

## Second Thematic Roundtable on Housing of Roma

Tirana, Albania, 27 February 2014

# **Background Information** for the field visits organized within the framework of the housing roundtable

### Date and time

On 27 February 2014, two field visits will be organized for housing roundtable participants to the Municipalities of Lezha and Lushnje. The visits will include meetings with municipal authorities, as well as site visits to the Roma communities in these two cities. The visits are organized in co-operation with local authorities.

All participants will be divided into two groups:

- Group 1 will visit the Municipality of Lezha, with translation into Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian/Montenegrin and English, while
- Group 2 will visit the Municipality of Lushnje, with translation into Macedonian and English.

Organized transportation will be provided by the BPRI. Two shuttle busses will depart from Hotel Tirana International on 27 February 2014 at precisely 08:30.

### Municipality of Lezha



The city of Lezha is the administrative center of the Lezha district in the north-western part of the country. As estimated by Roma NGOs and municipal authorities, about 397 Roma and Egyptian families live in Lezha, out of 8,186 families (29,532 inhabitants) in total. So Roma and Egyptians compose approximately 5% of the population. Roma in Lezha mainly live in two settlements: Lagja "Beselidhja" and Lagja "Skenderbej". The municipality has recently developed and adopted the Roma Local Action Plan (2013-2015) and appointed a Roma Local Expert who is dealing with the issues of Roma and Egyptian communities.

### Detailed agenda- field visit to Lezha

08:15 – 08:30	Gathering in front of the hotel Tirana International
08:30	Departure of buses
08:30 – 10:00	Travelling to Lezha (group 1 with translation in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian/Montenegrin and English)
10:00	Pick up by Edison Kipti, Roma Local Expert at the entrance of the municipality
10:00 – 10:30	Meeting with the Mayor and Roma Local Expert
10:30-11:00	Visit to the Roma neighbourhood, small grants' works
11:00-11:20	Visit to city museum, Roma corner
11:30 – 13:00	Travelling back to the hotel in Tirana

## Municipality of Lushnje



As estimated by Roma NGOs, Roma and Egyptians in Lushnje compose 2.78% of the entire population of the city. The Roma population of Lushnje is mainly concentrated in Saver neighborhood where they were first settled in 1965. Roma in Saver are mostly engaged in agricultural activities. There is a Roma elected municipal council representative, which is the local government decision making body. In April 2013, Lushnje municipality adopted the Roma Local Action Plan (2013-2015).

## Detailed agenda- field visit to Lushnje

08:15 – 08:30	Gathering in front of the hotel Tirana International
08:30	Departure of buses
08:30 – 10:00	Travelling to Lushnje (group 2 with translation in Macedonian and English)
10:00	Pick up by Ferit Milanj, Council Member of Municipality at the entrance of the municipality
10:00 – 10:30	Meeting with the Mayor
10:30 – 11:00	Trip by bus to Saver neighbourhood
11:00 – 11:30	Visit to the Roma neighbourhood, small grants' works and Amaro-Drom community center
11:30 – 13:00	Travelling back to the hotel in Tirana