



ROMA DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT  
ASSOCIATION

„SONCE“ TETOVO

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**Roma Democratic Development Association „SONCE“**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2017**

Tetovo, June 2017

## ***History of Sonce***

SONCE was formed in 1996 as an informal group for self-help of the Roma community in Tetovo. The group worked by collecting charitable donations from the Roma families, which were later used for emergency needs of the Roma community. After its registration, SONCE acted through humanitarian activities and projects which met the existential, humanitarian and social needs of the Roma people and all the other vulnerable groups and individuals in the society. SONCE had operated in this manner up until 1999. In 1999, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia brought a decision for all the enterprises and an association of citizens to re-register, thus, SONCE was re-registered on 21 April 1999 under Decision REG-ZGF. No. 121/99 reached by the Primary Court in Tetovo.

## ***Sonce's Vision and Mission***

Vision- SONCE is an established organization at an international and national level that actively contributes to the civil integration and equal practice of the democratic rights and opportunities of the Roma.

Mission- SONCE contributes towards democratic integration and effective participation of the Roma community in the society through capacity building, direct support and representing their interests.

## ***Strategic goals and objectives the period between 2016- 2020***

- ❖ SONCE will participate in implementation of the Action Plans of the Decade of Roma Inclusion and the National strategy for Roma, and in the monitoring and evaluation of the process of servicing the public goods and services by the state institutions
- ❖ SONCE will lobby and represent the needs and interests of the Roma community before the local, national and international institutions.
- ❖ SONCE will build its own capacities in each and every aspect of its organizational work, especially in those aspects that are less developed in the organization.

## ***Programmes of Sonce***

- ❖ Sikloviqe – Programme for quality and accessible education for Roma
- ❖ Sastipe- Programme for health and social approach of the Roma
- ❖ Bucharipe- Programme for employment and economic development of the Roma
- ❖ Anglunipe- Programme for democratic participation of Roma in creation of public policies



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### ***Implemented projects and indicators by programme areas of Sonce in 2017***

#### **1. Sikloviqe- Programme for quality and accessible education for Roma**

##### 1.1. Project „Inclusion of Roma children in preschool education“

The project „Inclusion of Roma children in preschool education“ in Tetovo is implemented by RDDA Sonce in cooperation with the municipality since 2007 to date.

The aim of this project is inclusion of Roma children in preschool education from 4.8 to 5.6 years. In Tetovo, through this project are included 25 children a year and the same continue in primary education.

The project is funded by REF- Roma educational fund Budapest and the Ministry of labour and social policy in cooperation with the partners at local level, RDDA Sonce and the municipality of Tetovo.

##### *1.1.1. Indicators*

- ❖ 30 Roma children enrolled in preschool education
- ❖ 15/30 children (at the age one year before primary education) enrolled in first grade of primary school
- ❖ Roma nurse engaged on project base
- ❖ 90% expected regularity of involved children
- ❖ Allocation of 2,000 euro municipal funds for participation in the project

##### 1.2. Project „Tutoring support for Roma students in primary education in R. of Macedonia“

Association for Support of marginalized Roma Resource Centre - Skopje and Association for Democratic Development Association Sonce - Tetovo, in a consortium with five non-governmental organizations through Macedonia "Dendo Vas" - Skopje, "S mnal" - Skopje, "Drom" - Kumanovo "Bairska Svetlina" - Bitola and "Kham" - Delcevo realize the project „Tutoring support for Roma students in primary education in R. of Macedonia“.

The project is funded and fully supported by Roma Education Fund- Budapest. The ministry for education also supports this project with including of 20 local mediators in 16 municipalities in Macedonia.

The main goal of the project is to contribute to increasing passability and educational outcomes among Roma students who study in the fourth, fifth and sixth grade in primary education in Macedonia.

Within the project is provided additional educational / tutoring support to 1,600 Roma students in 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 academic year who show poor educational results and are involved in the fourth, fifth and sixth grade at level of Macedonia. Additional educational / tutoring support is provided for the subjects Mother Tongue (Macedonian and Albanian language) and Mathematics. Tutoring teaching is organized and implemented in 49 primary schools in 16 municipalities in Macedonia.

#### 1.2.1. Indicators

- ❖ Employed 7 educational mediators under the Ministry of education
- ❖ Increased the school success for 3.6% of 658 Roma pupils from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade in Tetovo, Gostivar, Debar, Kicevo, Prilep and Bitola
- ❖ Decreased the drop out of 658 Roma pupils from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade in Tetovo, Gostivar, Debar, Kicevo, Prilep and Bitola
- ❖ Increased the regularity from 15% in primary education

#### 1.3 Project/Programme Romaversitas

The civic association "Romaversitas" Skopje was established by free association of citizens to exercise and promote their ideas, interests and beliefs. Romaversitas represents a scholarship programme and mentoring / tutoring students, promotion of equal opportunities for entry into higher and other educational institutions in RM. Roma Democratic Development Association Sonce - Tetovo as a strategic partner organization of NGO Romaversitas - Skopje participated in the official signing of a partnership between the South East European University in Tetovo and Romaversitas NGO to open office Romaversitas at the Southeast European University in Tetovo.

