

INCLUSION OF ROMA, ASHKALI, AND EGYPTIAN COMMUNITIES IN DECISION-MAKING

NEEDS ANALYSIS OF ROMA, ASHKALI, AND EGYPTIAN COMMUNITIES THROUGH OPEN MEETINGS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PRISHTINA, PRIZREN, PEJA, GJAKOVA, OBILIQ, FERIZAJ, GJILAN, FUSHË KOSOVA, AND KAMENICA.



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ABOUT KLI

KLI, the Kosovo Law Institute, is a non-governmental and non-profit public policy organization, and a think tank specialized in the justice sector.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- **RMSPCP** Regulation no. 05/2016 on Minimum Standards for the Public Consultation Process
- **PCP** Public Consultation Platform
- **KLI** Kosovo Law Institute
- **MLGA** Ministry of Local Government Administration
- **ARK** Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo
- **FLA** Free Legal Aid Center - KLI
- **GRK** Government of the Republic of Kosovo
- **DAHRM** Department for Advancement of Human Rights in Municipalities
- **MoJ** Ministry of Justice
- **MDE** Municipal Directorate of Education
- **MOCR** Municipal Office for Communities and Return
- **MIA** Ministry of Internal Affairs
- **CRA** Civil Registration Agency
- **MFMC** Main Family Medicine Center
- **VTC** Vocational Training Center
- **EO** Employment Office

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report on the participation of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in the decision-making process has been prepared as an effort to identify the concerns faced by these communities in their localities. In this regard, an important focus has been devoted to their participation in public life through public consultations.

The project was implemented following the Kosovo Law Institute Strategy 2021-2025, approved in August 2021, and based on the findings of the KLI during the implementation of the project "Empowering Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities".

The KLI strategy dedicates special attention to strengthening and protecting the rights of marginalized groups, with a focus on women in the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. This is because the findings of the KLI during various research studies and monitoring processes and numerous international and local reports show that:

- More must be done to guarantee the rights of marginalized groups;
- Members of these communities face limited access to clean water and sanitation, protective equipment, and healthcare, while access to formal education and employment remains difficult;
- The level of employment of these communities in state institutions remains low and mainly at low ranks of employment;
- The 2021-2027 Strategy on the inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in Kosovar society has only been partially implemented;
- Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities face property issues;
- Many members of these communities are not registered in civil status registers, which makes it impossible for them to exercise their basic rights such as access to education, health, justice, etc.;
- As for health inequalities, the situation of the Roma and Ashkali communities remains worrying, given the very low levels of immunization and the particular difficulties in accessing healthcare due to their poor socio-economic conditions;
- The distribution of information on public services, cases of discrimination, etc. remains a challenge;
- The participation of these communities in policy-making and decision-making is at a very low level;
- The Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities face difficulties in accessing justice due to the lack of knowledge about their rights, socio-economic difficulties, etc.

Informative and training meetings took place during 2022 in Fushë Kosova, Prishtina, Peja, Gjilan, Gjakova, Ferizaj, Obiliq, Kamenica, and Prizren. 128 members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities were involved in these meetings, of which 15 citizens have benefited from training on the Regulation on Minimum Standards for Public Consultations, and were directly involved in the public consultation processes, while 30 citizens have benefited from free legal advice services.

Based on the data collected by the KLI, it turns out that 28 women and 100 men participated in the informative and training meetings, of which 60 were Roma citizens, 39 Ashkali, 26 Egyptians, two Serbs, and one Albanian.

The results of the report are summarized and systematized in the fourth section of this report, while the report for each meeting is listed in the sixth section of this report.

The introduction consists of the rationale for the study, the purpose and objectives of the study, and the main areas where KLI has focused during informative and training meetings. Then, the applied methodology is explained.

The report continues with the explanation and the constitutional and legal basis as to who is primarily responsible for the (non)success of citizens' participation in the public consultation process.

The second and third sections elaborate on topics raised by the KLI trainers, as well as the needs of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians for effective participation in policy-making - key findings summarized in an infographic format.

The third and last section of the report includes a brief overview of each meeting held in the respective municipalities.

