

Annual Report 2016

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. The executive director Mr. Ferdi Ismaili is one of the project team on the Unit for implementation of Strategy and Decade of Roma in the Ministry for labor and social policy. Namely the same Unit

is under implementation of project **“Fostering implementation of Roma Strategy and Roma Decade National Action Plans in Republic of Macedonia by improving the strategic and operations management processes on national and local levels”**. The project is financed by Making the Most of EU funds for Roma” in cooperation with MLSP. The overall goal of the project is to To create solid basis for real and sustainable social inclusion of Roma in Macedonian society. With this project RDDA SONCE will have the opportunity to participate on hall process in national level about the policy for social inclusion of Roma under the framework of EU agenda 2020.

Additionally, RDDA Sonce got involved as a focal point in Macedonia in the program for Roma Mediators leaded by Council of Europe since 2012 year. During this program until now are trained 120 Roma leaders who had work on Roma issues on different field. Those participated gained additional certificated skills for mediation as a community worker.

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

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 50 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 schools education and to motivate them to continue their education at the higher levels of the educational system.

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 12 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/ODIHR, CoE, UN, etc.

In terms of the tutoring of Roma pupils in primary education project, RDDA "SONCE" covered in total **1300 Roma** of supporting roma pupils in primary education , announcements, and affirmations for the Roma community in Tetovo, during the grant period RDDA "SONCE" offered assistance **to 1000 Roma individuals in Tetovo.**

In terms of the project for preschool education RDDA "SONCE" covered in total **23 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 **900 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 **1200 Roma individuals.** For the offered services (photocopying, printing various documents, scanning, and sending fax) were included **900 Roma individuals.**

In the part for building capacities, participation on seminars, trainings, etc. were included **60 young Roma people from Tetovo.**

Under the ROMED program they are trained **50 Roma** Mediators from different cities in Macedonia.

During the grant period, RDDA "SONCE" cooperated with 12 national institutions, 6 local institutions, 20 Macedonian NGOs, 15 International organizations and in total, with directly support of 5.433 Roma people.