

Republika e Kosovës

Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo

Qeveria - Vlada - Government

Ministria e Pushtetit Lokal

Ministarstvo Lokalne Samouprave

Ministry of Local Government

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN MUNICIPALITIES**

JANUARY – JUNE 2020

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

<https://mpl.rks-gov.net/>

Prishtina, July 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY….....................................................................................................3
2. ACTIONS TAKEN IN RELATION TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC…...................................4
3. PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN MUNICIPALITIES............................................6
   1. Gender equality…...............................................................................................................6

3.2. Domestic violence…...........................................................................................................8

3.3. Protection against Discrimination.....................................................................................9

5.3. Social Rights…….…...........................................................................................................10

5. 5. Children's rights………...................................................................................................11

5.6. Community Rights……….…............................................................................................12

5.7. Language Rights…….…....................................................................................................14

5.8. Community Safety…...........................................................................................................15

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ministry of Local Government presents the report on Human Rights municipal activities. This report also shows activities of the MLG with municipalities in the framework of institutional actions for dealing with the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. The report in general shows activities of 38 municipalities in the Republic of Kosovo, as well as challenges faced by municipalities during the first half of 2020.

The findings show an improvement in the realization of the promotion and respect of human rights from year to year. Regardless of COVID 19 pandemic, municipalities have reported also this year. In this report, we notice shortcomings that were identified years ago, which still exist, therefore, although it is found that municipalities in the Republic of Kosovo have reached to a more advanced institutional and legal phase in the protection of human rights, the inputs still highlight the difficulties in meeting full implementation of the legislation.

MLG continuously monitors the implementation of Law No. 05/L-020 on Gender Equality, in the municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo. The Law on Gender Equality guarantees an equal (50-50) representation, but in practice still remains a challenge. In this regard, MLG has proceeded 7 (seven) claims to the competent court, while from the proceeded cases there is still no court verdict. In the municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo, women remain under-represented in decision-making positions. The 38 Mayors of Kosovo are men. Of the 38 chairpersons of municipal assemblies, 32 are men and only 6 are women. In 38 municipalities, the appointed directors of municipal directorates are in total 372. From these data we can notice that, there are (79) women appointed to these positions while there are (293) men. The municipalities of Gllogoc, Kllokot and Kamenica there are 50% women appointed in these positions. So, the representation of women in decision-making positions if expressed in percentage, **is 21.00%.**

Registration of joint immovable property on behalf of both spouses and on behalf of women, out of 11 municipalities that have provided reports on these matter, there are 264 cases of registration of joint immovable property on behalf of both spouses, and 15 cases on behalf of the wife, whereas municipality of Prizren has reported a total number of 45 cases.

In 12 municipalities have been established Municipal Councils for the protection of victims of domestic violence and gender-based violence, whereas 26 municipalities (*Kllokot, Zvecan, Prizren, Podujeva, Fushe Kosova, Mitrovica, Kamenica, Shtime, Malisheva, Mamusha, Novoberda, Ranillug, Zubin Potok, Deçan, Dragash, Gllogoc, Gracanica, Junik, Kaçanik, Klina, Rahovec, Skenderaj, Peja, Mitrovica North, Leposavic, Shtrpce*) have not established Municipal Councils.

Also, 5 municipalities have drafted a Strategy against Domestic Violence, whereas 33 municipalities (***Viti, Istog, Kllokot, Hani i Elezit, Partesh, Zvecan, Prishtina, Prizren, Podujeva, Fushe Kosova, Mitrovica, Kamenica, Gjilan, Ferizaj, Shtime, Vushtrri, Suhareka, Malisheva, Mamusha, Novoberda, Ranillug, Zubin Potok, Deçan, Gllogoc, Gracanica, Junik, Kaçanik, Klina, Rahovec, Peja, Mitrovica North, Leposavic, Shterpce***) have not drafted this strategy.

During the reporting period, the mayor of Municipality of Prizren has undertaken the initiative for inter-municipal cooperation with municipalities of *Suhareka, Dragash and Mamusha* for financing the Shelter Centre for sheltering women and children of domestic violence, and soon it is expected to be signed a Memorandum of Cooperation. The Shelter Centre in Prizren has been financially supported with EUR 8,500, and during this period 22 cases or victims of domestic violence have been sheltered.

