

## Annual Report 2015

RDDA Sonce is continuously engaged of the implementation of the Decade of Roma Inclusion and the National Strategy for Roma. In relation to the planning and implementation of the Decade of Roma Inclusion, RDDA Sonce continues with the implementation of the two major projects of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy on local level, namely the Roma Information Centers and the Inclusion of Roma Children into Preschool Education. In this respect, the organization also contributes to the third objective of the first priority of the organization. Additionally, RDDA Sonce got involved as a focal point in Macedonia in the program for Roma Mediators leaded by Council of Europe. During the Macedonian Decade presidency RDDA SONCE was actively involved of the all implemented activities in Republic of Macedonia. On the field for employment of Roma RDDA SONCE in partnership with the MLSP was organized regional conference named “ Decent work for Roma”.

RDDA Sonce also was partner organization with NGO Multikultura on the project “One step for better education of Roma pupils in primary education” and now as a follow up of the project RDDA SONCE is lead organization of the same project. These project is supported by the Roma Education Fund and implemented in two municipalities in Tetovo and Gostivar. The main objective of the project is to increase the quality of knowledge for at least 248 Roma pupils from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> grades, involved in the 8 primary education in Tetovo, Gostivar, from 2.4 to GPA 3.6 (grade progress achievement, the current GPA from targeted primary schools from Tetovo and Gostivar is 2.4<sup>1</sup> ), and to reduce the drop-out rate among Roma pupils from 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grades on primary education in Tetovo and Gostivar, with 70-80 %, by June 2013.

The Project has the following specific objective:

- a) Involving a pool of 36 Roma and non Roma tutors; current university students, particularly from teacher training universities
- b) Increasing transition rate for 85-90% of targeted children
- c) Drop-out rate of Roma pupils in the primary education in Tetovo and Gostivar will be decreased and will vary from 10% to 15%, the transition rate to the next school year and in the 5<sup>th</sup> classes primary schools will be increased and the retention rate will vary from 85% to 90% . .

RDDA Sonce is no longer involved through its representative at the National Coordinative Body as the composition of this body has been changed due to the expiration of the mandate of the previous members. Nevertheless, RDDA Sonce is still involved in the policy development in Macedonia through its participation at public fora and through written submissions. RDDA Sonce, through the projects it implements or is involved in their implementation, and through its membership in various bodies and networks, continues to develop the cooperation and

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participates in the dialogue with other Decade actors, contributing to the second and fifth objective of the first priority of the organization.

RDDA SONCE on the field of education of Roma also is partner organization for Tetovo, Gostivar, Kicevo and Debar on the program "Preparation of high school's Roma students for enrolling the Medical Universities in Macedonia. This program is supported from the REF and OSI – Budapest. The lead organization from Republic of Macedonia of this program is Center for Institutional Development – CIRa- Skopje.

Under the frameworks of RDDA "Sonce", there is a functioning Roma Information Center supported by the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy as part of the activities planned with the Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005 – 2015 in Macedonia. The same center is a link between the Roma community and the institutions of the system at the local and national level. With this project activity RDDA "Sonce" is realizing the strategic objective stated above.

In relation to the volunteers program, there are more than 20 young Roma engaged at RDDA Sonce as volunteers contributing to the implementation of the current activities. There is an annual program for the engagement of the volunteers.

Using its partners at the local, national, and international level, RDDA "Sonce" offers to its volunteers participation on certain trainings, debates, etc. and thus contributing in building capacities among the Roma in Tetovo. In addition, "Sonce" is updating its data base of enrolled primary, secondary, and university students from Tetovo. "Sonce" is offering administrative help to all of these students in such a way that it informs them of scholarships, ways of applying, possibilities and conditions for enrolling in the secondary and tertiary educational institutions, etc. Including several Roma tutors, "Sonce" offering tutoring sessions as an additional help for the children to improve the quality of their knowledge in the primary school education and to motivate them to continue their education at the higher levels of the educational system.

Institutional support is continuous grant implemented by SONCE, through which administrative, educational, communicational, and other direct support is provided to the Roma community and the organizational management is secured. This establishes the core engagement of the organization within the community. It is also an important aspect of the work of SONCE, as it feeds in the advocacy efforts through provision of relevant data on the situation and attitude within the Roma community. This application is related to the continuation of these efforts and core activity of SONCE as a Roma community centre.

Roma Information Centre is a complementary project to the institutional support, focused on the Decade of Roma Inclusion as a specific policy targeting Roma in the country. It is funded by Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. Through the project information is disseminated to/from the Roma community and institutions in charge for the implementation of the Decade of Roma Inclusion both on national and local level. As the institutional support provides for the running costs of the organization, Roma Information Centre is only funded by the ministry for its activities and additional personnel. Monitoring of the situation of Roma and implementation of the Decade of Roma Inclusion is also part of this project.