The report was drafted to show the lack of participation of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian citizens in the public decision-making process. On this ground, the report will also serve for purposes of the central and local institutions, which will take into account its findings and begin to accurately implement the obligations arising from the Regulation on Minimum Standards for the Public Consultation Process.

INTRODUCTION

Citizens' participation in the policy-making and lawmaking processes continues to be low at the national level. This is constantly proven by various local and international reports, as well as the statistics of the annual Reports on Public Consultation. As a result of this low participation, laws, and policies in the country do not take into account the real needs of the citizens, even less those of marginalized groups, where participation is even lower, i.e. those of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities.

The 2021 annual report on public consultations in the Government of Kosovo, published on the Public Consultations Platform, shows that during 2021, 220 documents were drafted. Out of this total number, 156 of them and 68 other documents or 30.9% of the total number do not meet the minimum standards for public consultation.[1] According to this report, the overall participation in the public consultations reached 2285 participants with 1898 comments, which included receiving comments through the Platform, meetings, working groups, or even in writing.

Low participation in public consultations is considered the one which is conducted through the online platform. Of the 220 published documents, only 47 have received comments, specifically 73 comments.

Based on the aforementioned, the Kosovo Law Institute has considered that it is necessary to hold informative and training meetings to first inform citizens about the regulations that enable participation in decision-making and, secondly, to instruct how this participation can be implemented in practice.

KLI has also found it necessary to provide help in building knowledge regarding the Regulation on Minimum Standards in the Public Consultation Process. This regulation aims to promote and ensure a process of public consultation between public authorities, stakeholders, and the public, aimed at inclusive participation in policy-making and decision-making and increasing the transparency and accountability of public bodies to stakeholders and the public.

The regulation defines the minimum standards, principles, and procedures of the public consultation process between public authorities, stakeholders, and the public in the process of policy and lawmaking. In other words, it regulates the process of public consultation, which stands for the participation of stakeholders and the public in the decision-making of public bodies, upon announcement by the public institution in charge.



Through this project, KLI has given special importance to strengthening and protecting the rights of marginalized groups, with a focus on women and Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. This is because the findings of KLI during various research and monitoring processes and various international and local reports show that more activities are needed to support and guarantee the rights of marginalized groups. Members of these communities face limited access to clean water and sanitation, protective equipment, and healthcare, while access to formal education and employment remains difficult. Furthermore, the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities face low levels of employment in state institutions.

The 2021-2027 Strategy for the Inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities into the Kosovar society has only been partially implemented. The Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities face property problems and many citizens remain unregistered in the Civil Registry, which makes it impossible for them to exercise their basic rights, such as access to education, health, justice, and so forth.

01. METHODOLOGY

In order to realize the goal and objectives of the project, the Kosovo Law Institute decided to use two methodological approaches: **a) informative and training meetings about the importance and possibility of citizens' participation in the public decision-making process, as well as b) demonstration of participation in written consultations on the Public Consultations Online Platform.**

02. INFORMATIVE AND TRAINING MEETINGS

In order to identify the needs of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities, KLI has held informative and training meetings in the seven (7) main regions of Kosovo. In each meeting with members of these communities, a participation of 15 citizens was intended, with a total of about 105 participants. The purpose of these meetings was to provide information and training on how to monitor whether their requests are included in lawmaking and how to further advocate for their inclusion to be effective. The informative and training meetings have been published on the official website of KLI and on social media.

03. DEMONSTRATION OF PARTICIPATION IN WRITTEN CONSULTATIONS

To increase the participation of citizens from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in the policy-making and decision-making processes, KLI trainers have demonstrated the ways of written consultation, especially how KLI wrote and sent comments for one of the most important draft laws of the public administration in Kosovo, that of the Draft Law on Salaries in the Public Sector. Thus, the participants of some of the meetings had the opportunity to be informed in a practical way about the whole procedure of drafting a comment and sending it.

As a result, KLI will train 15 citizens from the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities regarding the Minimum Standards of Public Consultation, and will include them in four (4) public consultations related to the adoption of policies at the central or local level. A one-day training will take place in Pristina.