Regarding the protection against discrimination, from the data provided, it can be seen that until the reporting period, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has been established in the following municipalities: ***Prishtina, Drenas, Gjilan, Malisheva, South Mitrovica, Junik, Lipjan, Peja, Rahovec, Hani i Elezit, Fushe Kosova, Suhareka, Viti, Gjakova and Vushtrri (15 municipalities).***

Municipalities have also made progress in establishing local mechanisms for the implementation of Law on the Protection from Discrimination. In accordance with legal obligations, 27 municipalities have appointed officers for the protection against discrimination. This issue remains unimplemented in 11 of the following municipalities: *Zubin Potok, Podujeva, Kamenica, Deçan, Gllogoc, Kaçanik, Rahovec, Mitrovica North, Leposavic, Mamusha and Obiliq* have not yet appointed relevant officers.

In order to facilitate provision of services to citizens, municipalities have created internal mechanisms for the provision of free legal aid, offices which, based on the applicable legislation, have been established through regional offices in 7 regions. According to the data provided, the offices of free legal aid are functional only in 4 regions: *Gjakova, Ferizaj, Mitrovica dhe Gjilan.*

Regarding social policies, at the beginning of 2020, MLG has initiated a pilot project in the municipality of Viti, as good practices gained from the implementation of the SoRi project, which has been implemented in 2016-2019, for the possibility of identifying physical access to all public and private facilities, for the purpose of their non-discrimination and integration to the society.

In this report are also presented municipalities that have approved and those that are in the process of approving the “Regulation on the Implementation of Children's Rights through the Child-Friendly Municipal Governance System”. 5 municipalities, ***Gjakova, Rahovec, Gjilan, Lipjan, Prizren and Kamenica*** have approved this Regulation, while municipality of *Mitrovica South* and the municipalityof *Shtime* are in the process of approving the Regulation in question.

In the framework of the Strategy and Action Plan for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in Kosovo society (2017-2021), it is foreseen the establishment of Community Action Committees. The report shows that Municipal Action Committees have been established in (16) municipalities: ***Gjakova, Istog, Klina, Fushe Kosova, Mitrovica South, Lipjan, Obiliq, Rahovec, Peja, Podujeva, Prishtina, Prizren, Shtime, Suhareka, Vushtrri and Viti****,* whereas, municipality of Gracanica and Gjilan are in the process of establishing MAC. Until this reporting period, there are three (3) municipalities that have not yet established MAC, municipalities of *Deçan, Peja* and *Ferizaj*.

According to the Action Plan 2018-2020 of the National Strategy for Sustainable Integration of Repatriated Persons in Kosovo, strategic objective 4, specific objective 4.5 and the National Programme for Implementation of the SAA for 2019, municipalities have been asked to prioritize the process of drafting Municipal Plans for sustainable integration of repatriated persons 2019-2022 during 2019. During the reporting period, so far we notice that this Plan has been approved by 5 municipalities, while the following 33 municipalities have not drafted this plan: ***Prizren, Kamenica, Prishtina, Podujeva, Fushe Kosova, Mitrovica, Viti, Istog, Kllokot, Hani i Elezit, Partesh, Zvecan, Lipjan, Gjakova, Gjilan, Ferizaj, Vushtrri, Suhareka, Malisheva, Mamusha, Novoberda, Ranillug, Zubin Potok, Dragash, Gllogoc, Gracanica, Junik, Klina, Rahovec, Skenderaj, Peja, Mitrovica Noth, Leposavic***.

The Local Action Plan for the Integration of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian community has been approved by 14 municipalities, whereas 18 municipalities (Viti, Kllokot, Zvecan, Prishtina, Gjilan, Suhareka, Malisheva, Mamusha, Novoberda, Zubin Potok, Deçan, Dragash, Rahovec, Skenderaj, Peja, Mitrovica North, Leposavic, Shterpce) have not approved this plan, while 6 municipalities (Ranillug, Gllogoc, Kaçanik, Junik, Hani i Elezit and Partesh) do not have Rome, Ashkali and Egyptian community.

Regarding the establishment of a link for teaching Albanian and Serbian language in the municipalities of Kosovo, according to the agreement between MLG and IOM, municipalities of Deçan, Kaçanik, Kamenica, Lipjan, Novoberda, Obiliq, Vushtrri, Viti and Podujeva (9 municipalities) are to be establishing the respective link. Whereas, municipalities that have not established the link for learning Serbian/Albanian language are as follows: ***Gllogoc, Fushe Kosova, Dragash, Gjakova, Gjilan, Hani i Elezit Han, Junik, Malisheva, Mitrovica South, Peja, Prishtina, Prizren, Rahovec, Shtime, Skenderaj, Viti, Podujeva, Klina, Ranillug and Istog*** (20 municipalities).

