

## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE POLICY MEETING

<b>Name of the consultant</b>	Nenad Koprivica
<b>Place and date of the meeting</b>	Tivat, 15 September 2016
<b>Title of the "Open Days"</b>	
<b>Results from the meeting</b>	<p><i>1. Please indicate which topic/topics was/were discussed during the meeting:</i></p> <p>Following topics were discussed during the policy meeting: media, multicultural and intercultural education, effective participation in political life, official use of languages and script, culture, tolerance and intercultural dialogue;</p> <p><i>2. How could the small project result make a difference, help solve the problem, or improve the situation in beneficiary?</i></p> <p>The project in Tivat contributed to the higher level of inclusion of RE children in the educational system of Montenegro through a completely new approach that could be used as an example of best practice for other municipalities across the country and the region. Throughout the project implementation 86 RE children have received support in educational programmes through assistance provided by an assistant engaged at an Info-point established in Primary School "Drago Milovic".</p> <p>The project in Kotor helped to preserve memory on significant events and personalities from the rich heritage of Croats in Montenegro as well as to preserve the language of the Croatian minority in Montenegro; The Municipality of Kotor has shown interest in providing short-term financial support for the Magazine "Croatian Herald".</p> <p>The translation office in the Municipality of Plav was established, to provide translation assistance for citizens and employees of the Municipality of Plav. A certain number of Municipal official documents have been translated and posted on the web site of Municipality.</p> <p><i>3. What are the short-term and long-term implications of the results?</i></p> <p>Short term implications of the results: Establishment of an Info-point at the primary school in Tivat; publication of a Croatian Magazine in Kotor;</p>

	<p>the provision of equipment for simultaneous interpretation as well as furniture provision for the office for the interpreters in Plav.</p> <p>Long term implications of the results: Strengthening of cooperation and of the role of civil society organizations in promoting and protecting minority rights at the local level; project teams have developed new skills in project management and project coordination which will facilitate the implementation of subsequent projects; the inclusion of Egyptian and Roma children in the education system of Montenegro including increasing of their educational achievement in the Municipality of Tivat; the info-point office in Tivat school became an important social service and tool for additional support and assistance for RE children and their parents within the educational system of Montenegro; The equipment for simultaneous interpretation as well as furnishing the office for the interpreters in Plav is the short term action, but the impact of that action is a long term sustainability.</p> <p>4. <i>How do the results relate to other municipalities in the beneficiary/region?</i></p> <p>The project in Tivat has been considered as an example of best practice that could be of use for other municipalities, not only in Montenegro but in the whole region of South East Europe. This project has shown that the synergy of all interested partners: local-government, NGOs, educational institutions and other interested actors, can produce a great impact on minority rights at the local level. The municipality of Tivat is the only municipality in Montenegro where the working position of the adviser for human and minority rights is systematically scheduled.</p>
<p><b>Compliance of the Small Project Results with the last findings of the FCNM</b></p>	<p>1. <i>Which Article(s) of the FCNM relates to the main Project findings?</i> Following Articles of the FCNM relates to the main Project findings:</p> <p><i>Article 9</i> (the right to freedom of expression of every person belonging to a national minority includes freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas in the minority language, without interference by public authorities and regardless of frontiers) – <b>Project in Kotor</b></p> <p><i>Article 10</i> (every person belonging to a national minority has the right to use freely and without interference his or her minority language, in private and in public, orally and in writing) – <b>Project in Plav</b></p> <p><i>Article 12</i> (take measures in the fields of education and research to foster knowledge of the culture, history, language and religion of their national minorities and of the majority) – <b>Project in Tivat</b></p>

	<p>2. <i>Please indicate the relation between the Project's findings and the last Advisory Committee Opinion and the Committee of Experts Resolution. (236):</i></p> <p>RE assistants in education have no clearly defined legal status and are employed on temporary contracts, which makes their situation difficult and discouraging for qualified people to seek this type of employment. (239): To increase efforts to raise public awareness about the history and cultural heritage of different ethnic groups; redouble efforts to eliminate the disadvantages faced by RE children in education;</p>
<p><b>Compliance of the Small Project Results with the last findings of the ECRML/where applicable</b></p>	<p>1. <i>Which Article(s) of the ECRML relates to the main Project findings?</i></p> <p><b>Article 10</b> (Project in Plav)</p> <p>2. <i>Please indicate the relation between the Project's results and the last Committee of Experts' Evaluation Report and the Committee of Experts Recommendations.</i></p> <p>In the second evaluation report, the Committee of Experts encouraged the authorities to find appropriate solutions to the underrepresentation of Croatian language in the media, in close cooperation with those who speak it. (Project in Kotor.)</p> <p>C. As for the field of administration, Albanian language effectively used by local authorities in those municipalities where the language in official use.</p> <p>E. There is a need to increase public awareness about the Bosniak and Croatian cultures and traditions that are present in Montenegro.</p> <p>3. <i>To clarify in the legislation that the users of the Albanian language may submit oral or written applications to local branches of state administration and receive a reply in that language.</i></p> <p>In municipalities where the Albanian language in official use, Montenegro demonstrates best practice in the implementation of the Charter.</p>
<p><b>Main strategic/legislative and institutional framework dealing with minorities in beneficiary</b></p>	<p>1. <i>What are the main strategies/policies/legislation related with minorities Strategy for RE population from 2016-2020;</i></p> <p>Local plans for inclusion for RE population;</p> <p>2. <i>What are the main central institutions responsible for minorities</i></p> <p>Ministry of Human and Minority Rights, Ombudsman;</p>
<p><b>Compliance of the Small Project</b></p>	<p>3. <i>How do the Project's results comply with the national legislation and</i></p>