Likewise, 30 citizens will benefit from free legal aid services, and 30 representatives of civil society, institutions, and media will participate in a roundtable.

04. PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION FROM ARTICLE 7 OF THE REGULATION ON MINIMUM STANDARDS OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The inclusion of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian citizens in public consultations will be carried out by participating through one of the public consultation forms defined in Article 7 of the Regulation. Some of the forms of public consultation are: written and electronic consultation; publication on a website; public meetings; conferences, and so forth. In this way, the development of this activity will strengthen the capacities within the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities to encourage and increase the active participation of these communities in law-making and policy-making.

RESPONSIBILITY OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES IN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS

Based on the Constitution of Kosovo, the public institutions of Kosovo are obliged to inform the citizens and all stakeholders about the work and the documents they produce. This right is essential and allows each person to use permission to access all public documents, which a certain public body possesses.[1] In accordance with Article 41 - The right of access to public documents, these documents must be transparent, i.e. public. Exceptions to these documents are those that are classified under the relevant law - the viewing and possession of which is restricted.

In practice, the exercise of the right of access to public documents is realized through Law No. 06/L-081 for Access to Public Documents[2], the purpose of which is to guarantee the right of each person, without discrimination on any basis, to have access to public documents which are produced, received, kept, or controlled by public institutions, as well as the right to reuse the documents of the public sector. The law as such applies to every public document that is produced, received, kept, or controlled by public institutions, except in cases where it is determined otherwise by the legislation in force in Kosovo.

In accordance with the Constitution, respectively Article 45, paragraph 3 "State institutions support everyone's opportunity for participation in public activities and the right of everyone to democratically influence the decisions of public bodies". In this regard, this participation must be effectively implemented for all stakeholders, citizens, and certain social groups. In this manner, the participation of all citizens in public activities and their right to influence the decisions of public bodies is made possible.

To further strengthen this right and to formalize and simplify it, in 2016 the Government of Kosovo approved the Regulation on Minimum Standards for the Public Consultation Process, which expressly states that the initiative for consultations must always come from public authorities and those who bear the main burden and responsibility for the success or failure of this process. According to the Regulation, its purpose is to encourage and ensure the process of public consultation between public bodies, stakeholders, and the public, for inclusive participation in the process of policy-making and decision-making underpinned by public interest, as well as increasing the transparency and responsibility of public institutions to stakeholders and the public.

The Regulation has also defined the minimum standards, principles, and procedures in the process of public consultation, between public bodies, stakeholders, and the public, within the drafting process of policies and legislation (Article 1, paragraph 2 of the Regulation).

[1] Article 41 of the Constitution, Right of Access to Public Documents

[2] Law No. 06/L-081 on Access to Public Documents, available at: <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDocumentDetail.aspx?ActID=20505>

For the needs of this report, three main issues will be addressed: which documents are subject to the public consultation process, the forms and techniques of consultations, and ways to identify the parties that might be subject to participation in the consultation process.

By using the right to participate in the public consultation process, a goal is achieved through which the remarks and comments of the stakeholders are discussed and addressed. But, in order to achieve this important aspect of participation, the public institution originating the document must take steps to identify the stakeholders. The strategy for the inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in Kosovar society cannot be discussed without them being included through the process of identifying the communities that directly affect them. Therefore, with the Regulation on Minimum Standards in the Public Consultation process, respectively Article 12, the Office for Good Governance within the Government is obliged to establish and maintain an online Platform, which is used by all public institutions to identify stakeholders conducting public consultations.

Due to the importance of the documents to be adopted, which in other later stages will affect the lives of citizens, they are published on the Public Consultation Platform for commenting by every citizen and every stakeholder. In this regard, this right applies in its entirety to the basic documents prepared by public bodies. According to the Regulation on Minimum Standards, the documents that are subject to the public consultation process are: the draft annual plan of strategic documents, the draft legislative program of the Government, the draft plan of by-laws, the draft list of concept documents, the draft concept documents, draft normative acts, draft strategies, and all other documents, which must be accompanied by an explanatory memorandum, or for which consultation with the public is required.