At the end of this report, a brief information was presented regarding the Municipal Community Safety Councils (MCSCs), which have been established in 34 municipalities, while in 4 municipalities (*Mitrovica North, Leposavic, Zvecan and Zubin Potok*) have not yet established the MCSCs.

# ACTIONS TAKEN IN RELATION TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all countries, as well as the state of Kosovo. Measures generally adopted by all states include compulsory quarantine, blockages, travel restrictions and restrictions of various activities, and in particular on the economy and public life.

In this regard, municipalities on the occasion of the appearance of CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 have mainly focused on the coordination of activities between the central level and the municipalities. Respectively, a series of requests and notifications have been addressed to municipality mayors, chairpersons of municipal assemblies, Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), MIAPA Operation Centers (MIAPAOC) and Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP) with the following priorities:

MLG has initially addressed to Municipalities the Readiness and Response Plan of the Institutions for COVID-19, and the MLG contact points have been made available to municipalities for addressing their inquiries. Immediately after this, notifications were sent to municipal mayors that their public statements/information should be careful and fully in line with the official information coming from the two main institutions, the Ministry of Health and the National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo;

Also, municipalities have been notified with: Information Circular for informing Public and Private Healthcare Institutions of the Republic of Kosovo, Circular No. 05/2020; Notice letter for mayors on the measures against Coronavirus COVID-19; Government meeting decisions related to the situation with pandemic; Clarifications on the implementation of Ordinance No. 01/03 dated 17.03.2020 (MEETIESI) on implementing measures against performance of economic activities during the public health emergency; Guidelines, Recommendations and SOPs of the National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo; Relevant decisions of the Minister of the Ministry of Health, Ordinance of MEETIESI, MLG Legal Circular, MIAPA Guidelines and Acts,

Information have been provided, upon request to municipalities regarding the needs for municipal tents, specific requirements for all equipment, protective equipment and apparatus; Request for the establishment of medical teams in border areas; Request for the provision of information and accurate data on:

a) the number and contacts of persons arriving from the diaspora for each separate municipality, as well as

b) the name of the settlement, village and location; the request for the possibility of deterioration the situation in Kosovo relating the spread of Coronavirus; the request for the operationalization of the Municipal Committees for Protection and Rescue (emergency headquarters) and submitting the contact names of responsible persons of municipalities, as well as official letter addressed to the mayors and chairpersons of the municipal assemblies for the “Establishment and operationalization of the Municipal Emergency Response Committees (Emergency Headquarters)”;

Priority requests have been addressed on behalf of the Operation Centres of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Public Administration, whereby municipalities are informed that the Operation Centres and Municipal Committees for Protection and Rescue must be in permanent contact with the Operation Centres of MIAPA, 24/7, for information, support, assistance and advice;

Information was collected regarding contact points of the emergency headquarters, as well as the decisions of 38 municipalities for the establishment of Emergency headquarters. The lists of municipalities: *Malisheva, Deçan, Suhareka, Elez Han, Mamusha, Vitia, Istog, Drenas, Klina, Obilic, Podujeva, Skenderaj*, with the number of arrivals from the Diaspora, have been addressed to the National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo, as well as other data and all requests of municipalities addressed to the Ministry of Health for the equipment with hygienic and protective equipment. Also, all the detailed information of the Serb-majority municipalities regarding the current situation with the spread of COVID-19 virus has been prepared and completed, and the same have been addressed to the Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, as well as the latest information from municipalities of *Leposavic, Zvecan and Zubin Potok* have been sent on daily basis to the Centre for Disease Prevention and Control regarding the current situation with the spread of COVID-19 virus;

Taking into account the situation created and quarantining of municipalities, the MLG has announced temporary suspension of all reviewing of legality of municipal authority acts. In this regard, senior officials from the MLG cabinet, immediately after appearing first cases, have conducted visits to municipalities, especially in municipalities where the virus first appeared, such as: *Klina, Malisheva, Viti, Dragash, Fushe Kosova, Rahovec, Prizren, Kamenica, Gjilan, Peja, Gjakova, Lipjan, Ferizaj, Drenas, Skenderaj, Obiliq, Mamusha, Podujeva, Mitrovica South, Istog*, continuing with other municipalities as well.

