



**ROMA VERSITAS ALBANIA HAS STARTED THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT:**

**EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, PARTNERSHIP, AND GENDER EQUALITY: A WINNING FORMULA FOR ROMA IN VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**The project extends to several cities in Albania and supports the following categories:**

- Roma youth (ages 14-18) who have completed compulsory education and are already enrolled in vocational school.
- Roma youth (ages 14-18) who have completed compulsory education and want to continue their vocational education.
- Younger adults (ages 18-28) who have not completed secondary or vocational education and want to complete it.
- Older young people (ages 18-28) who want to complete vocational education, or seek better vocational education and employment opportunities.
- Young job seekers (18-28) who have completed vocational secondary education, and want to change their job profile and are looking for better professional skills.

**The project is based on two main pillars: Vocational Education, and Employment.**

**Activities within education** 

- ✓ Selection and support with financial scholarships in the amount of 40 and 80 euros according to the category.
- ✓ Support with additional lessons and practical advice, (Tutoring and mentoring for Roma youth to make it easier for them to find a certified profession).
- ✓ Youth development based on individual needs and personal and professional development plans.

**Activities within employment** 

- Organizing meetings and partnering with companies.
- Organizing courses for the development of soft skills.
- Support with three (3) months of employment paid by the project.
- Study visits to learn from small businesses to successful young people.



**Selected candidates within #WinforVET will benefit**

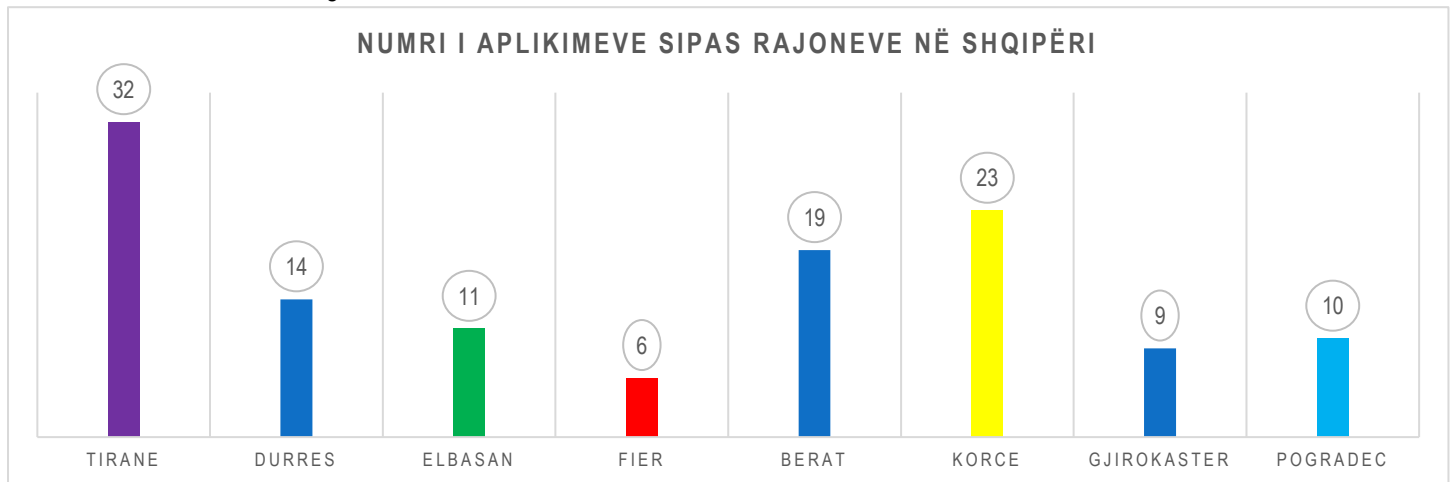
-  **Financial Support**
-  **Employment Support**
-  **Partnership with Companies**
-  **Professional development**
-  **Mentoring and Tutoring**

The project “Education, Employment, Partnership and Gender Equality: A Winning Formula for Roma in Vocational Education and Training”, is implemented by Roma Education Fund (REF), Roma Versitas Kosovo (RVK) and Roma Versitas Albania (RVA) and funded by the Austrian Development Cooperation.

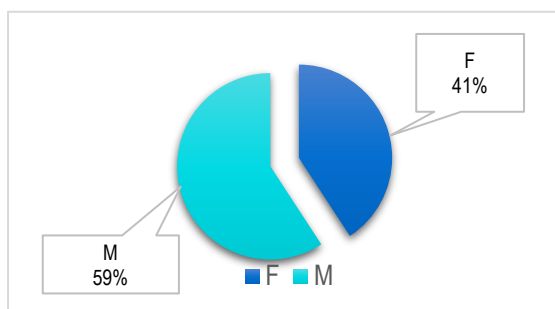


The WinforVET project staff has carried out several activities within the implementation of the #WinforVET project.

First, it disseminated information about the application through several communication channels, such as the platform of community mediators, social networks, organizations that work with Roma and the ALUMNI network.



The application by the Roma youth was done online, where a great support was provided by local organizations which facilitated the dissemination of information and facilitation in the application.

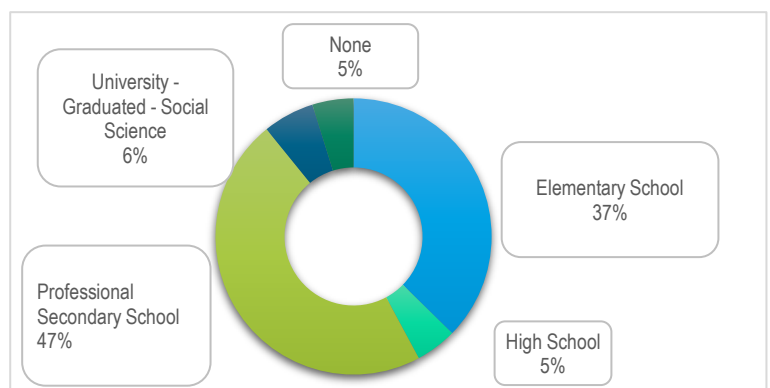


Also, the implementation staff has conducted meetings with potential applicants in some of the cities targeted for the implementation of the project, where in addition to informing young people, relief has been provided to complete the application.

Most of the applications are from boys, noting the lack of balance between girls and boys from the Roma minority. The inclusion of Roma girls in education and professional development remains a challenge.

However, the project envisages priorities in encouraging and involving girls in the components of the #WinforVET project.

Whereas, most of the applications came from young people of vocational high schools, followed in second place by young people who have completed lower education. During the field visits, it was noticed that persons with lower education do not possess a certain profession, and work in the informal employment market, or in seasonal work.



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