Participants
TOTAL 128 Women 28 Men 100



Location	Number of participants	Women	Men	Roma	Ashkali	Egyptian
Ferizaj	17	2	15	1	16	0
Gjakovë	10	2	8	1	0	9
Gjilan	14	1	13	13	1	0
Kamenicë	17	3	14	17	0	0
Fushë Kosovë	16	1	15	2	5	9



Location	Number of participants	Women	Men	Roma	Ashkali	Egyptian	Serb	Albanian
Obiliq	13	4	9	10	0	0	2	1
Pejë 1	6	0	6	1	0	5		
Pejë 2	10	6	4	3	0	7		
Prizren	11	3	8	8	2	1		
Prishtinë	14	6	8	4	6	4		

ADDRESSED TOPICS

01

The policy-making process in Kosovo

02

The process of initiating the drafting of laws and their adoption

03

Regulation on Minimum Standards of Public Consultation

04

Demonstrating the work of the Online Public Consultation Platform

05

Law on Access to Public Documents

06

The role of the Information and Privacy Agency

07

Provision of Free Legal Aid by LAC

08

Dealing with cases of domestic violence on the Online Free Legal Aid Platform

MAIN FINDINGS

Low level of employment of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities- the employment quote continues to be disregarded by local and central public bodies.

The infrastructure in the localities of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities remains poor. There are many problems due to the lack of public lighting and where there is lighting, it is poor. Furthermore, these communities continue to face other problems such as poorly constructed roads, inadequate drainage, and the presence of landfills near settlements.

The requests and complaints of these communities are not taken into consideration by the municipal bodies. Even when considered, the response by institutions is delayed.

Discrimination and the impossibility of educating their children in public schools. Clear lack of learning equipment and materials.

The Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities continue to be the least involved group in primary education. Furthermore, the low level of school attendance still remains a concern.

The civil registration of the citizens of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities remains one of the essential problems. They do not have the necessary personal documentation, which prevents them from receiving social assistance, for which they meet the other criteria.

Access to justice institutions continues to remain problematic, because the treatment of members of these communities, according to them, continues to be different from other parties.

A significant problem concerning access to justice continues to be the delay in resolving cases, especially among single mothers, who, without a court decision on their children, cannot settle the issue of social assistance.

Property legalization remains an inherited problem. Members of these communities continue to face the impossibility of registering properties in their name, despite the fact that they belong to them generation after generation.

Complaints regarding the proceedings of their cases when they are reported to the police, prosecutor, etc. According to them, they are discriminated against as communities and do not receive answers from these institutions, as they are entitled to by law.

RECOMMENDATIONS

CONSEQUENCES OF NON-REGISTRATION IN CIVIL REGISTRY

The non-registration in Civil Registry has great consequences in terms of the rights guaranteed by the Constitution of Kosovo and the specific legislation for each citizen of Kosovo, especially for vulnerable groups such as the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. The consequences extend to the right of access to education, employment, the right to social schemes, and the right to travel.

As for the issue of registration in the Civil Registry, members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities have emphasized the impossibility of registering in cases when they are late and receive penalties that the Civil Registry Office imposes in the case of late registration. Based on Article 34, par. 4, of Law No. 04/L-003 on Civil Status, the request for birth registration in the Civil Registry must be done within fifteen (15) days from the moment of birth and in special cases, no later than thirty (30) days from the day of birth. Delays in registering the birth of a child according to this deadline are punishable by a fine of twenty (20) to fifty (50) Euros.[1]

ENTITLEMENT TO RIGHTS FROM THE SOCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME

The low registration in the Civil Registry constitutes one of the fundamental problems faced by the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities. This makes it impossible for them to present the evidence to the responsible institutions and consequently to benefit from schemes as provided by law.

Based on Law No. 2003/15, amended and supplemented by Law No. 04/L-096 on Amendment and Supplementation to Law No. 2003/15 on the Social Assistance Scheme in Kosovo, all members of the applicant family must have Kosovo identification documents.