As part of the Decade of Roma Inclusion priorities on education of Roma, SONCE implements a project for inclusion of children into preschool education. This is funded by REF and Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and is implemented by the ministry in cooperation with local NGOs and preschool facilities. SONCE cooperates with the local community and the preschool facilities for

the implementation of the activities, such as regular and extracurricular preschool education, interethnic relations among children, work with parents, etc.

As above mentioned Sonce is implementing the following projects:

1. **Roma Informative Centers** – in partnership with Ministry of Labor and Social Policies
  - Establishing link between local institutions and Roma community
2. **Inclusion of Roma in Preschool education** – in partnership with Ministry of Labor and Social Policies
  - Promotion of preschool education among Roma and monitoring of attendance; link between kindergartens and parents
3. **“Follow up of One step for better education of Roma pupils in primary education”**
  - Roma Education Fund, implemented by RDDA SONCE in partnership with NGO Multikultura and Mesecina from Gostivar

The project aims to increase the quality of knowledge for at least 248 Roma pupils from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> grades, involved in the 8 primary education in Tetovo, Gostivar, from 2.4 to GPA 3.6 (grade progress achievement, the current GPA from targeted primary schools from Tetovo and Gostivar is 2.4<sup>2</sup>), and to reduce the drop-out rate among Roma pupils from 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> grades on primary education in Tetovo and Gostivar, with 70-80 %, by June 2013.

4. **“Preparation of high school’s Roma students for enrolling the Medical Universities in Macedonia“**. This program is supported from the REF and OSI – Budapest. The lead organization from Republic of Macedonia of this program is Center for Institutional Development – CIRa- Skopje. RDDA SONCE is responsible to implement these program in the Western part of R.Macedonia ( Tetovo, Gostivar, Kicevo and Debar)

5. **“Camping for regular migration and possibilities to EU Countries ”**.

This project is supported by International Migration Organization office in Skopje. The aim of this project is to decrease a number of Macedonian Roma to seek asylum to EU countries. This pilot project is implemented in three cities in Macedonia : Tetovo, Skopje and Kumanovo. In Tetovo RDDA SONCE is partner organization of the project.

6. **“ Regional Conference Decent work for Roma “**

- These conference was implemented as a one of priorities of Decade presidency in Macedonia. The conference was implemented by the government of Macedonia in partnership with RDDA SONCE. The conference was supported by the Decade Trust Fund, UNDP office in Skopje, OSCE office in Macedonia and IOM office in Macedonia.

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<sup>2</sup> *The report of State Education Inspectorate*

## 7. ROMED

These program is implemented in 15 EU countries under the CoE. RDDA SONCE from 2012 is National Focal Point of this program. The aim of these program is to train the Roma pupils who are currently employed as a mediators.

Related to the advocacy and networking activities, it is difficult to quantify the beneficiaries. Nevertheless, the direct targets of advocacy include a number of local, national and international actors involved in the Roma related discourse, such as the Macedonian Government (with at least 4 state institutions directly targeted by the advocacy activities), the Roma civil society in Macedonia (at least 20 NGOs) and beyond (at least 15 NGOs), international organizations, such as EU, UNDP, OSCE, CoE, UN, etc.

In terms of the IOM project, RDDA “SONCE” covered in total **2.000 Roma** through different campaigns.

In the part concerning assistance and preparation of requests, announcements, and affirmations for the Roma community in Tetovo, during the grant period RDDA “SONCE” offered assistance **to 600 Roma individuals in Tetovo.**

In terms of the project for preschool education RDDA “Sun” covered in total **18 Roma children in Tetovo.**

In the part concerning advises for the needs of the Roma community and relations with the institutions at the local and national level were covered **500 Roma individuals** in total.

For information related to the Roma community and for the actors directly or indirectly affected by the problems and needs of the Roma community, were included **700 Roma individuals.** For the offered services (photocopying, printing various documents, scanning, and sending fax) were included **400 Roma individuals.**

In the direct tutoring support for the primary school pupils were included **248 Roma pupils** who attended tutoring sessions 6 hours weekly.

In the part for building capacities, participation on seminars, trainings, etc. were included **30 young Roma people from Tetovo.**

Under the ROMED program they are trained **24 Roma Mediators** from different cities in Macedonia.

In the first 5 months from the grant period, RDDA “SONCE” cooperated with 4 national institutions, 6 local institutions, 20 Macedonian NGOs, 15 International organizations and in total, with directly support of 4.520 Roma people.