-nad-glavom>

The media support prejudices on Roma without a doubt

Despite not informing about events/ activities connected with the Roma, the media in Bosnia and Herzegovina directly support the creation of the prejudices aimed at Roma, without a doubt, according to Borka Rudic, general secretary of the journalistic association in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Source: **Tocak – 2nd of October 2012**

<http://www.tocak.org/intervju/mediji-podrzavaju-predrasude-o-romima-i-tu-nema-dvojbe>



Project funded by the EU

Best Practices for Roma Integration
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Croatia

No Roma pride in Croatia - Who's gone, who's not existing?

The Roma pride parade won't happen in Croatia today, even though it will be organized in many countries all over Europe.

Source: Novi List – 7th of October 2012

<http://www.novolist.hr/Komentari/Blogovi/Mrvinjak-Slavice-Mrkic-Modric/Roma-Pride-ne-marsira-Hrvatskom-Koga-nema-tko-ne-postoji>

Kosovo*

The last Roma in Pristina

Most of the Roma sold their houses in the neighborhood “Dodona” and in the part that known as “Kacallarët”, while those that are left face pressure to sell quickly and cheaply. At least according to the last Roma residents on streets “Edmond Hoxha”, “Selman Riza” and “Xhemajl Gostivari”.

Source: Indeks online – 12th of October 2012

<http://www.indeksonline.net/?FaqeID=2&LajmID=32404>

Surroi: Extension of reserved mandates for minorities dangerous

The idea of minority representatives for extension of reserved seats for communities in the Kosovo Assembly has been qualified as dangerous. Veton Surroi, who chaired the community group during the negotiation process which was facilitated by Martti Ahtisaari, said that this idea is not only dangerous, but it is an attempt for renegotiation of the Ahtisaari Settlement proposal.

Source: Roma Buzz Monitor – 9th of October 2012

<http://www.romabuzzmonitor.net/2012/10/surroi-extension-of-reserved-mandates-for-minorities-dangerous/>

Istog/Istok: OSCE implements project on access to employment for non-majority community youth

Sixteen (16) Kosovo Serb, Kosovo Roma and Kosovo Bosniak young persons from Osojane/Osojan village participated in a Quick Impact Initiative (QII) project “Professional CV, professional approach to labour market”. The participants were trained on the drafting of CV and motivation letter and the development of interview skills. The participants highly appreciated the training explaining that young persons from non-majority communities lack greatly access to professional training and adequate education that impacts their access to labour market.

Source: OSCE Mission in Kosovo

Prishtinë/Priština: NGO “Voice of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians” announces call for scholarships for secondary school and university students.

On 04 October, the coordinator of the local organization “Voice of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians” informed the Communities Team that, within the framework of the project “Social inclusion and improvement of living conditions for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities”, supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen Schweiz (HEKS) and the Embassy of Finland, secondary schools and university students belonging to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities will have opportunity to apply for a scholarship. The deadline for submitting the applications expires on 10 October 2012 for secondary school students and on 31 October for university students.

Source: OSCE Mission in Kosovo

Vushtrri/Vucitrn: OSCE facilitates dialogue among Kosovo Roma in Priluzhje/Prelluzhë

On 4 October, RC MI field teams organized a meeting to address ongoing disputes over leadership of the Roma community of Priluzhje/Prelluzhë. Since mid-2011, the Roma residents have been divided in two fractions, the first one supporting a representative elected in 2010, and the other supporting a representative elected in 2011 in a process not recognized by the village council and the municipality. At the meeting, in the presence of representatives of the municipal office for communities and return, and village council representatives, it was decided that a joint village commission will be established to conduct a survey among Roma residents, determining if they are willing to hold new elections. At the moment, the village council is reluctant to accept a newly elected Roma representative until mid-2013, when the current council should dissolve. Priluzhje/Prelluzhë is a Kosovo Serb village within Vushtrri/Vucitrn; about 250 Kosovo Roma lives there.

Source: OSCE Mission in Kosovo

Pejë/Pec: Kosovo Egyptian family attacked in 7 Shatori/7 Septembar neighbourhood

As informed by a community representative, on 9 October during evening hours,

unknown perpetrators entered the house of a Kosovo Egyptian family in 7 Shatori/7 Septembar neighborhoods and attacked them with wooden sticks, causing serious body injuries. After the incident, the victims received medical treatment. According to the community representative, the incident might have been ethnically motivated.

Source: OSCE Mission in Kosovo

Gjilan/Gnjilane Regional Centre continues to implement Unified Budget project “Supporting the implementation of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Strategy and Action Plan in area: education component”

In the framework of the Gjilan/Gnjilane Regional Centre Project “Supporting the implementation of the Roma Ashkali and Egyptian Strategy and Action Plan in Gjilan/Gnjilane area: education component”, funded by Human Rights and Communities Department, the project managers continued with the implementation of activity 3. Moreover, on 10 October, a photo/painting exhibition under the motto “The past and the future of my town” was opened at the primary lower secondary school “Ahmet Hoxha” in Ferizaj/Uroševac municipality, in the presence of students, teachers and members of the school abandonment prevention and response team established at the earlier stages of the project. The paintings of 22 students, most of them from Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian community, involved in the extracurricular activities foreseen within this project will remain on permanent display in the school. The participants thanked the OSCE for the implementation of this project's activity and pledged to continue with similar activities in the future as well.

Source: OSCE Mission in Kosovo

Prishtinë/Priština: Municipal Committee for Reintegration (MCR) convenes.

On 11 October, Prishtinë/Priština municipal committee for reintegration (MCR) convened with the presence of the municipal office for communities and return, representatives of the municipal directorates for health, cadastre, and property officials as well as the ministry of Internal Affairs. The committee approved and forwarded to the central-level board twelve requests for assistance, including the request of an Ashkali repatriated family.

Source: OSCE Mission in Kosovo

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



Obiliq/Obilic: Municipal task force group on return convenes.

On 11 October, Obiliq/Obilic municipal task force convened with the presence of the municipal office for communities and return, UNHCR and ministry for Communities and Return representatives. The task force discussed thirteen applications of displaced persons from Kosovo Serb, Roma, Ashkali and Kosovo Bosniak communities interested in return.

Source: OSCE Mission in Kosovo

FushëKosovë/Kosovo Polje: Three members of the municipal commission and the representative of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) assess potential beneficiaries of the European Union Community Stabilization Programme (EU-CSP II).