The announcement of the MLG for the mayors and chairperson of the municipal assemblies regarding the issue that the MLG will address to the MFT the decisions of Municipal Assemblies for reviewing the legality, only the decisions that are related to the financial aspects, to address issues related to emergency situation with the prevention of COVID-19. In all other respects, municipalities were ordered to apply the Legal Circular on the Implementation of Government Decisions for the Prevention of COVID-19 virus;

The online application on municipal websites has been functionalized, including the online registration manual for submitting applications for civil status certificates, and the Municipal Intranet usage manual, in Albanian and Serbian versions;

The official letter of the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) has been sent to the mayors of Serb-majority municipalities through the MLG, regarding the issue of organizing and continuing the education process in Serbian language schools, as well as the request of the Municipality of Gracanica regarding the arrival of doctors from Serbia. The request was approved, and the doctors arrived in Gracanica. Also, these municipalities have been notified of the ECDC guidelines, which we have received from the Ministry of Health. The request of Mitrovica North regarding the possibility of supplying protective and hygienic equipment from the Central Warehouse of the Ministry of Health, with a focus on the Mitrovica North Regional Hospital, has been addressed;

With the aim at inter-institutional coordination, a joint meeting was held between the Minister of Health, MLG and all mayors, whereby mayors have been informed about the mitigation measures for the management of emergency situation for the second and third phase.

# PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN MUNICIPALITIES

In terms of human rights, the MLG has continued to cooperate in supporting municipalities for the implementation of human rights policies. During this period, the annual report on human rights for the period 2019 has been drafted. This report includes data on children's rights and community rights in municipalities. The report on the implementation of the Law on Gender Equality in municipalities, the report on the prevention of trafficking in human beings, the report on the rights of non-majority communities, as well as the report on the rights of persons with disabilities (special needs) has also been drafted.

With the aim at helping municipalities to improve socio-economic situation, MLG has made all the preparations for the beginning of the project implementation, which aims to improve the socio-economic inclusion of at least 3000 young people (age 15-29) in most sensitive communities in Kosovo through the following: increasing soft skills and voluntary opportunities, increasing youth-driven community initiatives and increasing access to youth community infrastructure and services. So, the project started to be implemented on 27 May 2020, with EUR 2.7 million for the inclusion of 3000 young people from sensitive communities.

During the reporting time, MLG has notified municipalities on the extension of the Administrative Instruction on special measures for registration of joint immovable property on behalf of both spouses for a period of one year, April 2020-April 2021, under the Decision of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo dated 17.04.2020.

Also, MLG has drafted and sent a letter to the mayors regarding the announcement of April, as a month of free registration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

Regarding the implementation of human rights policies, MLG has continued to support municipalities. Regarding the area of gender equality promotion in municipalities, the awareness of municipal officials has increased about the need for concrete steps in mainstreaming gender perspective in municipal policies. MLG has continuously made efforts for the municipalities to meet the requirement for gender representation in accordance with the legal framework.

**Gender Equality in the Municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo**

MLG continuously monitors the implementation of Law No. 05/L-020 on Gender Equality, in the municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo. The Law on Gender Equality guarantees an equal (50-50) representation, but in practice still remains a challenge. In this regard, MLG has proceeded 7 (seven) claims to the competent court, while from the proceeded cases there is still no court verdict.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Figure 1.Number of women in decision-making positions in municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Figure.2 Number of women in decision-making positions in municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo

In the municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo, women remain under-represented in decision-making positions. The 38 Mayors of Kosovo are men. Of the 38 chairpersons of municipal assemblies, 32 are men and only 6 are women. In 38 municipalities, the appointed directors of municipal directorates are in total 372. From these data we can notice that, there are (79) women appointed to these positions while there are (293) men. The municipalities of Gllogoc, Kllokot and Kamenica there are 50% women appointed in these positions. So, the representation of women in decision-making positions if expressed in percentage, **is 21.00%.**

Regarding chairpersons of municipal assemblies, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo in the meeting held on 17.04.2020 has approved the extension of the Administrative Instruction No. 02/2020 on Amending and Supplementing the Administrative Instruction (GRK) No. 03/2016 on Special Measures for Registration of Joint Immovable Property on Behalf of Both Spouses for a period of one year, April 2020 - April 2021. The numbers are presented in the following figure for municipalities of: *Prishtina, Peja, Mitrovica South, Ranillug, Obiliq, Kaçanik, Lipjan, Gllogoc, Kamenica, Prizren and Dragash (11 Municipalities)*:

Figure3. Number of registration in municipalities of joint immovable property on behalf of both spouses and on behalf of the women

Out of 11 municipalities that have reported, there are 264 cases of joint immovable property registration on behalf of both spouses, and 15 cases on behalf of women, while municipality of Prizren reported a total number of 45 cases.

