



Promoting Human Rights and Minority Protection in South East Europe



SMALL GRANTS UPDATE (BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA), FEBRUARY – JUNE 2015¹

The selected local governments in Bosnia and Herzegovina are at different stages of the implementation of their respective projects. Specifically, Sarajevo following the success of the First National Minority Day, organized a second event, which was also well attended and received extensive local media coverage; Prijedor local government produced and broadcasted two TV shows in Ukrainian language and placed bilingual signs in Ukrainian language marking the sites of special interest to the Ukrainian community; and Jablanica local government began capacity building activities for Roma activists which will be followed with funding for two initiatives identified by the Roma. In addition, Gradiska local government is making good progress in the implementation of its project for marking religious/cultural sites in minority languages; Prnjavor local government is implementing activities in accordance to the action plan, and their project activities will be promoted in July as a part of the Municipality's traditional National Minority Festival; and Bosanska Krupa local government has completed the preparatory activities relating to the introduction of the planned mobile kindergarten, and it is expected that the purchase of the required vehicle will be completed by end of July.

¹ 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.

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 is implementing a project to encourage Roma families to send their children to kindergarten, through organizing a mobile kindergarten. The aim of entering the Roma communities and organizing the classes is to introduce the parents and children to the activities and benefits offered by pre-school education, as an interim step, before the children attend the regular kindergarten. Unfortunately, the project implementation has been delayed due to the administrative issues surrounding the procurement of the van to be used for the mobile kindergarten. The public procurement was delayed by the lack of a public attorney in the local government, and subsequently by the insufficient number of offers. The procurement should be completed by mid-July. In the meantime, the preparatory activities have been completed, including the consultations with the parents to present the planned activities.

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.



Gradiska local government is implementing a project to strengthen the visibility and participation of national minorities in the municipality. To this end, the project has already increased the capacity of four minority associations through the provision of basic IT equipment, and training as needed, in order to facilitate coordination among the associations and with the local government. The associations are also using the equipment to translate the key documents of the local government to the

respective minority languages. These documents will be posted on the local government website. In addition, the local government is in the process of placing boards at the entrance/exist to the municipality, wishing visitors welcome/farewell, in the respective minority languages. The local government will also mark those sites in the municipality, which are important to national minorities, with the traditional place names in minority languages. This is complimented by a brochure produced by the local government, as well as a range of promotional materials (bags, pencils and project logo).

Jablanica - Local Self-Government

Field: Political 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 is implementing a project to promote the social inclusion and participation of the Roma population in the municipality. To this end, the local government has partnered with a local Roma NGO and has allocated space in the municipal Youth Center for the activities/meetings of the Roma community/NGOs. A number of trainings on community activism have already been organized, and a study visit took place to the Roma community in Kakanj municipality, which is regarded as an example of good practice in social inclusion. In the coming period, the local government will provide training to representatives of the Roma community on needs assessment and project writing which should be completed by the end of July, which will be followed by support (BAM 1,500 per project) for the implementation of the best two project proposals for Roma inclusion.



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.

Prijedor local government is implementing a project to promote Ukrainian language and culture. The local government has already placed bi-lingual tourist information boards and signposts on various spots throughout the City and has begun to broadcast programs in Ukrainian language on the local TV and radio stations. The two TV shows have been completed so far. The project also envisages teaching of Ukrainian language in the local primary school at the moment the local government is equipping the classroom which will be ready for the beginning of the new school year. In September, the local government will organize a day of national minorities, which will provide an opportunity for the national minorities to present their traditional costumes, cuisine and music.



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.



Prnjavor local government is implementing a project to promote the use of minority languages (Italian and Ukrainian) in the municipality. In addition to introducing on-line language classes into the local primary school, the local government promoted the importance of minority languages through an event in June to mark the Day of Europe. The local government has identified the language teachers from the respective kin states, who will teach the on-line classes. The use of a teacher from the kin state will ensure the quality of the teaching, and also promote wider contacts between the students and people from their respective kin states. The equipment will be purchased and installed over the school summer holidays and the classes will begin in September. The local government plans to promote the forthcoming classes at its Festival of National Minorities, which is held in the City every year in July.

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 handicrafts, cuisine, music, art, history and other aspects of the respective minority identities.

Sarajevo local government is implementing a project to promote the culture and traditions of the national minorities in the City, through organizing a series of National Minority Days of Sarajevo. Following the success of the first event in April, the second event was held in June, and it focused on traditional dance and handicrafts. Eleven minority organizations participated at the event. The third National Minority Day of Sarajevo is planned for November.