On 11 October, the head of Municipal Office for Communities and Return (MOCR) informed the Communities Team that, three members of the municipal commission nominated by the mayor and the representative of the International Organization for Migration visited and assessed six short listed applications (out of eight submissions) for the European Union Community Stabilization Programme (EU-CSP II) funded by the European Commission Liaison Office and implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). According to the head of MOCR, four Kosovo Serb and four Kosovo Ashkali submitted their project ideas; however two project ideas (presented by Kosovo Ashkali residents) were not shortlisted because not fulfilling the criteria. In addition, according to the head of MOCR the final decision of beneficiaries will be taken by IOM.

Source: OSCE Mission in Kosovo

Montenegro

Help for the people in Konik

The Institute for social inclusion and the law office Prelevic donated more than 1,000 Euros for winter clothes for the people in Konik camp.

Source: Tocak – 4th of October 2012

<http://www.tocak.org/vijest/pomoc-izbjeglickom-kampu-na-koniku>

A book that we really needed

The People's Library Njegos and the Democratic Roma Centre presented the book "Old craftsman trades of the Roma in Montenegro" by the author Ivan Toskic.

Source: Montenevews – 8th of October 2012

<http://www.montenevews.me/vijesti/kultura/186796.html>

Numanovic: Containers in November, apartments next year

Suad Numanovic, Minister of labor and social affairs announced that the people that lost their homes in the fire that devastated Konik camp will get temporary living containers in November, while the inhabitants of the camp are promised new apartments next year.

Source: Pobjeda – 9th of October 2012

<http://www.pobjeda.me/2012/10/09/numanovic-sa-unhcr-om-u-satorskom-naselju-na-koniku-kontejnere-u-novembriu-stanovi-iduće-godine/>

Serbia

Personal identification number still a major problem

Among the many problems of the Roma community, such as education and employment, the biggest seems to be the one with the realization of the right to health care. In fact, a large number of Roma people do not exercise this right for several reasons.

Source: Danas – 4th of October 2012

http://www.danas.rs/danasrs/srbija/beograd/najveca-prepreka_maticni_broj_gradjana.39.html?news_id=248756

Still no healthcare for all Roma

The Republic Health Insurance Fund did not ensure that all Roma with unreported residence shall become entitled to health-care, pursuant to the declaration of nationality and place of temporary residence.

Source: Vijesti na dlanu – 1st of October 2012

<http://www.nadlanu.com/pocetna/info/vesti/Jos-nije-obezbedjeno-zdravstveno-svim-Romima.a-152916.291.html>

Šain: More work on Roma integration is needed

The new government needs to work more on the integration of Roma into society, says Srdjan Sain.

Source: Radio Televizija Srbije RTS – 11th of October 2012

<http://www.rts.rs/page/stories/sr/story/125/Dru%C5%A1tvo/1190338/%C5%A0ain%3A+Vi%C5%A1e+rad+iti+na+integraciji+Roma.html>

"Roma are still discriminated"

Often being under-educated and unemployed, the Roma are still being discriminated, according to the President of the National Council of the Roma National

Minority Vitomir Mihajlovic.

Source: B-92 – 15th of October 2012

http://www.b92.net/info/vesti/index.php?yyyy=2012&mm=10&dd=15&nav_category=12&nav_id=651855

The day of Roma Pride: Against stereotypes and discrimination

The Roma community in Serbia is still marginalized and discriminated in all aspects of the society, and government policy hasn't been answering adequately. This is one of the conclusions on the debate entitled "Between exclusion, poverty and discrimination" held on the International Roma Day Parade in Belgrade.

Source: Radio Free Europe – 14th of October 2012

<http://www.slobodnaevropa.org/content/dan-ponosa-roma-u-bepgradu/24738724.html>

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Most underage marriages among the Roma

The highest percentage of underage marriages in Macedonia is registered among the girls from Roma nationality.

Source: Vecer – 12th of October 2012

<http://www.vecer.com.mk/default.asp?ItemID=955D00969909B7449362E69F4EB01A78>

New generation of Roma, future doctors enrolled at the Medicinal faculty

Ten Roma students enrolled at the Faculty of Medicin with the help of the programme for increased number of Roma students organized by the Center for Institutional Development CIRa.

Source: Fakulteti – 5th of October 2012

http://www.fakulteti.mk/news/12-10-05/nova_generacija_romi_idni_doktori_se_zapishaa_na_medicinski_fakultet.aspx

Roma from Kumanovo complain about discrimination in regards to the visa liberalization

Many Roma in the last few months are not able to exit the country in the last few months because they are treated as potential asylum seekers - complains a resident from Kumanovo.

Source: Kanal 5 – 9th of October 2012

<http://kanal5.com.mk/default.aspx?mId=37&egId=13&eventId=97425>





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Albania

Protests in Tirana

Dozens of Red and Black Alliance activists protested on Friday in front of the City Hall doors in Tirana, asking the Mayor to deal more with the main problems of the Albanian metropolis, rather than with projects like “the cans collected by the Roma” out of which benefit is drawn only by the people close to him, as they said.

Source: Top Channel – 19th of October 2012

<http://www.top-channel.tv/artikull.php?ref=rss&id=244429>

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The situation of the Roma in Tuzla is much better than compared to the other municipalities

The situation of Roma in BiH is quite unpleasant. Most of them are unemployed, discriminated. By some indicators, around 95 percent of the Roma are without permanent income, which confirms that there are very few employed. But Tuzla municipality is one of the best examples in relation to all other municipalities in the Federation, when the education of disad-

vantaged population groups is in question, among which of course are the Roma.

Source: RTV Slon Tuzla – 30th of October 2012

http://www.radioslon.ba/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7550:poloaj-roma-u-opini-tuzla-najbolji-u-odnosu-na-druge-opine-u-&catid=1:vijesti&Itemid=5

BiH entry, transit and destination country for human trafficking

Caritas Bosnia and Herzegovina is implementing the project “Strengthening local capacities in stopping human trafficking” since 2004. At a time when the project was started by Caritas BiH was the first organization that has worked for the prevention of human trafficking. Preventive activities under this project are training courses and workshops for young people from rural areas, “peer to peer” education of the Roma youth, information campaigns, training courses, incentives for the development of independent jobs and internship program.

