

CRP/K NEWSLETTER



CRP/K Pris(h)tina FO

On 18 January 2010 CRP/K Pris(h)tina FO participated in a seminar that was organized by the European Commission Office regarding the announcement of the new project and the implementation of the current projects.

On 20.01.2010, jointly with UNHCR FO, CRP/K Pris(h)tina FO visited and held a meeting with RAE refugees in relation to property ownership documents. During this field visit CRP/K Pris(h)tina FO interviewed separately 14 families; provided them with legal advises in relation to their particular problem and advised on next steps/action that will have to be followed by both sides, refugees and CRP/K with the UNHCR support.

On date 21.01.2010 CRP/K Executive Director and Legal Manager had a meeting with representatives of the USA KFOR (Civil Liaison Team), the agenda of the meeting implied informing the Civil Liaison Team (USA-KFOR) about CRP/K's activities and potential co-operation between CRP/K and KFOR for the cases when KFOR has knowledge that persons under care have need for legal aid.

CRP/K held a meeting on 25.01.09 with the Mayor of Obiliq/c municipality in order to further improve the cooperation with the Municipal Civil Status Office (MCSO) pertaining to the provision of assistance in issuance of documents to CRP/K clients. At the meeting it was agreed that CRP/K will draft a MoU which will be signed by the Mayor of Obiliq/c.

In relation to the late registration, CRP/K Pris(h)tina FO has obtained information that the Ministry of Internal Affairs has created a "Working Group" to draft an Administrative Instruction regarding late registration.

This issue

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CRP/K Gjilan/Gnjilane FO

CRP/K Gjilan/Gnjilane FO continued with the dissemination of booklets and other public information material in different areas, including: Ferizaj/Urosevac, Kamenicë/a, Gjilan/Gnjilane etc. During outreach activities, CRP/K Gjilan/Gnjilane FO met with 30 families, 75 individuals. These meetings are necessary for RAE communities because they contribute to raising awareness among them for the rights that can be realized, and that will also have an effect on other rights, by informing the neighbors about these meetings etc.



CRP/K Gjilan/Gnjilane FO had a meeting with the head of the Civil Status Registration Office in Kamenicë/a municipality regarding the renewal of the MoU, and accordingly, he suggested a joint meeting with the Mayor of Kamenicë/a.

CRP/K Mitrovicë/a FO

CRP/K Mitrovicë/a FO lawyers conducted regular mobile visits in the whole region of Mitrovicë/a municipality, where RAE communities are based. CRP/K Mitrovicë/a FO is still focused on the Roma returnees who are in need of social assistance, their property issues, civil status registration, and civil registration.

The highlight of this month is the agreement that CRP/K Mitrovicë/a FO reached about helping potential returnees from Roma Camp “Osterode” and “Cesmin Lug” in Roma Mahalla Mitrovicë/a, providing them with legal aid. 50 families will benefit from house reconstruction in Roma Mahalla, and 70 individuals from those families need help from CRP/K Mitrovicë/a FO for the obtainment of Kosovo ID and other relevant documentation.



CRP/K Pejë/Peć FO

CRP/K Peje/Pec FO continued to conduct its daily mobile visits. Peje/Peć areas, populated by RAE communities, including “7 shtatori” neighborhood, and Gjakove/Djakovica, were in the focus of CRP/K Peje/Pec’s monthly agenda. The number of assisted clients during this monthly reporting period has increased, including the number of positively solved cases within the component of civil registration and civil status registration. Also, within the category of Housing and Property rights, the ownership component has increased the number of requests and three cases received for this monthly reporting period are successfully solved.



CRP/K Prizren FO

During the January reporting period, CRP/K Prizren FO continued with its activities throughout the Prizren region and in particular in the specific areas inhabited by members of RAE communities in the regions of Prizren, Malisheve/Malisevo, Mamushe/Mamusa, Suhareke/Suva Reka and Rahovec/Orahovac.

CRP/K Prizren FO during the January reporting period has completed 68 visits in the field, meeting its target groups with the aim of providing free legal assistance to the members of RAE communities, by hearing their needs and requirements in terms of exercising their civil rights.

Among others activities, CRP/K Prizren FO organized 4 outreach meetings (community/family) meetings, including 178 individuals, 73 females, 105 males, with the purpose to raise awareness of the freedoms and fundamental human rights in Kosovo.



Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian Communities benefit from Direct Legal Assistance and Advice on Civil registration and Access to Rights

On August 2009 the project “Social Inclusion, Regional Support to Marginalized Communities” started as a follow-up of the first project, “Social Inclusion of and Access to Human Rights for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians in the Western Balkans”, which ended in July 2009. Both phases of the project are co-funded by the European Commission and UNHCR as part of a regional approach covering Bosnia and Herzegovina, fYRoM, Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia and Kosovo.

The overall objective of this project is to contribute to the social inclusion of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians communities and to contribute to the prevention and reduction of statelessness in the region.

In Kosovo this project is implemented by CRP/K, the UNHCR’s implementing partner on legal aid issues since 1999.



Enrolment and Registration of RAE Children in Primary Education in Kosovo

As from January 2010, the Civil Rights Program in Kosovo is implementing a new project “Enrolment and Registration of RAE Children in Primary Education in Kosovo”, Kosovo-wide, for a period until July 2011. This project, which is co-funded by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) and the Civil Rights Defenders (CRD), is entitled to serve in the benefit of the RAE communities, focusing in the RAE children who face with various obstacles in terms of their enrolment in the educational institutions.

The lack of RAE children interest to register and attend regularly the compulsory education comes as a result of many factors which are obstacles for these communities not only with regards to their inclusion in education but in their inclusion in other important developmental spheres as well.

This negative trend currently is an outcome of poor economic conditions of the RAE families, the lack of awareness of these families on the importance of education, various prejudices which affect negatively the interest of the members of these communities in terms of their inclusion in education in Kosovo, inability to integrate in educational institutions due to language problems and illiteracy, all being high disincentives in the creation of a potential environment that would have driven the RAE communities interest on their enjoyment of the rights and access to education.

This project is driven toward certain objectives, which in the near future could change the situation in a positive direction

and would enable the enrolment of RAE children in education.

The Project has four components which will be realized through concrete activities:

- 1) Preparation of Report on Current Situation of RAE Children Enrollment in Education in Kosovo;
- 2) Public Information Activities;
- 3) Registration of RAE children in the existing educational institutions;
- 4) Monitoring the results and Acting when needed.

This project is additionally entitled to address: a) Protection from sexual exploitation; b) Abuse and violence; c) Advocating for and assisting the obtainment of education for children and youth; d) Giving specific attention to the needs of adolescents.