***Domestic violence***

In 12 municipalities have been established Municipal Councils for the protection of victims of domestic violence and gender-based violence, whereas 26 municipalities (*Kllokot, Zvecan, Prizren, Podujeva, Fushe Kosova, Mitrovica, Kamenica, Shtime, Malisheva, Mamusha, Novoberda, Ranillug, Zubin Potok, Deçan, Dragash, Gllogoc, Gracanica, Junik, Kaçanik, Klina, Rahovec, Skenderaj, Peja, Mitrovica North, Leposavic, Shtrpce*) have not established Municipal Councils.

Also, 5 municipalities have drafted a Strategy against Domestic Violence, whereas 33 municipalities (***Viti, Istog, Kllokot, Hani i Elezit, Partesh, Zvecan, Prishtina, Prizren, Podujeva, Fushe Kosova, Mitrovica, Kamenica, Gjilan, Ferizaj, Shtime, Vushtrri, Suhareka, Malisheva, Mamusha, Novoberda, Ranillug, Zubin Potok, Deçan, Gllogoc, Gracanica, Junik, Kaçanik, Klina, Rahovec, Peja, Mitrovica North, Leposavic, Shterpce***) have not drafted this strategy.

During the reporting period, the mayor of Municipality of Prizren has undertaken the initiative for inter-municipal cooperation with municipalities of Suhareka, Dragash and Mamusha for financing the Shelter Centre for sheltering women and children of domestic violence, and soon it is expected to be signed a Memorandum of Cooperation. The Shelter Centre in Prizren has been financially supported with EUR 8,500, and during this period 22 cases or victims of domestic violence have been sheltered.

MLG has also prepared a letter for mayors about the empowerment of gender equality officers in municipalities. Meanwhile, during the time of COVID-19 pandemic, the Security and Gender Equality Group urged central and local level institutions to prevent domestic violence during the time of COVID-19 pandemics (SGEG), encouraging all those who hear or suspect for cases of domestic violence to report to the police at the phone number 192. As during this time of pandemic, cases of domestic violence in Kosovo are increasing. Furthermore, SGEG has published the helpline, counselling on the domestic violence via phone line of Victims' Defenders 0800 11 112. The calls at this phone number are free of charge and operate 24/7, as well as are confidential and anonymous.

According to statistics of the Kosovo Police, during the current year 2020, almost 650 cases of domestic violence have been reported across the country: 161 cases have been reported in January, 151 cases in February, 169 in March, and 167 cases have been reported in April.[[1]](#footnote-1).

Municipality of Prishtina leads with the largest number of reported cases, followed by municipalities of Gjakova and Prizren.

If we compare the number of cases of domestic violence over the years, Kosovo has marked significant increase in the number of reported cases of domestic violence. The annual average from 2002 to 2017 was 1,152; in 2018 there were 1,541 reported cases, whereas in 2019 this number was 1,915 cases.

***Protection against Discrimination***

In order to implement national laws, strategies and policies for the promotion and respecting of human rights, on 22 August 2018, MLG has sent a letter to all mayors of municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo, for the establishment/operationalization of mechanisms for the implementation of obligations of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo for implementing NPISAA, establishment of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The data provided show that until the reporting period, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was established in the following municipalities: ***Prishtina, Gllogoc, Gjilan, Malisheva, Mitrovica South, Junik, Lipjan, Peja, Rahovec, Hani i Elezit, Fushe Kosova, Suhareka, Viti, Gjakova and Vushtrria (15 municipalities).***

Municipalities have also made progress in establishing local mechanisms for the implementation of Law on the Protection from Discrimination. In accordance with legal obligations, 27 municipalities have appointed officers for the protection against discrimination. This issue remains unimplemented in 11 of the following municipalities: *Zubin Potok, Podujeva, Kamenica, Deçan, Gllogoc, Kaçanik, Rahovec, Mitrovica North, Leposavic, Mamusha and Obiliq* have not yet appointed relevant officers.

Figure. 4. Officers for the protection against discrimination in municipalities

In order to facilitate provision of services to citizens, municipalities have created internal mechanisms for the provision of free legal aid, offices which, based on the applicable legislation, have been established through regional offices in 7 regions. According to the data provided, the offices of free legal aid are functional only in 4 regions: *Gjakova, Ferizaj, Mitrovica dhe Gjilan*

.

***Social Rights - Implementation of the Pilot Project in the municipality of Viti***

Given the fact that vast majority of social services are provided at the local level, implementation of the SoRi project 2016-2019 has been focused on solving problems at this level. The Municipal Directorate of Health and Social Welfare, Directorate of Education, Directorate of Finance, Office for Communities and Returns, Unit for Human Rights in municipalities, Centre for Social Work (CSW), etc., in coordination with other municipal institutions, have identified the needs, provided services, planned activities, budgeted and implemented projects for marginalized groups, and in this context also vulnerable groups. Also, we should not forget the network of NGOs, with a focus on social component or on vulnerable groups at the local level, which have advocated or supported these groups. The Ministry of Local Government Administration (MLG) in cooperation with GIZ, have agreed on direct cooperation with the selected municipalities for the implementation of the SoRi project (Prishtina, Prizren, Gjilan, Ferizaj, and Gllogoc, while during 2018 the Municipality of Mitrovica South has also joined them).