Source: Vijesti – 17th of October 2012

<http://www.vijesti.ba/vijesti/bih/110935-BiH-polazna-tranzitna-odredisna-zemlja-trgovinu-ljudima.html>

They prefer to marry than to be educated

In the last two years, as much as 74 students in Republika Srpska left high school due to pregnancy and marriage, a research from the Ombudsman for Children suggests. Although it is common opinion that most marriages are among juvenile Roma children, in this case, this is not so.

Source: Banja Luka Live – 30th of October 2012

<http://www.banjalukalive.com/drustvo/vise-vole-da-se-udaju-nego-da-se-skoluju.html#ixzz2B3vd2xSd>

Croatia

“Theatre Chaplin” Z. Krema: a documentary about the first European Roma theater

The film is about a group of young Roma who led by Nasser Sokolija from Rijeka decided to form the first amateur theater Roma in Europe. The public will be able to see the movie at its world premiere in Rijeka’s Art Cinema “Croatia” on Wednesday, 31 October 2012.

Source: Novi List – 29th of October 2012

<http://www.novolist.hr/Scena/Film/Teatar-Chaplin-Z.-Kreme-dokumentarac-o-prvom-europskom-romskom-teatru>



Project funded by the EU

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Kosovo*

Minority MPs ask for reserved seats in Kosovo assembly

Twenty-five minority parliamentarians are making an effort to maintain their seats in the Kosovo assembly, as their privilege will end with the current legislative mandate. According to the 2008 constitution, minority communities in Kosovo enjoy 20 reserved seats in 120-seated assembly -- 10 for Serbs and another 10 for Turkish, Bosniak and Roma representatives.

Source: SETimes – 25th of October 2012
http://www.setimes.com/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/en_GB/features/setimes/features/2012/10/25/feature-02

Serbia

Serbia: Amnesty International deplores Roma Gypsy resettlements

Amnesty International on Wednesday sharply criticized Serbian authorities for forcibly resettling Roma Gypsies in the capital Belgrade earlier this year and called for legislation banning such evictions.

Source: ADN Kronos International – 17th of October 2012
http://www.adnkronos.com/IGN/Aki/English/Security/Serbia-Amnesty-International-deplores-Roma-Gypsy-resettlements_313801204461.html

First “Serbian-Roma-English Dictionary with Grammar”

25th October 2012 – First “Serbian-Roma-English dictionary with grammar” by author Bajram Haliti was presented on 57th International book fair in Belgrade on the stand of Office for Kosovo and Metohija.

Source: Roma Buzz Monitor – 25th of October 2012
<http://www.romabuzzmonitor.net/2012/10/presented-first-serbian-roma-english-dictionary-with-grammar/>

Asylum as a salvation from Bu-

janovac

A city full of false asylum seekers! This can be a description for Bujanovac, a municipality in southern Serbia. Most of them are Roma and of Albanian nationality, who seek political asylum in the western European countries.

Source: Radio Free Europe – 31st of October 2012
<http://www.slobodnaevropa.org/content/azil-kaospas-od-bujanovca/24756431.html>

Drugs and eight years old children

Drug abuse in Roma settlements in Serbia has taken on epidemic proportions, and the number of drug addicts has increased dramatically. Despite this, the police “did not put enough” in these settlements to stop drug dealers, who are often also Roma, warn some NGOs.

Source: Danas – 31st of October 2012
http://www.danas.rs/danasrs/drustvo/drogiraju_se_i_deca_od_osam_godina.55.html?news_id=250214

Basketball brought together Serbs, Roma, Albanians

The basketball Club “Pleja 017” from Bujanovac and its basketball schools are the only true multi-ethnic institutions in the south of Serbia.

Source: B-92 – 22nd of October 2012
http://www.b92.net/sport/vesti.p?yyyy=2012&mm=10&dd=22&nav_id=654072

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Passports should be needed to cross the borders, not “white skin” Macedonian Roma from the eastern part of the country feel discriminated regarding the services of our border crossings. On, yesterdays forum organized by the NGO KHAM (Sun) Delcevo, they asked to be protected by the institutions.

Source: Utrinski Vesnik- 25th of October 2012
<http://www.utrinski.com.mk/default.asp?ItemID=E95C4536765B414C9A07D2FF7E8D403F>

Pehcevo rewarded in Budapest

Recognition of the International Conference on Roma was given to the kindergarten in the multicultural village of Crnik, operating for one year and in which 60 per cent of Roma children

Source: Dnevnik – 24th of October 2012
<http://www.dnevnik.com.mk/default.asp?ItemID=A9DC27DF45D84F4E881C29BF01A3E4ED>

Western Balkans

EU/US: Press Rights Issues on Balkans Visit

United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and European Union High Representative Catherine Ashton should emphasize the importance of improving human rights records in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and Serbia and Kosovo during their Western Balkan tour, Human Rights Watch said today. The visits are scheduled from October 30 to November 2, 2012.

Source: Human Rights Watch – 29th of October 2012
<http://www.hrw.org/news/2012/10/29/euus-press-rights-issues-balkans-visit>

Croatian Serbs are enemies, the people of Bosnia laborers, and Slovenes - nerds

Research shows that Serbs feel the greatest danger from the United States and will happily communicate with their neighbors, while for the Croats, Serbs are the least desirable for communication, together with Albanians and Roma.

Source: 24 Sata – 24th of October 2012
<http://www.24sata.info/vijesti/regija/118368-Hrvatska-Srbi-neprijateljji-ljudi-BiH-fizicki-radnici-Slovinci---streberi.html>

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.





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Albania

Roma protest in front of the Ministry of Labour

Some members of the Roma community have been protesting in front of the Ministry of Labour on the grounds that the Minister is not doing anything to accommodate them.

Source: Albeu – 12th of November 2012

<http://www.albeu.com/shqiperi/romet-proteste-perpara-ministrise-sepunes/91772/>

Bosnia and Herzegovina

About 76 percent of Roma children are enrolled in primary education

The total number of Roma children enrolled in regular primary school education in the 2011/2012 school year is 3,024 or about 76 percent, while currently there are 243 Roma students attending high school, said Milena Juric, an expert adviser to the Ministry for Human Rights.

Source: Café.ba – 8th of November 2012

http://www.cafe.ba/vijesti/81499_Oko-76-odsto-romske-djece-ukljuceno-u-osnovno-obrazovanje.html

Croatia

Celebration of the World Day of Romani language

The Association for the Promotion of Education of Roma in the Republic of Croatia “Kali Sara” organizes the celebration of the World Day of Romani language 05.11. World Day of Romani language is a cultural event, which each year brings together doctors, professors, journalists and linguists that deal with Romani language. The theme of this year’s Symposium is “Romani language in institutions”. President of the Organizing Committee is Parliamentary representative 12 national minorities Mr. Veljko Kajtazi.

