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The projects under the small grants in Montenegro are at different stages of implementation. Tivat local government has made progress in the implementation of activities to support primary school enrollment and attendance of Roma and Egyptian pupils; Plav local government has created the conditions for the translation of the municipal assembly sessions and has translated the majority of official municipal documents to Albanian language; and Kotor local government has published seven issues of the minority magazine 'Croatian Herald' and organized two cultural events. Regrettably, Bijelo Polje local government is yet to start implementation and the project/contract is currently under review.

Bijelo Polje - Local Self-Government

Field: Culture

Key minority engaged: Bosniaks

The project aims to promote and affirm the culture and traditions of the Bosniak national minority with the active participation of civil servants and the local self-government bodies. The project will support scientific and expert meetings that deal with international and national mechanisms for the protection of national minorities and Bosniak contemporary literature.

The beginning of the project implementation in Bijelo Polje coincided with the local government being declared bankrupt. This was subsequently resolved in May 2015. It took a further three months to agree the modification of the project activities to reflect the shortened implementation timeframe, and to revise the project documents accordingly. Unfortunately, as of the end of September, the local government has not yet begun the implementation of the agreed activities, and the project is currently under review by the management of the Project. The options include the termination of the project activities in this local government.

Kotor - Local Self –Government

Field: Media

Key minority engaged: Croats

The project idea provides for the use of Croatian language in printed media, in particular - Hrvatski glasnik magazine that promotes cultural heritage and events organised by the members of the Croatian national minority in Montenegro.

During the reporting period, Kotor local government published five issues of the minority language and culture magazine 'Croatian Herald', for a total of seven issues since the start of the project implementation. In addition to publishing the magazine, the local government organised an event on



23rd July to promote the religious and linguistic identity of the Croatian minority in Kotor. As a part of this event, the authorities promoted the 3rd edition of the 'Croatian Herald' and screened a movie about the Blessed Ossa of Kotor. During the reporting period, the Kotor local government together with the Croatian Civic Association also participated in the Zagreb festival from 24th to 29th June 2015, organised by the Croatian Heritage Foundation

which has the aim to preserve and promote the cultural identity of minorities. In the next reporting period Kotor local government will focus more on promotional events with the aim to present the project achievements and to demonstrate their support to the promotion and protection of the Croatian national minority.

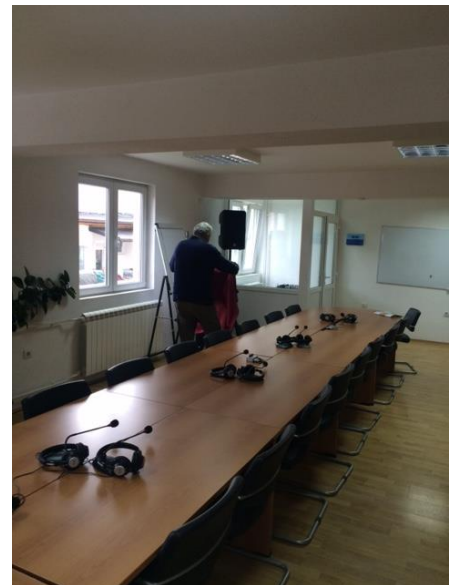
Plav - Local Self-Government

Field: Official Use of Languages

Key minority engaged: Albanians, Bosniaks

The project idea will aim to improve the work of municipal services by establishing an office for translation of the main municipal documents in Albanian and Serbian languages. The project will engage local interpreters and equip conference rooms to provide translation.

Plav local government has completed the majority of activities envisaged in the approved activity plan. It has purchased and installed the equipment needed for the translation of the municipal assembly sessions and has translated and posted on the municipal website in Albanian language more than 60% of the official municipal documents. The translation of statutory documents followed the identification and refurbishment of a translation office and the hiring of two translators. In the following reporting period, Plav local government will focus on the planning and execution of activities which will improve cooperation and use of translation resources between Plav and newly formed Gusinje local government. In November the local government plans to organize a project promotion event, at which a Memorandum of Understanding would be signed between Plav and Gusinje on further cooperation in promoting Albanian language and tradition.



Tivat - Local Self-Government

Field: Education

Key minority engaged: Egyptians

The project idea foresees the inclusion of Egyptian and Roma children in the educational system in Montenegro through cooperation with Egyptian and Roma teaching assistants and expert teams that closely cooperate with the Counseling Office for children and parents.



Tivat local government has been active in implementing its small grant project according to the agreed activity plan. In the period from 15 June to 31 August, the local government organized 25 pre-school classes for 12 minority pupils, and as an outcome, all 12 students successfully passed the preschool testing and enrolled into school. The local government also established an Info point in the primary school, and recruited and deployed two mediators and two teachers to the school to support the education of 80 Egyptian students. As of the beginning of the school year the Info point was extremely active in providing advice and assistance to pupils on a daily basis, with a minimum of five requests from pupils per day. The small grant activities has led to further cooperation between the Tivat local government, school authorities, and the parents of the Roma and Egyptian pupils and jointly they are working to ensure local ownership and sustainability of the activities. Tivat local government has

also established a database which provides information on the number of Roma and Egyptian pupils enrolled in the school, as well as information on the pupils who should enroll in the new school year. In the following reporting period, Tivat local government will focus on introducing supplementary classes to support those minority pupils who are falling behind and risk dropping out. A one day excursion will also be organized for all first year pupils to encourage interaction and dialogue. At the moment the Ministry of Education is exploring the option of systematizing the role of mediators and offering this option to the school that will satisfy the necessary norm. In case this option is realized there is a fair chance that the activities of mediator assistance in Tivat elementary school will be sustainable.