Recommendation 1

The Government of Kosovo, together with the Assembly of Kosovo, should commence the procedures for amending and supplementing Law No. 04/L-003 on Civil Status, respectively Article 34, par. 4 and Article 63, par. 1.1, in which case the amendments would extend the registration period for members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities and another amendment would be that on amnesty about the fines for delays for members of these communities, upon their request for birth registration.

[1] Article 63, par. 1.1, of Law No. 04/L-003 on Civil Status, available at: <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDocumentDetail.aspx?ActID=2743>

Recommendation 2

The members of these communities are in a difficult social and economic situation. On this basis, the amendment of the secondary legislation must extend to the issues related to the payment for relevant documentation, identity cards in case of replacement, and passports when received for the first time. Therefore, it is recommended that the government and other bodies introduce amendments that result in the omission of this burden from the members of these communities for a certain period, during which awareness campaigns and activities would be organized, thus aiming to equip every member of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities with ID cards.

Such measures do not contradict the Constitution of Kosovo, because in Article 24, par. 3 of the Constitution, it is stated that "the principles of equal legal protection do not prevent the implementation of the necessary measures for the protection and advancement of the rights of individuals and groups that are in an unequal position. Such measures will be implemented until their intended objective is achieved."

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

According to Law No. 04/L-032 on Pre-University Education in the Republic of Kosovo, Article 9, paragraph 2, every child, upon reaching the age of six (6) must start compulsory education, which is offered free by the responsible local and central institutions.

Despite the fact that with the Law on Pre-University Education, the compulsory education of the student/s is the main responsibility of the parent and that if this obligation is not fulfilled then it violates the law, in the cases of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities, the institutions must take into account other circumstances that cause this problem.

Recommendation

The Government shall undertake affirmative measures to promote full and effective equality in all spheres of economic, political, and cultural life, including education.[1] Central and local institutions should identify the children of these communities directly in their localities, to have a clear and accurate overview of the situation of these children.

[1] Article 3, par. 4 of Law No. 03/L-047 on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Communities and their members in the Republic of Kosovo.

ACCESS TO EMPLOYMENT

Participants from communities have expressed great concern regarding the low level of employment among Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians. According to them, the employment quota continues to be disrespected by local and central public institutions.

Recommendation

Central and local institutions shall develop special measures, and further develop programs and initiatives for public employment of communities, thus aiming at reducing the gap and direct or even indirect discrimination of persons belonging to communities in relation to other majority communities.

Moreover, with Law No. 03/L-149 on Civil Service of the Republic of Kosovo, as well as with Law No. 06/L - 114 on Public Officials, public institutions within the civil service at the central level, are obliged to reserve a minimum of 10% of positions for persons who belong to non-majority communities in Kosovo and who meet specific employment criteria. At the municipal level, the number of job positions shall be reserved for qualified members of non-majority communities in the municipality, in accordance with the percentage representation of the communities per given municipality.

EXAMINATION OF REQUESTS BY PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Delays and non-response of institutions to citizens' requests constitute a legal violation of Law No. 06/L-081 on Access to Public Documents. This Law guarantees the right of each person, without discrimination on any basis, to access public documents.

Recommendation

The Information and Privacy Agency undertakes activities reminding all local and central institutions to respond in time, in accordance with the relevant law. Also, IPA undertakes activities through which it identifies cases of violation of this law, especially when it comes to the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities.

The infrastructure in the localities of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities remains poor. There are many problems due to the lack of public lighting and where there is lighting, it is poor. Furthermore, these communities continue to face other problems such as poorly constructed roads, inadequate drainage, and presence of landfills near settlements.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Delays in the resolution of cases by the local administrative power and by the judicial system regarding issues related to property remain one of the essential problems affecting the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities.

Recommendation

Within the prioritization of case reduction by the judicial system in Kosovo, an effort should be made to undertake active measures for reducing the number of accumulated cases belonging to the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities.

Also, it is recommended that the budget of 2023 should allocate a higher amount of funds for the Free Legal Aid Agency, in order for members of non-majority communities, who cannot achieve their rights in the absence of financial means, to have full access to justice.

Appendix

**Findings for each
municipality**

Fushë Kosova



In June, the Kosovo Law Institute (KLI) organized an informative training session with members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in the Fushë Kosova region.