Source: Romea – 1st of November 2012

<http://www.romea.cz/en/news/world-celebration-of-the-world-day-of-romani-language>

Romani language and literature teachers teach from Skopje and Sarajevo

On the International Day of the Roma language, the Zagreb faculty of philosophy introduced two new subjects – Romani language and literature and the Culture of the Roma. The relevant Minister of Science, Education and Sports, said that the faculty has given them “moral support,” but the money for new courses are not given.

Source: Vecernji List – 6th of November 2012

<http://www.vecernji.hr/vijesti/romski-jezik-knjizevnost-predaju-profesoriskoplja-sarajeva-clanak-472004>

“Theatre Chaplin ...”: Emotional epitaph about the great Naser

A documentary about the only Roma theater in Europe is in fact a recognition to Naser Sokoli, a man of great energy and enthusiasm, a dreamer and a visionary who managed to include the Roma from Rijeka in the social life of their city.

Source: Novilist – 2nd of November 2012

<http://www.novilist.hr/Scena/Film/Teatar-Chaplin-Emotivni-epitaf-velikom-Naseru>

Kosovo*

An Assessment of the Voluntary Returns Process in Kosovo

This report provides an assessment of the voluntary returns process in Kosovo, focusing on implementation of the legal and policy framework, the security situation in returns sites, and tensions between returnees and receiving communities in certain areas.

Source: OSCE Mission in Kosovo – 1st of November 2012

<http://www.osce.org/kosovo/96805>

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



Laplje selo: Roma family opened kebab store

Dani Eminovic from Laplje selo is one of the few Roma who had decided to start an independent business and opened a kebab store. For this to become a reality, Eminovic was helped by the organization Voice of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians from Gracanica, which allocated grants for start-up small businesses, this year.

Source: Radio Kim – 8th of November 2012

<http://www.radiokim.net/vesti/laplje-selo-romska-porodica-otvorila-cevap-dzinicu.html>

Montenegro

Novi Sad: Condemnation of hate graffiti

Unknown perpetrators wrote “Death for the Roma Party - Bukovac Serbs”, on a graffiti signed by “Dalton BKV 1312”. The Mayor of Novi Sad Milos Vucevic strongly condemned the hate graffiti that appeared on the wall of the building of the Health House in Bukovac.

Source: Vijesti – 1st of November 2012

<http://www.vijesti.me/svijet/novi-sad-osuda-grafita-mrznje-clanak-98660>

Serbia

Even a college degree does not employ the Roma

Despite the decade of Roma, a program with a view to their better integration into society, employment of the Roma in Serbia is still at a low level.

Source: Al Jazeera Balkans – 3rd of November 2012

<http://balkans.aljazeera.net/tekstovi/rome-ne-zaposljava-ni-fakultetska-diploma>

Selakovic: Serbia is committed to the protection of human and minority rights

The Minister of Justice and administration, Nikola Selakovic addressing the participants of the Ministerial Forum of the Western Balkans in the field of justice and home affairs, pointed out the commitment of Serbia to improve the protection of human and minority rights, and recalled that Serbia is actively participating in the inclusion of the Roma population in society.

Source: Blic – 6th of November 2012

<http://www.blic.rs/Vesti/Politika/351608/Selakovic-Srbija-odlucna-u-zastiti-ljudskih-i-manjinskih-prava>

Sajin: The money for Roma NGOs are stopped

The Office for Human and Minority Rights has stopped the payment of money from the budget intended for the network of Roma NGOs, says Srdjan Sajin.

Source: B-92 – 8th of November 2012

http://www.b92.net/info/vesti/index.php?yyyy=2012&mm=11&dd=08&nav_category=12&nav_id=658658

Djilas: The law must be respected

Belgrade Mayor Dragan Djilas said today that only those who are law-abiding and who send their children to school can live in the Roma settlements.

Source: B-92 – 9th of November 2012

http://www.b92.net/info/vesti/index.php?yyyy=2012&mm=11&dd=09&nav_category=12&nav_id=658946

There was no discrimination in the school

There was no discrimination in the case of a Roma boy who was recently moved to another school in Krusevac from the “Dositelj Obradovic” school, according to its management.

Source: B-92 – 13th of November 2012

http://www.b92.net/info/vesti/index.php?yyyy=2012&mm=11&dd=13&nav_category=12&nav_id=659915

Coordinator: Roma families on the street, without any help

The four Roma families from Kursumlija were left without housing and the Office for Roma issues has failed to provide them with any help, which is why they are now living on the street, said the Coordinator for Roma issues Bosko Ajdinović.

Source: NaDlanu – 7th of November 2012

<http://www.nadlanu.com/pocetna/info/vesti/Koordinator-romske-porodice-na-ulici-pomoc-ne-stize.a-156875.291.html>

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Large turnout for completion of secondary education among elderly Roma

75 Roma adults completed their secondary education in the last 5 years thanks to the “Roma graduate to have a better life” which is implemented by the Roma NGO “Ternipe GB” from Delcevo with the support of the Roma Education Fund in Budapest.

Source: Kanal 77 – 6th of November 2012

<http://kanal77.com.mk/mk/vesti/makedonija/item/832-golem-odziv-kaj-vozasnirte-romi-za-dooformuvanje-na-srednoto-obrazovanie>

Scandal – The Roma boy was not beaten, he received only a slap!?

A week after the incident at the school “Straso Pindzur” in the settlement Dame Gruev, where concerned parents complained that a parent beat a classmate of his son and uttered insults to his Roma community, the school principal, Methodius Nakovski, told us that the child was not beaten, but the father only gave him “just a slap in the face.”

Source: Plus info – 12th of November 2012

<http://www.plusinfo.mk/vest/65849/SKANDAL-Romcheto-ne-bilo-pretepano-dobilo-samo-shlakanica>





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Albania

EU demands more attention to the Roma

Ettore Sequi, EU Ambassador in Tirana urged more attention to the Roma community. Speaking at the II Congress of Roma youth, Sequi reminded the politicians that one of the 12 conditions of the EU integration is the implementation of human rights and the avoidance of discrimination, which includes the Roma community.