The Ministry of Local Government, according to the Strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2013-2023), is competent in the field of information, participation, and representation of Persons with Physical Disabilities (PPD). At the beginning of 2020, MLG has launched a pilot project in the municipality of Viti, as good practices gained from the implementation of the SoRi project, for the possibility of identifying physical access to all public and private facilities, for the purpose of non-discrimination and integration of this group into society. MLG initially held a meeting with the officials of Human Rights Unit, and then under the decision of the mayor, a working group has been established in the municipality of Viti, which is now working in the field, mainly in: 1. Identifying the lack of physical access for persons with disabilities, 2. Raising awareness, 3. Providing criteria for the construction of new facilities for persons with disabilities, etc.

The aim of the project is to improve the conditions for ensuring equal social rights of vulnerable groups in selected municipalities. Mainly state institutions are responsible authorities for guaranteeing human rights and social services. This project aims to build capacities (individual capacities of employees and organizational capacities of state institutions).

As mentioned above, the Commission for identification of public buildings and collective and private dwellings for the access of persons with disabilities, in the municipality of Vitia, has reported based on the decision of the mayor with No. 02-370/01-1166, dated 19.11.2019. Based on the decision, the Commission conducted visits to the facilities mentioned in the decision, and made their identification. The list prepared with data from the Commission, which consists of three engineers: Diana Avdyli - chairperson, Labinot Hasani - member, Arena Emini - member, will be attached to the report.

***Children's rights***

In 2019, the Assembly of Kosovo adopted the Draft Law on Child Protection. It has been a long time since the adoption of the Draft Law on Child Protection. In the absence of this law until 2019, municipalities have drafted the ‘Regulation on the Protection of Minors from Negative Phenomena and their development’ and recently the ‘Regulation on the Implementation of the Rights of Children through a Child-Friendly Municipal Governance System’ according to the Law.

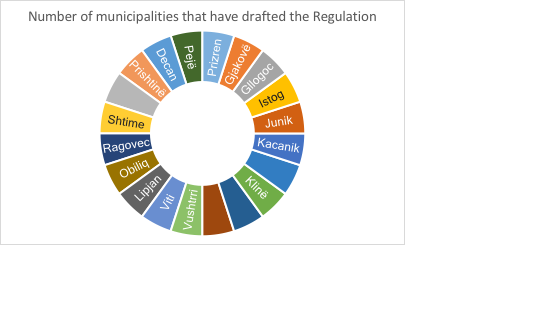


Fig. 5 Regulation on the Protection of Minors from Negative Phenomena

The Regulation on the Protection of Minors from Negative Phenomena and their development has been drafted in 20 municipalities, such as: ***Deçan, Rahovec, Gjakova, Gllogoc, Fushe Kosova, Lipjan, Peja, Prishtina, Prizren, Skenderaj, Kaçanik, Viti, Istog, Vushtrri, Junik, Obiliq, Mitrovica, Hani i Elezit, Klina, and Shtime***.

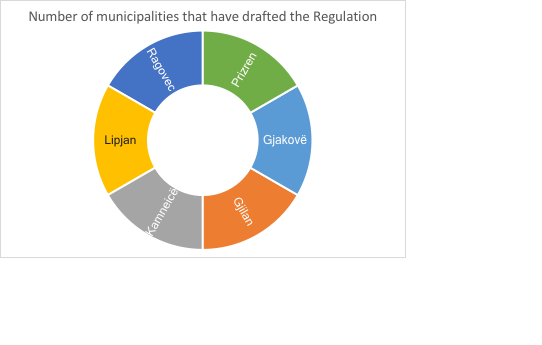


Fig. 6 Regulation on the Implementation of the Rights of Children through a Child Friendly Municipal Governance System

Although the Law on Child Protection has been adopted, municipalities have drafted and approved the ‘Regulation on the Implementation of Children’s Rights through a Child-Friendly Municipal Governance System’ in 5 municipalities, *Gjakova, Rahovec, Gjilan, Lipjan, Prizren and Kamenica.* Municipality of Mitrovica South and municipality of Shtime are in the process of approving the Regulation in question.

