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The implementation of the small grants scheme is on-going in the five local government units. The municipalities of Dropull, Permet, Fier and Shijak are continuing mainly as planned. The process of administrative division coming out of the new territorial and administrative reform and the local elections in June 2015 caused delay in terms of use of funds for the activities and propped restructuring in some of the municipal task forces. In Rrethinat (municipality of Shkoder) activities have been suspended due to technical, organizational reasons.

Dropull i Poshtem / Sofratike - Local Self-Government

Field: Culture

Key minority engaged: Greek

The goal is to empower the Greek minority to build craft production entrepreneurship, able to market and sale their merchandise. The project will facilitate business and retail sales training, support for design and development of stores, and the creation of a web-based tool as a marketing tool to increase sales. Training will be conducted also on areas such as embroidery, musical instruments, planning, accounting, pricing, and retail.

The Commune of Dropulli i Poshtem - which is under the new Municipality of Dropull after the recent territorial and administrative reform - continued to conduct the training course on embroidery for 24 young women, who successfully produced a female and a male costume that was displayed at the Folk Festival, which took place on 27 October. In addition, the trainees were provided a course on planning, accounting, pricing, and retail sales that will help their income generating activities in the future. The web page tool that will help them sell their products is being developed and will be available under the address: www.bashkiadropull.org.al. The web page will be organized in Albanian and Greek language. In order to increase the visibility of the project, very competent municipal team, led by the Mayor, invited the local public media to report and informs the community in the area of Gjirokastra on the results of the project. Hence, on 29 May 2015, TV Gjirokastra – the public TV station - broadcasted a story about the project, in both Albanian and Greek language.



Fier - Local Self -Government

Field: Effective Participation

Key minority engaged: Roma and Egyptian

The project idea is to draft and implement an inclusive Local Action Plan for minorities in the Municipality of Fier. This Plan will include concrete activities to address the needs of Roma and Egyptians. It will contribute also to the enhancement of capacities of these minorities, which will be involved in the process of drafting of the Plan, as well as gathering and analysing different necessary data.

First preliminary draft version of the Local Action Plan of Fier Municipality is prepared. Needs assessment and mapping of stakeholders has been completed and the community profile will be finalized soon. The participatory planning process including Roma and Egyptian representatives will follow in the upcoming quarter. With the goal to address the needs of the Roma and Egyptian community, the small grant funds were used for planting trees and installing playground equipment and benches near a kindergarten in a village where the two minority communities live. The kindergarten has been recently renovated and the restructured surrounding area will be available for Roma children. The municipal task force in Fier was completely restructured after the local elections which caused delays in the implementation of activities.

Permet - Local Self -Government

Field: Effective Participation

Key minority engaged: Roma, Egyptian, Aromanian/Vlach

The project aims to enhance the participation of minority groups in the local and regional decision-making institutions. Minority community members will be trained about civil and human rights issues in order to enhance the understanding of their rights.



During this second quarter, 50 municipal council members and other representatives from different institutions such as health services, education and employment offices and police forces, attended a training session about civil and human rights of minorities with focus on how to build policies and mechanisms to enhance such rights. In addition, 30 municipality staff members were trained on how to apply participatory planning and budgeting processes with direct involvement of minority communities. Alongside, members of the minority communities took part in a legal education program aiming to increase their understanding of human rights. Two information campaigns with the Egyptian Community were organized in Piskove and Permet respectively. About 30 participants in each event were informed about documentation and procedures for benefiting health and social services and 300 leaflets were distributed. One of the outstanding achievements of the project is the creation of the position of the coordinator for minorities within Permet Municipality, which is held now by a representative of the

Egyptian community. About 50 Roma and Egyptian women were trained on the issue of the elimination of all forms of discrimination complemented with a voter education campaign on the local elections of June 2015. About 200 leaflets offering information on the importance of the voting process with the message “Don’t sell your vote- Invest it” were distributed. The Civil Committee ran as candidate Ms. Jahjaja, a woman member of the Egyptian community, who won a seat in the municipality council. Coordinator of the project was interviewed by Koha Jonë national newspaper <http://www.kohajone.com/index.php/intervista/minoritetet-pjese-e-qeverisjes-lokale>. The fund for equipment for minorities needs helped improve the housing conditions of 26 families identified by the project team, and assist in a medical emergency case.

Rrethinat - Local Self -Government

Field: Media / Culture

Key minority engaged: Montenegrin

The project aims to support and promote the education, employment, traditions and culture of Montenegrins living in the Commune of Rrethina, as well as to promote equal chances for Montenegrins in local and regional level through new education and employment opportunities.

The Commune of Rrethina was strongly affected by the administrative and territorial reform taking place in Albania and the new amalgamated Municipality of Shkodra will implement the project from now on. The Commune of Rrethina so far produced a documentary on the life of Montenegrins in Albania. The aim of this documentary is to promote the tradition, culture, history and language of Montenegrins as well as promote common history and cultural values. The draft Local Action Plan for Minority Integration needs to be approved by the Municipality of Shkodra. Due to issues with the bank account designated for the allocation of project funds, which was not opened in accordance to the rules of procedure, the project was not able to access the money for payment purposes. This resulted in the language course being interrupted during the last quarter. Meetings are being held to solve the deadlock as soon as possible in order to ensure the continuation of the implementation of the project.



Shijak - Local Self -Government

Field: Education / Active participation / Culture

Key minority engaged: Bosniak community and Roma

The project aims to establish and furnish a community center which will offer different services to the Bosniak community, such as courses in Bosnian and other languages, human rights, tailoring, art courses etc., to enhance the capacities of the Bosniak minority in different aspects with the final aim to improve their lives. The center will offer also social services to people in need.

The project activities during this quarter in the Municipality of Shijak focused on designing the multifunctional center's Operational Plan and preparation of language courses curricula for Bosnian language. The first cultural activity "One City-One History" was focused on the theme "The cultural heritage of the Bosnian cities". Representatives of Bosnian community participated in the activity and audio visual material was displayed during the discussions. An advocacy activity with school directors in Shijak was organized during this quarter with the aim of looking for opportunities to conduct language classes in Bosnian language for children of this community. Efforts are being made by the Municipality Task Force to translate in Bosnian language the decisions of the municipality council.