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The implementation of the small grants projects in Croatia continued according to the agreed action plans, with progress being achieved by all the local governments. Specifically, Bogdanovci local government established a new cooperative to manage its minority language Internet radio station, and Cakovec local government is close to formally registering a cooperative that will support Roma women entrepreneurship in the municipality. Moreover, Pakrac local government has continued to organize classes to teach Czech and Serbian minority language and has organized a number of round tables and cultural activities; Gracac local government has begun the provision of free legal aid to the Serbian minority; Knezevi Vinogradi local government has identified more than 16.000 books of minority literature and categorized more than 10.000; and Pula has completed its minority language course for local officials, installed bi-lingual signs and translated selected official documents to Italian language. There were certain delays in implementation in the previous reporting period due to unresolved VAT exemption issue, however these were resolved in a timely manner during the current reporting period, after the Government Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities took prompt and much appreciated action to secure VAT exemption for all local governments in Croatia participating in the small grant programme.

Bogdanovci - Local Self-Government

Field: Media

Key minority engaged: Ruthenian and Ukrainian

The project idea foresees the establishment of an internet radio station of Bogdanovci municipality in Ruthenian and Ukrainian languages. Thematic radio shows would be combined with traditional music. The aim of the radio being community outreach and encouraging minorities living in Bogdanovci to be more engaged in public life. It is planned that the radio would initially operate for four hours per day, and would eventually become a live broadcast.

During the reporting period, Bogdanovci local government has implemented its activities according to the action plan. Firstly the local government completed the process of registering the cooperative that should manage the planned Internet radio station, which will broadcast programmes in Ruthenian, Ukrainian and Croatian languages, including the drafting and adoption of the Cooperative's statute. Secondly the local government has assigned the premises for the



Internet radio station and purchased the equipment needed for its operation. In September, the local government issued a vacancy notice for the selection of the radio station hosts and received a number of applications. The most qualified and capable persons were selected and have started a training programme on hosting radio shows. It is expected that the refurbishment of the premises and official launching of the Internet radio will be completed by November.

Cakovec - Local Self-Government

Field: Effective equality in economic life

Key minority engaged: Roma

The project idea is to create a Roma women's enterprise which could serve as a training center for Roma woman to learn more about the opportunities for self-employment and current market needs in Cakovec and to encourage participation in the local economy.

Cakovec local government has been engaged in providing a number of trainings for four Roma women who are part of the Roma women entrepreneurship cooperative 'Romona' which is expected to be formally established by the end of November. The women were offered a choice of trainings, including computing, sewing and the use of printing machines. The aim is to create the conditions for the women to find permanent employment at the end of the project and to strengthen the sustainability of the cooperative Romona and its capacity to assist Roma women to improve their employability. Once the cooperative is officially registered, the four Roma women who were initially trained will be able to provide the knowledge gained to all other Roma women interested to learn more about certain areas relevant for competing on the job market in Cakovec. The cooperative Romona will serve as a training employment center open for everyone but primarily focused on providing assistance to Roma women. Cakovec local government also requested the assistance of the Croatian Ministry of social affairs, which agreed to support the employment of four Roma women for an additional 4 months during the implementation of the Project. The local government and cooperative 'Romona' plan to organize an event in November for the handover of certificates to the Roma women, and as a promotional event for the activities under the small grant project.

Gracac - Local Self-Government

Field: Active participation

Key minority engaged: Serbian

The project idea focuses on educating the local authorities, civil society organizations and minority councils about minority rights and how to realize them at the local level. The education component will include the production and distribution of information brochures and study visits to review existing good practice.

Gracac local government has begun the delivery as planned of the free legal aid for the Serb minority from the remote Serbian villages. The start of activities followed the refurbishment and equipping of the space identified by the local government. Some of the planned project activities were delayed due to the election of the national minority councils. The planned study visit to Rovinj has been postponed for October/November. It is also planned to organize the first roundtable on the rights of national minorities in November, and by the end of November, the local government also plans to complete the design and

printing of the brochure on the rights of minorities with a specific focus on the promotion of anti-discrimination mechanisms. The final event is planned for December 2015 in Zadar, in the Administrative center of Zadar County, where all Councils of national minorities will be invited from Zadar County and the project results will be presented and future steps discussed.



Knezevi Vinogradi - Local Self-Government

Field: Language / Culture

Key minority engaged: Hungarian and Serbian

The project idea has two components, namely upgrading the municipal website and translating relevant content to Hungarian, Serbian and English language; and refurbishment the municipal library and increase the number of books, particularly those in minority languages.



During the reporting period, Knezevi Vinogradi local government categorized 9,300 books of minority literature and the project implementation team expects that the final number will exceed 16,000 books. The existing books are stored on three locations, and the local government allocated additional funds to refurbish the space needed to store the additional books. It also presented the activities to the newly elected councils of national minorities and received positive feedback. In October, Knezevi local government as a part of the project promotional activities will organize literature nights where some of the

minority authors will be presented. The process of restructuring the municipal website is ongoing and it is expected that the updated web content, together with the catalogue of categorized books will be available by the end of November 2015.

Pakrac - Local Self-Government

Field: Active participation / Education

Key minority engaged: Serbian, Italian and Czech

The project idea focuses on the importance of media, education, official use of the language, culture and non-discrimination. These issues will be tackled through capacity building of the National minorities, and promoting their active participation in public life.

Pakrac local government has continued to organize classes to teach Czech and Serbian minority language, which at the end of the reporting period had 21 and 12 students respectively. In July the local government organized a conference on minority education, which received positive feedback from the participants, along with a second conference as a part of the Pakrac summer manifestation on the role of minority councils. In follow-up to this conference, the local government will start capacity building activities with the national minority councils at the beginning of November in order to strengthen their role. The municipal council has also responded positively to the project activities and has begun to routinely invite

the national minority councils to participate in its sessions. The local government is supporting the preparation of a minority cookbook that will be finalized in October and presented as a part of a series of literature nights at which national minorities from Pakrac will be able to present their authors.

Pula - Local Self-Government

Field: Language

Key minority engaged: Italian

The project idea focuses on the official use of Italian language in the public life of the City of Pula. It is planned to translate official documents/forms into Italian, post bilingual street/traffic signs, and provide additional Italian language classes. The activities will include media outreach in order to inform the community on how to best access the existing instruments for exercising rights for official use of Italian language.



Pula local government successfully completed the delivery of the planned 70-hour course for 24 local government officials for the learning of Italian language. The local government has also installed 39 bilingual traffic signs on 23 different locations and placed bi-lingual office labels within the City administration building. Moreover, it has completed the translation of the selected official documents to Italian language, which have been posted on its official website. It was agreed that the planned support for certifying court

interpreters under the small grant project would be replaced by support for creating a virtual google tour of the City in minority languages. The local government completed the preparations for the roundtable at the beginning of October on the rights of Italian National Minority, and it will organise a further roundtable in November on the minority rights.