According to municipal reports, the Action Plan on Children's Rights has been drafted in 11 municipalities: ***Gjakova, Gjilan, Fushe Kosova, Gllogoc, Istog, Mitrovica South, Kamenica, Lipjan, Prizren, Vushtrri and Skenderaj,*** while 5 municipalities are in the process of drafting the Action Plan: *Obiliq, Peja, Viti, Prishtina and Rahovec.*

According to reports in the field of education, support in online education for persons with disabilities, the "Down Syndrome Kosovo" association, has announced online education, which is spread in four regions of Kosovo, and in four of these centres, we continue to provide online services for 110 children with Down syndrome, of age 0-12 years. The online service is provided through online sessions with the child, including parents.

Also, during the reporting period, in order to raise its voice as a sign of protest regarding the fate of children with disabilities, UNICEF Kosova has put 120 carts with school bags at the centre of Prishtina, as a call for greater inclusion of children with disabilities. The installation, which was held from 17 - 25 May, called upon the decision-makers, civil society, media, and private sector, for greater inclusion of children living with disabilities.

***Community Rights***

In the framework of the Strategy and Action Plan for Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in Kosovo society (2017-2021), it is foreseen the establishment of Community Action Committees. According to this strategy, the purpose of establishing these committees is: “Monitoring the implementation of the strategy and action plan for inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in Kosovo society (2017-2021)”. The report shows that Municipal Action Committees have been established in (16) municipalities: ***Gjakova, Istog, Klina, Fushe Kosova, Mitrovica South, Lipjan, Obiliq, Rahovec, Peja, Podujeva, Prishtina, Prizren, Shtime, Suhareka, Vushtrri and Viti****,* whereas, municipality of Gracanica and Gjilan are in the process of establishing MAC. Until this reporting period, there are three (3) municipalities that have not yet established MAC, municipalities of *Deçan, Peja* and *Ferizaj*.

Fig. 7 Establishment of the Municipal Action Committee

The Local Action Plan for the Integration of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian community has been approved by 14 municipalities, whereas 18 municipalities (Viti, Kllokot, Zvecan, Prishtina, Gjilan, Suhareka, Malisheva, Mamusha, Novoberda, Zubin Potok, Deçan, Dragash, Rahovec, Skenderaj, Peja, Mitrovica North, Leposavic, Shterpce) have not approved this plan, while 6 municipalities (Ranillug, Gllogoc, Kaçanik, Junik, Hani i Elezit and Partesh) do not have Rome, Ashkali and Egyptian community.

In this regard, in terms of community rights, special attention has been paid to monitoring and implementing the obligations of municipalities in the field of human and communities rights, and letters have been drafted and sent to the mayors regarding the announcement of April, a free month for the registration of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, but they have not reported any case due to COVID 19 pandemic.

During the period January-June 2020, even in times of pandemics, municipalities have paid attention to the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities; the municipality of Mitrovica, with the support of the Council of Europe from the ROMACTED Programme, has finalized the infrastructure project for the pavement of three (3) roads with cubic stones in the neighbourhood ‘2 korriku’ for 2020. The project was preceded by a joint meeting of the Council of Europe and the European Union on the three-day workshop on “***European Union financial assistance for local authorities - Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA)***”.

The Municipal Office for Communities and Returns is functional in 37 municipalities, while it is not functional in the municipality of Mamusha, whereas committees for communities have been established in 37 municipalities, while it has not been established in the municipality of *Dragash* according to the Law on Gender Equality.

In 34 municipalities, review of application of the repatriated persons is verified through the Office for Communities and Returns, as well as by the Municipal Commission for Re-integration, while in the Municipality of Gjakova, verification is done through the case management system and review of applications is not done in 3 municipalities (*Mamusha, Zubin Potok* and *Leposavic*)

According to the Action Plan 2018-2020 of the National Strategy for Sustainable Integration of Repatriated Persons in Kosovo, strategic objective 4, specific objective 4.5 and the National Programme for Implementation of the SAA for 2019, municipalities have been asked to prioritize the process of drafting Municipal Plans for sustainable integration of repatriated persons 2019-2022 during 2019. During the reporting period, so far we notice that this Plan has been approved by 5 municipalities, while the following 33 municipalities have not drafted this plan: ***Prizren, Kamenica, Prishtina, Podujeva, Fushe Kosova, Mitrovica, Viti, Istog, Kllokot, Hani i Elezit, Partesh, Zvecan, Lipjan, Gjakova, Gjilan, Ferizaj, Vushtrri, Suhareka, Malisheva, Mamusha, Novoberda, Ranillug, Zubin Potok, Dragash, Gllogoc, Gracanica, Junik, Klina, Rahovec, Skenderaj, Peja, Mitrovica Noth, Leposavic***.

