



## Best practices in Roma employment



(Photo: OSCE/Milan Obradovic)

Representatives of 18 enterprises, which created more than 62 sustainable jobs for Roma, were awarded certificates and recognized for best practices in Roma employment in mid-June. The Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia, Ambassador Peter Burkhard, said that successful inclusion of Roma in Serbia requires a comprehensive approach, which includes improved conditions for education, housing and employment. Director of the Office for Human and Minority Rights, Suzana Paunovic, expressed satisfaction with the large number of initiatives and examples of good practices related to the employment of Roma identified throughout Serbia. From 249 companies and initiatives which applied

for this programme, the 18 best were selected to receive support in equipment, consultancy support and vocational training, worth more than 500,000 EUR in total.

The process of mapping of good practices in Roma employment has shown that there are opportunities for Roma employment and development of Roma entrepreneurship in Serbia in various sectors: from textile and food production, through photography, to the production of footwear and recycling. Among the 18 selected enterprises, 14 are owned by Roma, out of which eight are owned by Roma women.

President of the National Council of Roma National Minority, Vitimir Mihajlovic, said that employment is one of the key factors for realizing all other rights.



You can read more in the publication available at [www.ljudskaprava.gov.rs/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=949](http://www.ljudskaprava.gov.rs/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=949)

## Advocacy, lobbying and communication



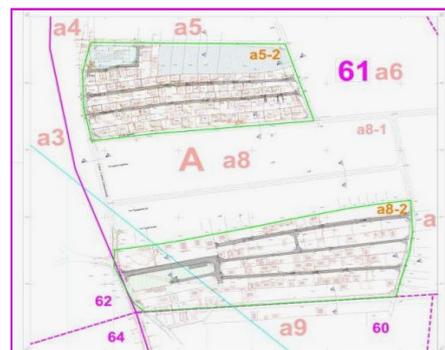
Advocacy is an important tool for increasing citizens' participation in development and implementation of public policies at the local level.

Training on advocacy took place in Ecka, Leskovac and Belgrade in May and June. During the two-day training, representatives of about 30 civil society organizations learned how to improve their skills in advocacy, lobbying and communication.

## Creation of Urban Plans

Lack of infrastructure and proper documentation are among the biggest problems facing informal Roma settlements. These problems are caused by the fact that such settlements are by in large left out of the existing urban plans in towns and municipalities across Serbia.

The project has been helping in identifying and prioritizing problems in Roma settlements, through the production of 13 urban plans in 11 municipalities. Among the plans already adopted is the Detailed Regulation Plan of the Slavko Zlatanovic settlement in Leskovac.



The project provides support to improved access of Roma to basic rights, labour market, education, health and social security, adequate housing, job creation and civic participation.



## Training for teachers – mentors



Accredited training programme/module1 “Introduction to the Role of Mentor” for teachers-mentors of Roma secondary school students receiving scholarships was organized during May and June in Nis, Subotica and Belgrade. The concepts and principles of mentorship, as well as knowledge, skills and values necessary for a mentor were presented to the participants. Motivation for studying,

development and maintaining trust between mentors and students were discussed, as well as communication with the students’ families. Experiences related to communication with colleagues and school administrations, local institutions and organizations were exchanged. System of mentorship and support to Roma and other students from vulnerable social groups should become a systemic solution, so the experiences will be valued as a basis for developing policies and practices and for changing the legal framework.

### What is the mentor’s task?

To provide support to students in regular attendance of mandatory and elective classes, provide help in studying, monitor their achievements and facilitate socialization and solving of personal, family or school issues, and to provide support for integration into academic and social life.

## Access to basic rights

Praxis legal teams organized 224 visits to informal and container settlements in 97 municipalities across Serbia, identified beneficiaries, provided free legal aid and represented their interests in court and administrative procedures.

In total, 969 procedures have been initiated: 253 of subsequent registration in the birth registry, 305 extrajudicial procedures determining the time and place of birth, and 411 procedures determining personal names. 469 procedures were successfully completed. More information is available in the report:

[www.praxis.org.rs/images/praxis\\_downloads/OEBS\\_-\\_Finalni\\_izvestaj.pdf](http://www.praxis.org.rs/images/praxis_downloads/OEBS_-_Finalni_izvestaj.pdf).



(Photo: Praxis)

## Mobile Teams for Roma inclusion—a successful model for inter-sectorial co-operation



(Photo: Office for Human and Minority Rights)

The Mobile Teams for Roma Inclusion are considered a successful model for inter-sectorial co-operation at the local level. Thanks to their support, more than 1,200 Roma children have been enrolled into pre-school education. The teams, each composed of representative of the respective Centre for Social Welfare, National Employment Service, Pedagogical Assistant, Health Mediator, and local

Co-ordinator for Roma issues, are functioning in 20 towns/municipalities, thus enabling the final beneficiaries easier and more efficient access to services.

The Co-ordinator of the Mobile Team in Kruševac, Zorana Pavlovic, says the teams are an important tool at the local level which, by connecting relevant stakeholders and institutions, contributes to faster solving of the Roma population problems in the areas of education, employment, health, and housing. The teams are strengthened through the capacity building training, supported in designing the system of planning, and equipped with vehicles and laptops for better work co-ordination, in order to make them sustainable after the project completion and capable to continue their work on improving status of Roma. The software for monthly reporting, as well as the related website which would enable easier insight into the Mobile Teams’ work results, are in the final preparation phase.