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➤ BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The implementation of the small grants projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina continued according to the agreed action plans, with progress being achieved by all the local governments. Specifically, Bosanska Krupa local government completed the purchase of a van to be used as a mobile kindergarten and has started its modification; Gradiska local government has placed signs in minority languages marking local cultural/religious sights, along with a welcoming billboard on the entrance of the municipality; and Jablanica local government delivered capacity building trainings for the local Roma population and a scholarship programme for Roma pupils. In addition, Prijedor local government organised the broadcast of television and radio shows in Ukrainian language and equipped the local Ukrainian folklore association with traditional costumes; Prnjavor local government started Ukrainian and Italian language classes and organized the Festival of National Minorities; and Sarajevo local government was active in preparing for the Third “Day of National Minorities of the City of Sarajevo” scheduled for November. Some of the local governments faced challenges to complete their respective tendering procedures, which caused certain delays in the project implementation. It is important to note that the BiH local elections will be held 2016, and this is likely to create challenges during the pre-election period. The JP Minority Project Secretariat will continue to closely cooperate with the local governments to ensure successful implementation of the projects. In addition the month of August has been the holiday period for the employees of the local governments.

Bosanska Krupa - Local Self-Government

Field: Education

Key minority engaged: Roma

The project idea is to create a ‘mobile’ kindergarten in the areas where Roma children live and to increase the number of children attending preschool education. To this end, it is planned to purchase a van which will be modified for the teaching purposes. The local government will include all relevant stakeholders in creating the curriculum which will best fit the needs and contribute to the education of Roma and other children.

Bosanska Krupa local government completed the purchase of the van needed for the ‘mobile kindergarten’ at the end of July 2015. In September the local government started the modification of the

van as a mobile kindergarten and it is expected that this process will be completed in October. In the meantime the local government had a number of preparatory meetings which led to the preparation of a draft teaching program and activity table which will be presented and agreed with the parents at the end of October when the kindergarten classes in the Roma Settlements should start. Unfortunately, the implementation of the small grant project faced delays. Firstly due to the late appointment of the public attorney needed for issuing the tender procedure for the purchase of the van. Secondly, once the public attorney was appointed the tendering procedure had to be repeated twice due to irregularities and missing documents from the companies that were bidding for the tender.



Gradiska - Local Self-Government

Field: Language and Media

Key minority engaged: Roma, Ukrainian, Polish and Montenegrin

The project idea is to create a web platform of the municipality which will have all relevant information to promote the work of the national minority organizations and encourage them to become more active. As a part of the activities, bilingual signs will be placed in local communities where minorities live.



During the reporting period, Gradiska local government made considerable progress in the implementation of its action plan. It successfully placed 19 touristic/religious signs in minority languages in the municipality and also placed a welcome board in minority languages at the entrance of the municipality. In September, it organised a project promotion ceremony and visit to the areas where the signs in minority languages had been placed, which was well attended and received extensive

media coverage. In addition the representatives of minority associations from Gradiska (Polish, Roma, Ukrainian and Montenegrin minority associations) were working actively with the local government to complete the translation of materials in minority languages which will be posted on the new/restructured municipal website envisaged by the project. It is expected that the new website with the content in minority languages will be launched by the end of October 2015.

Jablanica - Local Self-Government

Field: Active participation

Key minority engaged: Roma

The project idea is to support the Roma community in organizing themselves and support the development of a coordination body. Good practice by Roma NGOs will be presented to Roma living in Jablanica, and all existing municipal instruments will be used to encourage Roma participation in public and political life.