***Language Rights***

The municipal Regulation on the Use of Official Languages has been approved by 36 municipalities, while 2 municipalities (*Ranillug and Zveçan*) have not yet approved this regulation. In 27 municipalities has been recruited the professional staff dealing with translation, whereas municipality of Podujeva has partially recruited the staff, and 10 municipalities *(Hani i Elezit, Gjilan, Obiliq, Malisheva, Mamusha, Ranillug, Gllogoc, Rahovec, Mitrovica North and Leposavic)* do not have enough staff. Also, in 32 municipalities, actions have been taken to create access to services in official languages at the municipal level.

In the following municipalities documents are being translated in both official languages: ***Deçan, Dragash, Fushe Kosova, Gjakova, Gjilan, Junik, Kaçanik, Kamenica, Lipjan, Mitrovica South, Novoberda, Obiliq, Peja, Prizren, Rahovec, Viti, Vushtrri,* and *Klina (18 municipalities).*** In municipalities of Drenas, Shtime, Podujeva, and Skenderaj, documents are being translated partially.

Regarding the establishment of a link for teaching Albanian and Serbian language in the municipalities of Kosovo, according to the agreement between MLG and IOM, municipalities of Deçan, Kaçanik, Kamenica, Lipjan, Novoberda, Obiliq, Vushtrri, Viti and Podujeva (9 municipalities) are to be establishing the respective link. Whereas, municipalities that have not established the link for learning Serbian/Albanian language are as follows: ***Gllogoc, Fushe Kosova, Dragash, Gjakova, Gjilan, Hani i Elezit Han, Junik, Malisheva, Mitrovica South, Peja, Prishtina, Prizren, Rahovec, Shtime, Skenderaj, Viti, Podujeva, Klina, Ranillug and Istog*** (20 municipalities***).***

Municipalities that have inscriptions in both languages are: ***Deçan, Dragash, Gllogoc, Fushe Kosova, Gjakova, Gjilan, Hani i Elezit, Junik, Kaçanik, Kamenica, Lipjan, South Mitrovica, Novoberda, Obiliq, Peja, Prishtina, Prizren, Rahovec, Shtime, Skenderaj, Vitia, Vushtrri, Istog, Klina, Ranillug and Podujeva (26 municipalities).***

***Community Safety***

Municipal Community Safety Council - MCSC, which is an inter-sectoral advisory body, is responsible for safety issues at the local level. The functioning of community safety councils is regulated by Administrative Instruction No. 27/2012 MIA - 03/2012 MPL on Municipal Community Safety Councils. Due to the rating of their functioning standards, there has been raising in institutional awareness of the importance of MCSCs, making the commitment of municipalities to focus on general safety issues, including: raising public awareness of the nature of crimes, irregularities and violent behaviour in the local community, identifying citizens 'concerns, and representing citizens' views and concerns on crime issues.

The Municipal Community Safety Council (MCSC) has been established in 34 municipalities, while in 4 municipalities (*North Mitrovica, Leposavic, Zvecan, and Zubin Potok)* MCSC has not been established yet.

In this regard, MLG, in the framework of the development of information systems, has created a special approach on the websites of municipalities, which enables the public to report online safety issues, ask questions and requests regarding safety, and receive answers from municipal authorities. This system should be applied by responsible municipal officials, so that the information reported by citizens, can be administered by responsible institutions in order to improve the overall safety situation in the community.

Safety Action Teams (SAT) have been established in 23 municipalities, while in 15 municipalities (***Fushe Kosova, Kllokot, Zveçan, Gjakova, Mamusha, Novoberda, Ranillug, Zubin Potok, Deçan, Kaçanik, Skenderaj, Peja, North Mitrovica, Leposaviq and Shterpca***) SATs have not been established yet.

The Local Public Safety Council (LPSC) has been established and operates in 28 municipalities, while in 10 municipalities (*Zvecan, Gjakova, Mamusha, Novoberda, Ranillug, Zubin Potok, Kacanik, North Mitrovica, Leposavic and Shterpca*) this council is not functional.

Village councils have also been established in 27 municipalities, while in 11 municipalities (***Fushe Kosova, Istog, Junik, Kaçanik, Klina North Mitrovica, Leposaviq, Shterpca, Gjakova, Mamusha and Zubin Potok***) they have not been established yet.

.

1. <https://kallxo.com/gjate/raportimet-mbi-dhunen-ne-familje-shenojne-rritje-gjate-vitit-2020/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)