

ALBANIA

DROPULLI I POSHTËM

Theme covered: Culture

Affected minorities: Greek

Main objective: Providing knowledge and skills in the culture and history of the Greek Minority of Dropulli i Poshtëm. The proposed project will focus on enhancing the Greek cultural protection strategies, skills and opportunities for development of the area.

Main activities:

- Provide a training course to 15 young women on embroidery. The trainees will gain the necessary skills to produce the Dropulli i Poshtëm costume;
- Provide a training course on planning, accounting, pricing, retail sales to the 15 young women;
- Design of a webpage, which will serve as a vehicle to sell craft products to retail and commercial buyers;
- Organization of a Folk Festival where the Greek minority artists, especially young people from Dropulli i Poshtëm, Dropull i Sipërm and Pogoni Communes, will be involved;
- Organization of a Regional Conference on Greek minority issues

Expected results:

- Transmission of handicrafts, such as embroidery of traditional Dropulli i Poshtëm costume from generation to generation;
- Involvement of many young people in the project activities increasing their interest in working and living there;
- Some of the trained young women will start their own business on producing the traditional costumes and enter the local and regional market;
- Increasing the knowledge on customs, traditions, cultural values, and heritage of the Greek minority living in this area through the organization of the Regional Conference, Folk Festival and webpage.

FIER MUNICIPALITY

Theme covered: Effective participation

Affected minorities: Roma and Egyptians

Main objective: Drafting and approval of an inclusive Local Action Plan for Minorities in the Municipality of Fier.

Main activities:

- Drafting of an inclusive Local Action Plan for Minorities;
- Collecting and processing data on the situation of Roma and Egyptian communities in

- Fier;
- Drafting the community profiles;
 - 7 workshops/trainings on preparation and implementation of the action plan for all the stakeholders in different sectors (such as education, social issues, health, employment, etc.);
 - Implementation of some activities foreseen in the Action plan/Building of the mini park in the Roma village (greenery and recreational area)

Expected results:

- Action plan approved;
- Improving the educational situation of the Roma and Egyptian communities in Fier Municipality;
- Roma and Egyptian empowerment through increased access to the labour market, training programs and social protection schemes;
- Improving sustainable health and living conditions of Roma and Egyptian communities
- Improving sustainable housing and infrastructure conditions;
- Ensuring social inclusion and increased access for the Roma and Egyptian communities in the entire community;
- Preservation and promotion of cultural heritage of the Roma and Egyptian communities.

PËRMET MUNICIPALITY

Theme covered: Effective participation

Affected minorities: Roma, Egyptians, Aromanian/Vllah

Main objective: To enhance minority (Egyptian, Greek, and Vlach) community participation in the public life and in decision-making of policies of their concern, and improve local service delivery for minority communities in the municipality of Përmet.

Main activities:

- Training of the minority communities, leaders of public institutions and CSOs in order to allow them to follow up and properly address the issues of discrimination;
- Support drafting and adoption of a Local Action Plan for Minority Integration and a designated budget for dealing with minority issues - this budget is specified as per the lines and objectives of the Local Action Plan;
- Creation of a Civil Commission on Minorities as an advisory body for the problems faced by minorities, as well as a Minority Coordinator that will coordinate and manage the problems faced by minority communities;

Expected results:

- Enhanced communication between the minority communities with the local government, and empowerment of the minority communities to express their needs;
- Municipality staff and Municipality Council trained on minorities' civil and human rights and relevant policies and mechanisms to promote and enforce such rights;
- Service delivery for minority communities improved;
- Influence and participation of minorities in the local administration decision-making process increased.

RRETHINA COMMUNE

Theme covered: Media/Culture

Affected minorities: Montenegrins

Main objective: To support and promote the minority rights, language, traditions and culture of Montenegrins living in Rrethina Commune.

Main activities:

Activities related to effective representation and participation in the decision-making process:

- Support of local minority organizations on facilitating the consultation of the minority with the local government;
- Promotion of the FCPNM throughout the minority population in the form of public meetings and publications through existing minority representing non-governmental organizations.

Activities related to the use of own language and education:

- Organize intensive courses of Montenegrin language for all children in the Commune;
- Organize creativity competitions in own language.

Activities related to the promotion of the culture and traditions:

- Organize a fair to promote the products, cuisine, costumes, history, symbols and photographs;
- Produce a documentary on the life and history of the Montenegrin population in Rrethina;
- Produce TV chronicles to promote the launch and the progress of the project in the local media.

Expected results:

- Strengthened role of the local minority representing NGOs functioning as a body of representation and as a facilitator of dialogue, acknowledged by the Commune and visible to the National State Committee on Minorities;
- Increased knowledge of the minority rights sanctioned in the FCPNM;
- Increased knowledge of own language among young generation;
- Better perception of the values of the minority among the whole population;
- Increased collective identity with potential improved results in self- declaration;

SHIJAK MUNICIPALITY

Theme covered: Education/Non-discrimination

Affected minorities: Bosnian community

Main objective: Promoting human rights and the protection of Bosnian community through offering opportunities of developing multi-cultural, educational and participatory practices in the Municipality of Shijak

Main activities:

Reconstruction of the premises of the Multi-Functional Center at the Palace of Culture

- Equipment of the Multi-Functional Center with needed furniture and library books;
- Kick-off event introducing the project to all relevant stakeholders;
- Design of the Center Operational Plan and preparation of language courses curricula in Bosnian language;

Cultural activities fostering minority traditions and cultural heritage

- Organisation of 5 activities “One City – One history” and discussion on the cultural heritage of the Bosnian cities following the display of CDs obtained from Bosnia and selected literature

Formal and non-formal educational activities

- Advocacy activities (meetings with the Directorate of Education and School Directorate) for conducting of the classes in the Bosnian language at elementary school;
- Conducting Bosnian language courses for children belonging to the Bosnian community;
- Assisting in the organization of 2 extracurricular hours addressing multi-cultural themes in the elementary schools;
- Organizing 1 training with community leaders and in cooperation with Zambaku Association on “Benefits and Challenges of the Legal Recognition of the Bosnian Community as a National Minority”;
- Organizing 1 workshop on follow up actions

Encouraging local participatory decision making practices

- Inviting Bosnian community leaders to participate in the Citizen Observatory and follow the municipality council meetings;
- Translation and publication of the decisions of the Municipality Council in both Albanian and Bosnian language.

Expected results:

- Establishment of a multifunctional center for the community offering cultural events and promoting Bosnian heritage in the Municipality of Shijak
- Enhanced skills in Bosnian language through formal and non-formal educational mechanisms and trained human resources to promote the fight against discrimination
- Increased access of citizens of Bosnian community in the local decision-making process