KLI trainers were present in the localities where these communities live.

There were 16 participants (1 woman and 15 men). Of them, 2 were members of the Roma community, 5 Ashkali, and 9 Egyptian.



Informative and training meeting in the region of Fushë Kosova

In the informative and training session, the participants expressed concern about the low level of their employment. They have expressed their indignation that the employment quota is not being respected for their communities in the Municipality of Fushë Kosova. They are not employed in local and central institutions, as is required by the Constitution and laws, although members of these communities have the required university degrees.

The members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities requested an analysis of the general employment statistics in the Municipality of Fushë Kosova, in order to have a clearer view of how to proceed with their incorporation in employment.

Infrastructural issues, such as public lighting and poor roads, sewage, and landfills, are only some of the problems that the Roma, Egyptian, and Ashkali communities face in this city. They have addressed these complaints to the municipality and central institutions, but their complaints have not been considered at all.

The Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities have expressed their indignation, as their children are discriminated against in schools by the majority community, as well as by the teachers themselves, by not providing their children with learning books.

Another concern is civil registration, where many of them have problems with documentation and thus it is impossible for them to receive social assistance for those who meet other criteria than the ID documentation.

Access to justice institutions is problematic and the treatment of members of these communities is different from other parties.

Prizren



In July, the Kosovo Law Institute (KLI) organized an information and training session with members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in the Prizren region.

KLI trainers were present in the localities where these communities live.

There were 11 participants (3 women and 8 men). Of them, 8 were Roma, 2 Ashkali, and 1 Egyptian



Informative and training meeting in the Prizren region

The participants identified many problems that they face in their daily lives. According to them, civil registration remains a particular challenge where many children are still unregistered and this causes many problems in the daily life of these communities. These children find it impossible to enroll for education at other stages.

The low level of school attendance is still considered an essential problem in education.

Courts continue with delays in resolving cases, especially with single mothers, who, without a court decision for their children, cannot settle the issue of social assistance.

Employment remains a particular challenge. Citizens from these communities requested the change of quota for employment, because in cases where a common quota is decided for all communities, then members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities are discriminated against those of other non-majority communities.

The need for greater support for the women's shelter and finding a permanent residence for women victims of domestic violence also remains a challenge, because most of them return to the abusers since they have nowhere else to stay.

Also, it was requested an analysis of the statistics for the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities and consequently undertake a clearer examination of how to proceed with their integration in employment.

Recognition of the Romani language as a language in use in the Municipality of Prizren.

Ferizaj



In July, the Kosovo Law Institute (KLI) organized an information and training session with members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in the region of Ferizaj.

KLI trainers were present in the localities where these communities live.

There were 17 participants (2 women and 15 men). Of them, 1 was Roma and 16 were Ashkali.



Informative and training meetings in the Ferizaj region

Civil registration remains a particular challenge, as many members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities are unregistered and this causes them many problems in their daily life.

Education continues to be a significant problem due to the low level of people attending school, but especially for children not registered in the civil registers, non-registration affects their opportunity to enroll in the public schools of this municipality.

The Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities face the municipality's indifferent approach in relation to response to their requests. Despite the fact that the requests are sent and recorded, they do not receive a response.

A particular challenge for these communities remains the issue of employment. They state that there are members of the communities who can do different jobs, but who are not appointed by the municipality or the government. In this regard, they have complained to the Center for Social Work in Ferizaj as well as the Office for Communities, but they are not doing enough.

The participants of the meetings have expressed their concern regarding the legalization of their properties. According to them, access to justice institutions is problematic and the treatment of members of these communities is not adequate.

PEJA (session 1)



In August, the Kosovo Law Institute (KLI) organized an informative training session with members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in the region of Peja.

KLI trainers were present in the localities where these communities live.

There were 6 participants (6 men). Of them, 1 Roma and 5 Egyptians.



Informative and training meetings in the region of Peja

The realization of property rights is still considered a fundamental problem highlighted in informative and training meetings organized by the KLI. They say that they have properties, but due to the inadequate functioning of the justice system, it is impossible for them to use them freely, or to transfer them to their ownership.