Source: Albeu – 19th of November 2012
<http://www.albeu.com/shqiperi/be-kerkon-meshume-vemendje-ndaj-romeve/92382/>

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mujić: Eight more buildings to be built in 2013 for the Roma citizens

Mehmed Mujic, counsellor for Roma rights in the Tuzla cantonal Government, asked the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities to approve eight more buildings to be built for the Roma citizens in Tuzla. In this municipality, there is a large number of citizens belonging to the Roma community. Many of them are homeless. For some, new homes were secured this year.

Source: Radio Slon – 16th of November 2012
http://www.radioslon.ba/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7930:muji-izgraditi-osam-objekata-u-2013-godini-za-graane-romske-nacionalnosti&catid=1:vijesti&Itemid=5

Major step in the development of

the Romani language: A Rajko Djuric book presented

“Standardization of the Romani language” is the title of a book by Rajko Djuric, which was presented today in Sarajevo based Association of Kali Sara Roma Information Centre, with which a major step in the development of the Romani language has been made.

Source: 24 sata – 19th of November 2012
<http://www.24sata.info/vijesti/bosna-i-hercegovina/sarajevo/122607-Veliki-korak-razvoju-romskog-jezika-Predstavljena-knjiga-Rajka-Djurica.html>

Croatia

“Just a wind” in cinemas from 22 November

A film about the Hungarian Roma is a disturbing drama of what we see around us every day, beautifully told and full of important messages

Source: Metro Portal – 20th of November 2012
<http://metro-portal.hr/samo-vjetar-u-kinima-od-22-studenoga/74979>

Kosovo*

Deported Roma children face challenges in Kosovo

Nearly 3,000 Roma have been repatriated from Western European countries and deported to Kosovo this year, but the children are particularly affected and are in need of immediate attention, according to experts.

Source: SETimes – 20th of November 2012
<http://www.setimes.com/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/>

en_GB/features/setimes/features/2012/11/20/feature-04

Romani language as official

Edi Ibrahim, a coordinator of the Office of Communities and returning in the Gračanica/Gračanicë municipality, said that the initiative for the introduction of the Romani language as an official in the municipality has been submitted, on the program “Romano glasos”.

Source: Radio Kim – 23rd of November 2012
<http://www.radiokim.net/vesti/romski-jezik-kaoslužbeni.html>

Kosovo: If they are not guilty, who committed the war crimes?

The acquittal of three high-ranking members of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) after a retrial on war crimes charges has prompted Amnesty International to reiterate its call for justice for all of the victims in the 1998-9 Kosovo war, and their relatives. An estimated 800 members of minority communities in Kosovo, were allegedly abducted and murdered by members of the KLA. Only a small number of their bodies have been found, exhumed and returned to their families for burial. According to the indictment victims of the alleged crimes included Kosovo Serbs, Kosovo Roma/Egyptians, and a Catholic Albanian, as well as Kosovo Albanians.

Source: Amnesty International – 29th of November 2012
<http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/kosovo-if-they-are-not-guilty-who-committed-war-crimes-2012-11-29>

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



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Montenegro

Won't live in tents

Roma who live on the banks of the Moraca facilities for waste water will have seven days to leave and remove the three caravans and building materials which stood there for many years.

Source: DAN – 28th of November 2012
<http://www.dan.co.me/?nivo=3&rubrika=Podgoricom&clanak=357266&datum=2012-11-28&naslov=Ne>

A day in the life of Europe's largest refugee camp

July 24th 2012, Camp Konik I, Montenegro. It's 5am, the sun is not out yet but people are running out of their house shouting, crying and in shock. The barracks where they have been living in since they escaped Kosovo 13 years earlier are all burning. The whole camp is ablaze. Everything to the last of their belongings is transformed into ash and smoke. Camp Konik was built in 1999 when Montenegro received an influx of refugees from Kosovo. Initially tents were erected to respond to the emergency, but wooden barracks were soon built to host a population, which eventually reached more than 1,500 people. It is now the biggest refugee camp left in the Balkan region.

Source: Reliefweb – 16th of November 2012
<http://reliefweb.int/report/montenegro/day-life-europe%E2%80%99s-largest-refugee-camp>

Protest in Podgorica: Forced marriages destroy the lives of girls

Forced marriage and early marriage were the reason for yesterday's protest of about 60 Roma, Egyptian and Aškali women.

Source: Pobjeda – 29th of November 2012
<http://www.pobjeda.me/2012/11/29/protest-u-podgorici-prisilni-brakovi-unistavaju-zivote-djevojica/>

Serbia

Urban and modern

The INTERNATIONAL festival of Roma culture-ROMART, started for the seventh time, last night in Subotica. During the event, which runs until 24 November, modern Roma culture, from

the movie theatre to opera and music will be presented.

Source: DAN – 23rd of November 2012
<http://www.dan.co.me/?nivo=3&rubrika=Kultura&clanak=356683&datum=2012-11-23&naslov=Urbano%20i%20moderno>

In Serbia, there are six million Serbs

The second largest ethnic group in the total of 7,186,862 citizens in Serbia are the Hungarians, whose members are counted to 253,899, accounting for 3.5 percent of the total population. Following them, are the Roma, who are counted to 147,604, Bosniacs amounting for two percent and the Croats - 0.81 percent.

Source: B92 – 30th of November 2012
http://www.b92.net/info/vesti/index.php?yyyy=2012&mm=11&dd=30&nav_category=12&nav_id=664691

The problem with prostitution isn't being solved

On the exit of Novi Sad, near the Kacka junction, around 70 sexual workers gather every day. Since 2007, from when the NGO Prevent assists these women, there are a total of 480 prostitutes recorded, most of which are Roma.

Source: Tocak – 27th of November 2012
<http://www.tocak.org/tema/problem-prostitucije-niko-ne-resava>

Scholarships for the disadvantaged and for Roma pupils

A public call was announced to award 20 scholarships to high school students from disadvantaged families from Bujanovac and Vranje and 30 scholarships to Roma students who are studying in these two municipalities.

Source: Kurir – 22nd of November 2012
<http://www.kurir-info.rs/stipendije-za-socijalno-ugrozene-i-romske-dake-clanak-522413>

The only Roma theatre extinguishes

In New Karlovci only forty five minutes from Belgrade, for more than ten years exists the only professional Roma theatre in Serbia - "Sunu e Rromengo" (Roma dream).