Jablanica local government successfully organized a study visit to Kakanj local government which is considered an example of good practice in promoting the engagement of its local Roma community. Following this study visit, the local government collaborated with the local Roma community to design and deliver a training program for representatives of the Roma community living in Jablanica. This was followed by the organization of a scholarship programme that provided teaching materials and a symbolic one time financial assistance in the amount of BAM 130 to 9 Roma pupils. This activity received positive feedback from the local community and good media coverage, including an article in the 'Bosnia Daily'. The local government has maintained a dialogue with the Roma community throughout the small grant planning and implementation, and through these consultations the local government and Roma community jointly identified the need to refurbish the local Roma cemetery. This work has started as a joint initiative of the local government and Roma community. The completion of the work will be followed in November by a two-day event to present the project activities achieved thus far. The first day of the event will consist of a round table at which the position and status of Roma in Jablanica will be discussed. On the second day will be shown the movie 'one day in the life of an iron picker' and which will be followed by a concert of Roma music. The aim is to focus efforts and activities on encouraging the Roma population to remain in Jablanica, since the number is rapidly decreasing, due to the poor economic situation in the municipality.



City of Prijedor - Local Self-Government

Field: Culture, language and media

Key minority engaged: Ukrainian

The project idea focuses on improving the realisation of rights of the Ukrainian minority living in Prijedor. The activities will focus on culture, education, official use of language, media and non-discrimination. The aim is to support the active participation of the Ukrainian minority in the cultural, social and economic spheres of the local community.

During the reporting period, the local government carried out the recording and broadcasting of three TV and Radio Shows according to the activity plan. It also arranged for the planned delivery of traditional 12 sets of Ukrainian costumes (6 male and 6 female) to the local association of Ukrainian folklore, following the successful completion of a tendering procedure to select a company to produce the costumes. The association subsequently presented their work and knowledge on the Festival of National



Minorities organized in Prnjavor on 25 July 2015. Unfortunately, the local government faced certain challenges to complete the tendering procedures for the purchase of equipment for the planned language laboratories for teaching of Ukrainian language. As a result, it proved impossible to establish the laboratories at the beginning of September, as planned, and the new date is the end of October 2015. The local government organized the promotional event on 24th October in order to highlight the project activities and results.

Prnjavor - Local Self-Government

Field: Language

Key minority engaged: Italian, Ukrainian, Czech, Polish, Roma and Slovakian

The project idea is focused on the use and teaching of the languages of national minorities in Prnjavor municipality. An on-line minority languages teaching programme will be made available for 150 students in two elementary schools. The local government will work together with the local community and kin states of national minorities to create curriculums appropriate for on-line teaching.

During the reporting period, Prnjavor local government completed a key activity under its activity plan, by starting its online minority language classes for the teaching of Italian and Ukrainian. These classes are organized through video links with professors in Italy and professor of Ukrainian from Belgrade, with two classes in each of the languages being organized in September. As of the end of September, the Italian and Ukrainian language classes were attended by 35 and 10 students respectively. The start of the project activity was affected by delays in the tendering procedure for the purchase of the computers required for the laboratories, however these delays did not impact on the overall implementation. On 25th July 2015, the local government organised the Festival of National Minorities, which was well attended by representatives of local government, relevant institutions, representatives of the embassies and international organizations. The festival received extensive media coverage. The Festival also served as a good opportunity for the local governments to network and exchange ideas on how best to promote minorities in their local communities.

City of Sarajevo - Local Self-Government

Field: Culture

Key minority engaged: Albanian, Czech, Italian, Jewish, Hungarian, Macedonian, Polish, Slovenian

The project idea is to provide a platform for national minorities in the City of Sarajevo where they can promote their tradition, culture, and history, which will also serve to raise awareness on minority rights and needs and as a place for mutual respect, understanding and intercultural dialogue. The organization of a National Minorities Day in the City of Sarajevo would serve as a starting point in creating this platform, through presenting the handcrafts, cuisine, music, art, history and other aspects of the respective minority identities.

After successfully completing the first and second "Day of National Minorities of the City of Sarajevo", the Sarajevo local government has been working hard to prepare for the third and the final event within its small grant project. The third "Day of National Minorities" should take place in November in the Sarajevo City Library. Over the reporting period the local government has had a number of meetings

with the representatives of the minority associations in order to agree the objectives and the structure of this final event. Through these consultations, it was agreed that the final event should take a different form to the previous two events, by focusing more on the status and position of national minorities living in Sarajevo and as a platform for minorities to lobby for further support for their minority associations. It is expected that the final event will see a broad participation of relevant institutions, local and international organizations and embassies.