<p><b>Results with the minority policies in beneficiary</b></p>	<p><i>local action plans?</i></p> <p>Throughout the project implementation in Tivat, 86 RE children has received support in educational programmes through assistance provided by an assistant. It has contributed to the higher level of inclusion of RE children in the educational system of Montenegro. This has contributed to the implementation of the relevant minority policies in Montenegro.</p> <p>Throughout the project implementation in Plav, the situation regarding protection of minority languages has been improved. It complies with the Statute of the Municipality of Plav, which provides an explicit obligation for local-government bodies, public institutions and enterprises founded by the Municipality, to provide the use of the Bosnian, Albanian and Serbian language for citizens in all types of proceedings before these bodies.</p> <p>Municipality of Kotor has already adopted strategic document for the promotion and realization of minority rights - Local plan for inclusion for RE which defines local policies for inclusion of RE population.</p>
<p><b>Policy Recommendations</b></p>	<p><i>1. Specifically state what should be done, the steps required to implement the recommendations, and the resources needed;</i></p> <p>The need for cooperation with RE NGOs is underlined. One of the main challenges in the future is to secure the position of the RE mediators, as they should be part of the systematic legal solutions. Despite the ethnic diversity in the Municipality of Kotor, it is underlined that Statute of Kotor does not contain legal guarantees or provisions relating to the protection of minority rights in any social sphere (education, culture, non-discrimination etc.).</p> <p><i>2. Indicate the benefits that could be achieved and what problems could be corrected or avoided;</i></p> <p>Ministry of Education should help that more RE children become part of the education system; the municipality of Tivat is the only municipality in Montenegro where the working position of the adviser for human and minority rights is systematically scheduled. It should be good practice and examples for other municipalities to do the same; The office of the RE mediator should remain within the school; It is necessary to work on the further education and sensibilisation of the education staff in order to eliminate stereotypes and prejudices on RE population; the Ministry of education should take responsibility for the RE mediators in the education system as well to legally systemize that position; Also, Ministry of Education should be aware of the fact that RE children but also parents need support and help from the RE assistant when enrolling</p>

	<p>their children to the school, since they do not know official language; Municipality of Plav should provide sustainability for the translation office.</p> <p><i>3. Indicate the feasibility of the proposed recommendation;</i></p> <p>The clear political will is necessary to fulfill proposed recommendations.</p>
<p><b>Recommendations for the relevant institutions in the beneficiary</b></p>	<p><i>1. Make formal recommendations that best support the main Projects' results.</i></p> <p><b>Recommendations for the national / central Government institutions:</b></p> <p>1. More active and inclusive role of the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Culture</p> <p>2. The principle of affirmative actions should be better promoted.</p> <p>3. Additional efforts need to be done in order to find systematic solutions for providing long-term sustainability of programmes related to publication of magazines of national minorities have at local and national level in Montenegro;</p> <p><b>Recommendations for the local governments</b></p> <p><b>Tivat:</b></p> <p>1. Municipality of Tivat should develop a proper strategic framework which will define medium to longer term strategic guidelines for protection and inclusion of RE population;</p> <p>2. Action plan for protection of rights of RE population 2016-2020 have to be adopted by Municipality of Tivat;</p> <p><b>Kotor:</b></p> <p>3. The Municipality of Kotor should develop proper strategic framework which will define medium to longer term strategic guidelines for protection and promotion of minority rights of Croat national minority;</p> <p>4. Considering the ethnic diversity in Municipality of Kotor, adequate legal provisions in relation to protection of minority rights should be introduced in the Statute of Kotor;</p> <p>5. The Municipality of Kotor should have more proactive role and demonstrate stronger willingness to take an appropriate leadership role in realization of projects and activities aimed at promotion and</p>

protection of minority rights at the local level;

**Plav:**

6. The capacities of translation office in Plav should be shared with local governments of small municipalities in the vicinity of Municipality of Plav (Municipality of Gusinje and Municipality of Andrijevica);
7. Cooperation between Municipality of Plav and civil society organization in promoting and protecting minority rights at the local level should be established and strengthened as there were no official initiatives in this regard so far;

**All municipalities in Montenegro:**

8. Mid-term and long term sustainability effects can be ensured only through development of Strategy for improvement of the RE position at the local level;
9. Project outputs especially those related to development of services for the inclusion of RE children in the educational system should be presented and accepted by other municipalities within the country (Podgorica, Niksic, Bijelo Polje, Ulcinj and Bar);
10. Cooperation between Municipalities of Kotor and Tivat with civil society organization in promoting and protecting minority rights at the local level is example of good practice and it should be further followed;
11. Cooperation between Municipalities of Kotor, Tivat and Plav with the Ministry of human and minority rights on the realization of programmes related to the promotion of minority rights at the local level should be further strengthened.