Source: Kurir - 18th of November 2012
http://www.b92.net/kultura/vesti.php?nav_category=321&yyyy=2012&mm=11&nav_id=661218

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Roundtable Discussion on Roma and the Law on Illegally Erected Dwellings

The Foundation Open Society – Macedonia supports the project Legalization of Roma Housing - Macedonia, which is implemented by the Association for Humane Housing Habitat Macedonia and the Association National Roma Centre. These partner organizations organized a roundtable discussion entitled "The Roma and the Implementation of the Law on Proceedings with Illegally Erected Dwellings – State of Affairs and Challenges".

Source: Decade of Roma Inclusion – 30th of November 2012
http://www.romadecade.org/roundtable_roma_and_illegal_dwellings

Vibrant Roma rap lesson

The angry lyrics of the young Roma rappers from Suto Orizari accompanied by the Balkan style rhythms of the band that follows the live performances filled up the winter club "Havana" in Skopje yesterday.

Source: Dnevnik – 24th of November 2012
<http://www.dnevnik.com.mk/default.asp?ItemID=04E75D81226FDC1429661BB121915D05F>

Roma families receive support for legalization

Around 1,500 families from six cities in Macedonia will be able to legalize their homes with the help of Habitat for Humanity, which provides assistance in an interest-free loan that you need to return for 18 months.

Source: Nova Makedonija – 22nd of November 2012
<http://www.novamakedonija.com.mk/DetailNewsInstant.asp?vestInstant=10857>

Emran Kurtishova, actress: I live my dream

Started as a lover of the theatre, following performances every day, continued as a student and now she, herself is employed as an actor.

Source: Tocak – 27th of November 2012
<http://www.tocak.org/tema/emran-kurtishova-akterka-go-zhiveam-mojot-son>





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Albania

Campaign on Protection from Discrimination kicks off, initiated by the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination, Gjirokastra Municipality, and the OSCE / ODIHR project "Best Practices for Roma Integration"

In order to protect from discrimination, the Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination (KMD) has recently launched a campaign for the promotion of human rights with the support of the OSCE / ODIHR Best Practices for Roma Integration (BPRI).

Source: Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination

<http://www.kmd.al/?fq=brenda&emri=Te%20Reja&gj=gjl&kid=138&kidd=78>

The Census does not illustrate the population

Analysis: The reasons why the results of the Census in Albania do not illustrate the population in the country correctly.

Overall data:

Roma – 8,301 – as of the overall population – 0.30 %

Egyptians – 3,368 – as of the overall population – 0.12 %

The ones who did not reply – 13.96 %

Source: Gazeta Panorama Online – 15th of December 2012

<http://www.panorama.com.al/2012/12/15/censusi-nuk-e-fotografoi-popullisine/>

Bosnia and Herzegovina

EU seeks Bosnia reform on minorities

Bosnia-Herzegovina needs to implement a court ruling banning political discrimination against Jews and Roma before it can join Europe, an EU official says.

Source: UPI – 29th of November 2012

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/Special/2012/11/29/EU-seeks-Bosnia-reform-on-minorities/UPI-64011354165440/

Roma children still at risk

The infant mortality rate in Bosnia and Herzegovina is reduced by 35 percent in the past ten years. The Minister of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina Sredoje Novic promised to strive to reduce infant mortality rates further as well as to secure better living conditions for the youngest in the country.

Source: Klix – 10th of December 2012

<http://www.klix.ba/vijesti/bih/za-10-godina-smrt-nost-djece-u-bih-smanjena-za-35-posto/121210041>

Mostar: Solve the problem of the legally "invisible"

In Bosnia and Herzegovina there are times when people died, but their death was never registered in the register. This mostly happens with members of the Roma community.

Source: Radio Free Europe – 14th of December 2012

<http://www.slobodnaevropa.org/content/mostar-rijesiti-problem-pravno-nevidljivih/24798697.html>

Croatia

A film about Hannah Arendt and discussion about the Roma in Europe

At the Human Rights Film Festival an

open discussion 'Roma in Europe' will be organized, followed by a rich film program and a concert from Kálmán Balogh & Gipsy Cimbalom Band.

Source: T-Portal – 10th of December 2012

<http://www.tportal.hr/showtime/film/230978/Film-o-Hannah-Arendt-i-diskusija-o-Romima-u-Europi.html#.UNC4yOQ0WS0>

Esma Redzepova: It is not a coincidence that my tour starts from Zagreb

The Queen of Roma music has a concert in Lisinski, on Monday. This concert is the first of the tour that will mark her 55th year in music.

Source: Vecernji List – 14th of December 2012

<http://www.vecernji.hr/scena/esma-redzepova-nije-slucajno-da-zagreba-krece-moja-turneja-clanak-487193>

Kosovo*

Rolling Film Festival

International Film Festival called Rolling Film Festival, which brings together Roma artists and authors of films about Roma, will be held from 12 to 16 December in Prishtinë/Prishtina.

Source: Koha – 13th of December 2012

<http://www.koha.net/?page=1,5,127211>

Osterode Roma camp in Northern Mitrovica/ Mitrovicë closed

Fourteen remaining Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian families have been moved to new homes in a block of social flats. Samuel Žbogar, Head of the EU Office in Kosovo, said that Kosovo authorities

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should step up their efforts even further in regards to respecting human rights and minorities.

Source: Koha – 13th of December 2012
<http://www.koha.net/?page=1,13,127263>

Montenegro

Speaking Their Language

Montenegro's newest effort to keep Roma children in school is happening far from the classroom – and often involves neither student nor teacher. Instead, it takes place in shacks, tents, or housing containers and usually comes down to a simple conversation between two adults.

Source: Roma Transitions – 5th of December 2012
<http://www.romatransitions.org/speaking-their-language/>

Europe's Shame: Konik Camp for Roma in Montenegro

A newly formed Crisis Council made up of Roma residents of Konik Camp in Montenegro is working to chip away at thirteen years of deeply ineffective infrastructure there. Challenging the system in place is difficult and risky. In this interview, Mensur Haliti, originally from Kosovo and now working with the Kosovo Roma Crisis Council, describes how we have got to this point.

Source: Open Society Foundations – 10th of December 2012
<http://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/voices/europe-s-shame-konik-camp-roma-montenegro>

Numanović spoke with Tahiri and Gaši

The biggest challenge of the Roma Council is in connection with the integration and the social inclusion of Roma, as well as the inclusion of Roma children in the education system. This was announced by the president of that body Isen Gaši. The Minister for Human and Minority Rights Suad Numanović met today with the President Gaši and the President of the Albanian Council Tahir Tahiri.