Discrimination in employment is mentioned as a second problem since according to them, a part of these communities has relevant education, but they are unemployed. They consider that institutions must respect the employment quota and take proactive measures towards this issue.

They experience discrimination in education, specifically in relation to their children not being able to receive proper education.

Environmental issues remain an important topic. Another problem that the participants of the meeting have mentioned is the landfills, saying that they have addressed many complaints to the municipality and other competent bodies, but that nothing has been done in this regard, and this is making it difficult for them and endangers their lives, especially children.

They also have complaints about the supply of drinking water and the sewage system.

In relation to the police, they say that they have complaints regarding the proceedings of their cases when they are reported to the police, the prosecutor, and so forth. According to them, they are discriminated against as a community and do not receive answers from these bodies as they are entitled to by law.

Access to justice institutions continues to remain problematic, as long as the treatment of the members of these communities is observed to be different from that of other parties.

PRISHTINA



In September, the Kosovo Law Institute (KLI) organized an information and training session with members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in the Prishtina region.

KLI trainers were present in the localities where these communities live.

There were 14 participants (6 women and 8 men). Of them, 4 were Roma, 6 were Ashkali, and 4 Egyptians



Informative and training meeting in the region of Prishtina

The participants identified many problems that they face in their daily lives. According to them, civil registration remains a special challenge where many children are still unregistered and this causes many problems in the daily life of these communities. This makes it impossible for these children to enroll at other stages of education.

The low level of school attendance is still considered an essential problem in education.

Courts continue to have delays in resolving cases, especially with single mothers, who, without a court decision for their children, cannot settle the issue of social assistance.

Employment remains a particular challenge. Citizens from these communities requested the change of quota for employment, because in cases where a common quota is decided for all communities, then members of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities are discriminated against those of other non-majority communities.

The need for greater support for the women's shelter and finding a permanent residence for women victims of domestic violence also remains a challenge, because most of them return to the abusers since they have nowhere else to stay.

Also, it was requested an analysis of the statistics for the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities and consequently undertake a clearer examination of how to proceed with their integration in employment.

GJAKOVA



In September, the Kosovo Law Institute (KLI) organized an informative training session with members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in the Gjakova region.

KLI trainers were present in the localities where these communities live.

There were 10 participants (2 women and 8 men). Of them, 1 was Roma and 9 were Egyptians.



Informative and training meeting in the Gjakova region

During the informative and training session, participants expressed their concern about the low level of their employment. They have expressed their indignation that the employment quota is not being respected for these communities in the Municipality of Gjakova. They are not employed in local and central institutions, as is required by the Constitution and laws, although members from these communities have adequate university backgrounds.

The participants of the meeting requested an analysis of the general employment statistics in the Municipality of Gjakova, in order to have a clearer view of how to proceed with their incorporation into employment.

Infrastructural issues, such as public lighting and poor roads, sewage, and landfills, are some of the problems that the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities face in this city. They have addressed complaints to the municipality and central institutions, but their complaints have not been taken into consideration at all.

According to them, there is discrimination in the Municipality of Gjakova. They feel discriminated against by their own presence in gastronomy pubs.

Another concern is civil registration, where many of them have problems with documentation and thus it is impossible for them to receive social assistance although they meet all other criteria.

Access to justice institutions is problematic and the treatment of members of these communities is different from that of other parties.

KAMENICA



In September, the Kosovo Law Institute (KLI) organized an informative and training session with members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in the region of Kamenica.

KLI trainers were present in the localities where these communities live.

There were 17 participants (3 women and 14 men). All of them were members of Roma community.



Informative and training meeting in the region of Kamenica

In the informative and training session, the participants expressed concern about the low level of their employment. They have expressed their indignation that the employment quota is not being respected for their community in the Municipality of Kamenica. They are not employed in local and central institutions, as is required by the Constitution and laws, although members of these communities have the required university degrees. They have only one employee employed in the municipality, as well as in the Main Family Medicine Center in Kamenica, and none elsewhere.

Another concern of the Roma community is civil registration, where many of them have problems with documentation and it is impossible for them to receive social assistance although they meet other criteria.

