

Draft Recommendations

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ROMA CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN KOSOVO

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Sirius Hotel, Pristina, Kosovo

General Recommendations and key Messages

- Scholarship for secondary school students to be allocated each year in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST), current settings of 500/750 is not enough, MEST should increase the current setting and allocate more scholarship funding to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.
- Support from the regional and international projects are welcome, however, it is required that Kosovo local institutions increase their institutional support and jointly work with Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian on the improvement of their employment and education status.
- State institutions are urged to develop strong partnership with local organizations and act outspokenly for improved access to education of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo.
- Public advertisements are not consolidated in the workforce agency, each agency develops job descriptions according to the recommendations approved by the Ministry of Public Administration (MPA). General recommendation to the MPA is to develop catalog with standard job descriptions.
- Providing textbooks, escort in early childhood education, tutoring and mentoring are important practices that should continue.
- Access to pre-school education needs particular attention. Support for quality access to early childhood education for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children is of great importance, it plays a significant role in their future development, considering their firm living situation. Answering these children with registration have been helpful in the past and thus contributed to elevated numbers.
- Scholarships provided by different parties have caused an increase of the number of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students in secondary education.

Session Specific Recommendations

Introductory session:

- Government should ensure that more intensive initiatives are required for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students' education, holistic widespread approach and beyond the place where they live.
- State institutions are required to increase the employment rates among the graduated Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian qualified students.
- State institutions should use existing laws and good practices to find a way to successful implement employment and education policies.



- The scholarship awards are playing a significant role for decreasing high school dropout. They are an important source for students to continue with their education. Steps are being taken for work on administrative instruction for secondary scholarship program. Such guide would ensure institutionalization of such positive practice.
- Misuse of quotas for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students' enrolment in Public Universities should be ended. Today's practice where the political parties submit the list of student's recommendations in such decisions.

Session I – Structural and Policy Changes for Roma in Kosovo: Scaling up Collaboration at the National Level

- The role of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian youth is an important factor in future development of communities. There are many good practices thanks to the young active spirits. Improved coordination is necessary in order to achieve healthier access to successful coordination of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian young people.
- State sees the mutual need to increase the support and cooperation from Kosovo's national institutions in order to be able to increase the employment and education of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.
- The government has opened vacancy for Kosovo Police cadets where Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities have reserved places with special recruitment procedure. Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian community members should be encouraged to apply.
- Roma are facing numerous difficulties in employment. Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian educated and qualified young people cannot get jobs in the public institutions. Some of them are engaged in learning centers where they work as tutors, but not exercising their area of study/education gained profession.

Session II – Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Youth Employment: a Human Development Agenda for the Next Decade

- Different approaches are mentioned for unemployment of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo indicating discrimination against Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian and low literacy rate.
- Lack of available information to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian is marked as one of the main inclusion challenges in employment.
- The affirmative measures regarding employment should be respected at the central level and in the institution envisaged for the implementation of the strategy for inclusion of the Roma and Ashkali in Kosovo society (Office of the Good Governance).
- Discrepancies between professions and the labor market create challenges for the employment of young Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian and majority communities in Kosovo.
- CSOs are the only one who has been working with education for years now and for the employment of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities dealing with tertiary education in Kosovo, State is urged to accelerate their contribution in this area.
- For the last four years, 52 Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students graduated from public universities and none of them are employed in public or private sector. State agencies should intensify their efforts to create conditions for employment of graduated Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians.
- The work plan at the local level is designed to address issues regarding the employment in general, however, there is need of improvement in the aspect of inter-institutional cooperation.



Session III: Access to Quality Education for Roma Children and Youth: Perspective from the ground

- It is fact that access to education in Kosovo is not a main problem, however a greater challenge is access to quality education. State should continuously invest in improving access to quality education for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.
- Providing textbooks and transport for primary school students is the most required prerequisite for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, since most of them are settled in the capital outskirts and out-school distance.
- Access to quality education and the importance of pre-school education is essential for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities particularly when are about to gain required skills for continues effective schooling.
- Government is urged to ensure continues scholarship to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian students and facilitate access to quality education.
- Government and respective state institutions are urged to establish and operationalize mechanisms for best examples and successful education models for marginalized communities.
- State institutors are urged to allow indeed inclusion for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian as per the constitutional rights given to all communities in Kosovo.
- Government intuitions, international organizations and other respective institutions and organizations are urged to join forces in combating poverty and ensure equal treatment rights to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo.