Source: RTCG – 13th of December 2012
<http://www.rtcg.me/vijesti/drustvo/hronika/61638-numanovic-razgovarao-sa-tahirijem-i-gasijem.html>

Serbia

The Sound of Barking Dogs: The Eviction of the Roma from Belville

The Roma were uncertain who owns the land; some of it is public, some private, but that wasn't discussed. More pressing is a European Union funded infrastructure project to build a new bridge across the Sava River, which along with the Danube geographically defines Belgrade. The approach ramps and roads will run right through Belville. Anything in the way, especially an eyesore like the Roma encampment, would have to go.

Source: Newsmotion – 7th of December 2012
<http://newsmotion.org/story-en/sound-barking-dogs-eviction-roma-belville-2>

All children from Makiš Roma settlement regularly attend school!

A joint project of the Roma Education Fund, the Belgrade Education Department, and Little Prince Children's Center continues this year through activities aimed at providing learning support, preparing children for preschool education, and empowering mothers to take charge of their children's early development in Roma settlements in and around Belgrade, Serbia.

Source: TOL – 22nd of November 2012
<http://chalkboard.tol.org/all-children-from-makis-roma-settlement-regularly-attend-school>

Cesid: LGBT, Roma and religious minorities are still discriminated

The highest level of discrimination in Serbia is still aimed against Roma, LGBT, religious minorities, people with disabilities and HIV-infected, said today CeSID Executive Director Djordje Vuković.

Source: 24 Sata – 10th of December 2012
<http://www.24sata.rs/vesti/aktuelno/cestid-lgbt-romi-i-verske-manjine-i-dalje-diskriminirani/66608.phtml>

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Elvis's slalom on one ski

Roma-travellers, such is the family of Elvis, rarely seek help from social services. Last year, in the most cold, few sought refuge in the station for the homeless in Momin Potok.

Source: Dnevnik – 11th of December 2012
<http://www.dnevnik.com.mk/default.asp?ItemID=6D90F9BE6B2E2743B1316F208A48CF32>

USAID supported ethnic solidarity in schools

Due to the successful completion of the first cycle of small school intercultural initiatives, the USAID's Roma Education Programme, together with the partners - primary schools in Skopje, Prilep and Kumanovo, organized a series of extra-curricular activities in which students of mixed ethnic backgrounds worked together and learned customs and traditions in different cultures.

Source: Plus Info – 12th of December 2012
<http://www.plusinfo.mk/vest/70976/USAID-ja-pod-drzha-etnichkata-solidarnost-vo-uchilishnite-klupi>

Roundtable: "Discrimination against Roma in education: Breaking the wall of rejection and segregation"

Organized by the Institute for Human Rights, a roundtable on "Discrimination against Roma in education: Breaking the wall of rejection and segregation" will be held today.

Source: Točka – 11th of December 2012
<http://tocka.com.mk/1/82294/trkalezna-masadiskriminacija-na-romi-vo-obrazovniot-proces-krsenje-na-dzidot-na-odbivanje-i-segregacija>

Gostivar has Roma high school class

The director of the high school in Gostivar, in which all first-year students from the direction legal technician are Roma, says that there is no segregation in the case, since all enrolled students in that direction are Roma.

Source: Dnevnik – 4th of December 2012
<http://www.dnevnik.com.mk/default.asp?ItemID=A0F050EB1B18914CBD6F4716110DB46F>

Conference on education for ethnic communities

Smaller ethnic communities exercised their right to education in their mother tongue on the Conference called "The situation with the education and upbringing of members of communities under 20 percent in the Republic of Macedonia", organized the Agency for the rights of the communities with the support of the OSCE Mission in Skopje

Source: Denesen – 4th of December 2012
<http://denesen.mk/web/2012/12/04/konferencija-za-obrazovanieto-na-pomalite-etnicki-zaednici/>





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Albania

Working for better economic situation of the Roma community - a priority for the Government

Providing solutions for improved socio-economic situation for the Roma community in Albania should be top priority for the Government, said Idli Totozani, Ombudsman.

Source: **Albeu** – 27th of December 2012

<http://www.albeu.com/shqiperi/zgjidhja-e-interesave-ekonomike-te-komunitetit-rom-prioritet-per-veve/95887/>

Roma do not recognize the results of the Census of the population!

On behalf of the organizations, students and Roma Community in Albania, we want to make our concerns before the Institute of Statistics about the outcome of the 2011's Census, which reflects the large inaccuracies figure of Roma population in Albania.

Source: **Roma Buzz Monitor** – 20th of December 2012

<http://roma.idebate.org/news-articles/albania-roma-do-not-recognize-results-census-population>

Bosnia and Herzegovina

The documentation still not submitted in Strasbourg

The authorities of Republika Srpska and of Bosnia and Herzegovina failed to submit the documentation on the case of organ trafficking of Roma children in Sijekovac, near Brod, to Strasbourg, despite the great interest of the Council of Europe's reporter on trafficking in human organs in Kosovo, Dick Marty to investigate this case.

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Source: **Cafe.ba** – 26th of December 2012

http://www.cafe.ba/vijesti/86982_U-Strazbur-jos-nije-dostavljena-dokumentacija.html

Roundtable: Roma Women dissatisfied with representation in the councils of national minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Analysis of gender equality in employment and admission in the Minority Councils was presented today, presenting Roma women's grounds for dissatisfaction in regards to the equality of representation in the minority councils.

Source: **24 Sata** – 28th of December 2012

<http://www.24sata.info/vijesti/bosna-i-hercegovina/128588-Okrugli-sto-Romkinje-nezadovoljne-zastupljenoscu-vijecima-nacionalnih-manjina-BiH.html>

A law on protection of minorities to be brought up in the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton

A draft law on protection of the rights of the minorities in the Herzegovina – Neretva Canton will be on the agenda on the first meeting of the Government of this Canton, after the Christmas Holidays.

Source: **Dnevni list** – 23 December 2012

http://www.dnevni-list.ba/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=32783:na-vladi-naact-zakona-o-zatiti-prava-manjina&catid=2:mostar&Itemid=3

Croatia

Queen of Roma music delighted in Lisinski

The Queen of Roma music Esmā Redzepova held a concert tonight in the Concert

Hall Lisinski in Zagreb.