The members of this community have expressed their concern regarding the legalization of their properties.

Infrastructure remains another concern for them. According to them, even after requests addressed to the municipality as well as other institutions, they did not receive adequate answers to their problems and in this regard, they feel discriminated against.

Education is another problem within the community since not many members attend post-compulsory education.

In the informative and training meeting, the participants expressed their concern regarding social assistance and its implementation.

GJILAN



In September, the Kosovo Law Institute (KLI) organized an informative and training session with members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in the Gjilan region.

KLI trainers were present in the localities where these communities live.

There were 14 participants (1 woman and 13 men). Of them, 13 were Roma and 1 was Ashkali.



Informative and training meeting in the region of Gjilan

In the informative and training session, the participants expressed concern about the low level of their employment. They have expressed their indignation that the employment quota is not being respected for their communities in the Municipality of Gjilan.

The meeting participants requested an analysis of the general employment statistics in the Municipality of Gjilan, in order to have a clearer view of how to proceed with their incorporation into employment

According to them, civil registration remains a particular challenge where many children are still unregistered and this causes many problems in the daily life of these communities. Their children find it impossible to enroll in education at other stages.

Another concern is civil registration, where many of them have problems with documentation and thus it is impossible for them to receive social assistance although they meet all other criteria.

Legalization of their properties is another concern expressed during the information and training session.

PEJA (Session 2)



In September, the Kosovo Law Institute (KLI) organized an informative and training session with members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in the region of Peja.

KLI trainers were present in the localities where these communities live.

There were 10 participants (6 women and 4 men). Of them, 3 were Roma, and 7 were Egyptians



The second informative and training meeting in the region of Peja

The realization of property rights is still considered a fundamental problem highlighted in informative and training meetings organized by the KLI. They say that they have properties, but due to the inadequate functioning of the justice system, it is impossible for them to use them freely, or to transfer them to their ownership.

Discrimination in employment is mentioned as a second problem since according to them, a part of these communities has relevant education, but they are unemployed. They consider that institutions must respect the employment quota and take proactive measures towards this issue.

They experience discrimination in education, specifically in relation to their children not being able to receive proper education.

Environmental issues remain an important topic. Another problem that the participants have mentioned is the landfills, saying that they have addressed many complaints to the municipality and other competent bodies, but that nothing has been done in this regard, and this is making it difficult for them and endangers their lives, especially children.

They also have complaints about the supply of drinking water and the sewage system.

In relation to the police, they say that they have complaints regarding the proceedings of their cases when they are reported to the police, the prosecutor, and so forth. According to them, they are discriminated against as a community and do not receive answers from these bodies as they are entitled to by law.

Access to justice institutions continues to remain problematic, as long as the treatment of the members of these communities is observed to be different from that of other parties.

Their concerns regarding the realization of social assistance still continue, as they consider that they are being discriminated against by the relevant commissions

Obiliq



In September, the Kosovo Law Institute (KLI) organized an information and training session with members of the Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian communities in the region of Obiliq.

KLI trainers were present in the localities where these communities live.

There were 13 participants (4 women and 9 men). Of them, 10 were Roma, 2 were Serbian and 1 was Albanian



Informative and training meeting in the region of Obiliq

The participants of the meeting expressed their concerns regarding education, and many of the members of Roma community do not attend compulsory education. This is because many of them only attend up to the 4th grade and no further. According to the participants, this also happens due to the low level of awareness within the community and the obligation of children to go on the streets as beggars in order to make a living.

Another problem of the Roma community in the Municipality of Obiliq is non-registration in the civil registry, which makes it impossible for them, in other later stages, to realize some basic rights that they are entitled to, either in education or in receiving social assistance.

According to them, unemployment remains at a high level, which happens for many reasons, but the main one that they emphasize is the discrimination against them as a community, either from the central or local level.

In relation to access to justice institutions, they have said that they do not feel discriminated against, but that they need free legal aid for various cases, which KLI has already provided them with.

The legalization of properties remains an inherited problem. Members of the Roma community in Obiliq continue to face problems when it comes to registering properties in their name, despite the fact that they have belonged to them generation after generation.