Source: **Vecernji List** – 17th of December 2012

<http://www.vecernji.hr/scena/foto-kraljica-romske-glazbe-odusevila-lisinskom-clanak-488414>

Kosovo*

Roma are "between a rock and a hard place"

For four days in Kosovo's capital Pristina/Prishtinë, the Rolling Film Festival screened movies made by and about Roma.

Source: **SETimes** – 29th of December 2012

<http://www.setimes.com/cocoon/setimes/xhtml/sq/features/setimes/features/2012/12/29/feature-02>

Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje: Consultative group for communities discusses the phenomenon of child abuse.

On 17 December, the NGO 'Terre des Hommes' met with the representatives of Municipal Office for Communities (MOCR), the representative of the NGO 'The Ideas Partnership' and OSCE field teams to discuss the issue of child maltreatment and re-integration in school. The agenda of the meeting focused on the active involvement of the community leaders' in identifying new cases and reporting them to relevant forums or institutions. In addition, Roma community leader proposed to keep informed the consultative group for communities about any new case concerning child abuse and update the list of vulnerable families showing high incidence of domestic violence. Moreover, the representative of the NGO "The Ideas Partnership" informed the group that during the last week, the



Project funded by the EU

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NGO has facilitated the return to schools of one Ashkali pupil, with the support of the Ministry of Education, Technology and Science.

Source: OSCE Mission in Kosovo

Pejë/Peć: municipal commission on repatriation approves eight assistance requests

During its regular meeting, the municipal commission on repatriation reviewed 11 requests: three (3) submitted by Kosovo Albanians, three (3) by Kosovo Egyptians, three (3) by Kosovo Roma and two by (2) Kosovo Bosniak repatriated persons. The commission approved eight (8), whereas the three (3) remaining requests require additional verification. The requests mainly consisted of food, non-food, fire woods, medicines and medical equipment as well as house reconstruction assistance.

Source: OSCE Mission in Kosovo

Ferizaj/Uroševac municipal office for communities and returns facilitates the distribution of aid to repatriated families

The municipal coordinator for sustainable return informed the Communities Team that the distribution assistance in food and non-food items for 24 repatriated families living in Ferizaj/Uroševac municipality has started today. Amongst the assisted families seven (7) are from Kosovo Ashkali community. The assistance is provided by the Ministry for Internal Affairs while the municipal office for communities and return facilitated the distribution.

Source: OSCE Mission in Kosovo

Ministry of Internal Affairs approves project for construction of houses for repatriated Kosovo Roma and Kosovo Ashkali families from Ferizaj/Uroševac

According to Ferizaj/Uroševac regional coordinator for repatriation, the commission for reviewing the requests of repatriated persons within the Ministry for Internal Affairs approved the project for construction of two houses for Kosovo Roma and Kosovo Ashkali repatriated families. The municipal office for communities and return assisted the repatriated families in completing all necessary documents from the office for urbanism and cadastre, which were needed in order to apply to the Ministry's funds for repatriation. The regional coordinator said that it is expected that the

construction of houses will start in the first quarter of 2013.

Source: OSCE Mission in Kosovo

Pejë/Peć: communities committee assesses annual work for 2012

In the last session of the communities committee (CC), the forum's chairperson and the head of the municipal office for communities and return reported on the achievements during 2012. The CC was particularly active in the area of education with the outreach and registration at school of Kosovo Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students and the preservation of school classes in the Bosniak language for Kosovo Bosniak students. The CC members concluded the session by stressing the need to undertake more outreach visits to the non-majority communities living in the municipality.

Source: OSCE Mission in Kosovo

Montenegro

Political Party to be formed next year

Roma in Montenegro are likely to form a political party during the 2013.

Source: Dan – 29th of December 2012

http://www.dan.co.me/?nivo=3&rubrika=Sport&clan_ak=361469&datum=2012-12-29&naslov=Partiju%20formiraju%20idu

Amendments to the Law on Minorities

Minister of Human and Minority Rights Suvad Numanović announced changes to the law on minorities, which will specify the rules for distribution of money from the Fund for Minorities.

Source: RTCG – 27th of December 2012

<http://www.rtcg.me/vijesti/drustvo/hronika/62065-izmjene-zakona-o-manjina.html>

Serbia

Roma protest in Serbia!

On 19.11.2012, the Office for Human and Minority Rights announced a tender submission entitled "Improving the Position and Status of the Roma in Serbia". After analyzing the results of this study, a number of Roma NGOs and Roma activists feel the need to protest the results of the analysis.

Source: Roma Buzz Monitor – 18th of December 2012

<http://roma.idebate.org/news-articles/roma-protest-serbia>

"Still no new locations for the

Roma"

EU Delegation to Serbia again expressed concerns over the relocation of Roma families from their informal settlement near Belville and Gazela.

Source: B-92 – 28th of December 2012

http://www.b92.net/info/vesti/index.php?yyyy=2012&mm=12&dd=28&nav_category=12&nav_id=673066

Scholarships for Roma students in Medical Sciences

Roma Education Fund will give scholarships to 35 Roma students during the academic 2012/2013. The students in the faculties of medicine will receive 2,000 Euros per year.

Source: Blic – 18th of December 2012

<http://www.blic.rs/Vesti/Drustvo/358590/Stipendije-zaromske-studente-medicinskih-nauka>

Milanović elected president of the Coalition of Roma NGOs

Miroslav Milanović was elected as president of the Coalition of Roma NGOs, which has around 50 companies and associations of Roma from Serbia.

Source: Danas – 16th of December 2012

http://www.danas.rs/danasrs/drustvo/izabran_predsednik_koalicije_romskih_nevladinih_organizacija.55.html?news_id=252956

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Roma women live in bondage of prejudices

Despite the unequal starting position in the society, Roma women have to fight the stereotypes and prejudices in the family as well, according to the survey that included 600 people from more cities.

Source: Dnevnik – 25th of December 2012

<http://www.dnevnik.com.mk/default.asp?ItemID=34F2F514FAA4341BB71CB92D84D859E>

Tensions in front of the Prilep Center for Social Work

Group of Roma from the settlement Trizla gathered today in front of the Centre for Social Work in Prilep to ask for the late payment of social welfare. There was a tense atmosphere, shouting, threats, after which the director of the Center called the security.

Source: Telma TV – 31st of December 2012

<http://telma.com.mk/index.php?task=content&cat=1&ub=6&item=22960>