#### 1.3.1 Indicators

- ❖ Ensured cooperation with 30 Roma university students in Tetovo
- ❖ Ensured cooperation with 10 companies in Tetovo

#### 1.4 Project „Analysis for incomplete primary and secondary education of Roma in municipality of Tetovo“

The general objective of this project is to create a data base of Roma at the age between 14- 35 years who don't have formed their primary or secondary education in Tetovo. The need of this analysis is raised by the lack of data for the Roma community; as well what is the actual



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situation of the Roma who have incomplete primary and secondary education, in order to increase the number of Roma and their representation in the labour market in Tetovo. This project implements RDDA „Sonce“ in the period from December 2016 to April 2017, and is funded by the EU.

### 1.4.1 Indicators

- ❖ Data base of incomplete primary and secondary education of Roma (at the age from 14-35 years) from field work in Tetovo

## **2. *Sastipe- Programme for health and social approach of the Roma***

### 2.1 Project „Paralegal literacy of Roma in Tetovo and Gostivar“

The project „Paralegal assistance“ is implemented by RDDA „Sonce“- Tetovo with technical support of the Association for Emancipation, Solidarity and Equality of Woman- (ESE), and is funded by the Programme for public health of FOOM- Foundation Open Society Macedonia.

This project includes two components:

1. Legal literacy and empowering (paralegal assistance)
2. Social accountability- monitoring in the community

The aims of the project are the following:

- To strengthen the local community in Tetovo and Gostivar in terms of enjoying of their health and social rights, through assessment, informing and mobilization of the community (field visits);
- Monitoring the community and social accountability of existing policies covering the access and utilization of health rights and rights of legal, social and health system in terms of immunization of Roma children and prevention programs;
- Providing paralegal assistance in the field of access to achieving social and health rights, according to the laws that provide the same rights

### 2.1.1 Indicators

- ❖ Rebuild advisory body of experts from healthcare institutions from Tetovo and Gostivar
- ❖ Trained and engaged 6 paralegals
- ❖ Data base of beneficiaries from paralegal assistance

### 2.2 Project „Mobile team for social and health services of vulnerable group in Tetovo“

The project „Mobile team for social and health services of vulnerable group in Tetovo“ is implemented by RDDA „Sonce“- Tetovo and is funded by GIZ- German Agency for International Cooperation. The time frame of the project is from 15 April to 31 December 2016.

The overall objective of the project is legal and proper use of opportunities, rights and obligations of the vulnerable group within the social and health care system.

Specific objectives are:

- To determine the number of families and people under social risk living in Tetovo, who do not put into effect their social and health care rights by the end of 2016
- To establish mobile team represented by Info Centre, Lawyer of OSCE , Doctor, social worker, health mediators and NGO in order to cover at least 60% of the determined number of families and people under social risk by educational-informative activities during the period April 2015- June 2016.
- To delivery educational training to the mobile team as well to the beneficiaries about their rights and obligation in the social services system.
- To establish cooperation between the mobile team and the Social centre of Municipality of Tetovo leading also by GIZ

### 2.2.1 Indicators

- ❖ 5 foreign persons gained foreign IDs
- ❖ Ensured health insurance for 10 Roma

## **3. Bucjaripe- Programme for employment and economic development of the Roma**

### 3.1 Project Active employment measures/general benefit work

Roma democratic development Association „Sonce“- Tetovo in cooperation with UNDP and the Employment Agency implemented the pilot project General benefit work in Tetovo. The aim of this project was to help the vulnerable Roma families in Tetovo in their everyday life in period of six months. Within the project there were engaged 6 Roma in period of six months. This project was also implemented in cooperation with the municipality of Tetovo.



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### 3.1.1 Indicators

- ❖ Employed 6 Roma in municipality of Tetovo
- ❖ Cared 30 Roma families
- ❖ Formed 13 Roma companies (with 1+1 employed)

### 3.2 Project „Employment of Roma through skills development and sustainable integration in the labour market, especially of Roma women“

The project „Employment of Roma through skills development and sustainable integration in the labour market, especially of Roma women“ funded by the European Union, it is implemented by IOM- International Organization for Migration in cooperation with RDDA „Sonce“- Tetovo and ZRRZ „Sumnal“- Skopje.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the national efforts in poverty reduction and socioeconomic inclusion of Roma, particularly Roma women, in line with the objectives of the “National Strategy for Poverty Reduction and Social Exclusion“and „National Roma Strategy in Republic of Macedonia“ creating equal opportunities for all in accessing the labour market.

The specific objective is to facilitate sustainable labour market integration of individuals from Roma ethnic communities, especially women through the enhancement of their employment potentials and addressing obstacles that hinder participation in the labour market.

### 3.2.1 Indicators

- ❖ Employed 90 Roma in private companies in Tetovo
- ❖ Trained 60 Roma for competitiveness on the labour market
- ❖ Trained 200 Roma woman for social and economic inclusion

#### ***4. Anglunipe- Programme for democratic participation of Roma in creation of public policies***

##### ***4.1 Programme „ROMED“***

ROMED represents European programme which is implemented in 40 municipalities among 10 countries in the frame of the Council of Europe and European Commission. The programme is implemented through mediation as a measure that is used across Europe to tackle the inequalities faced by Roma in access to employment, health services and quality of education.

Since 2011 in Republic of Macedonia are trained 128 mediators, from whom 20 are health, 20 carers, 18 RIC and 42 are educational mediators in Tetovo, Gostivar, Prilep, Bitola, Stip and Vinica.

From November 2014, in Macedonia are enrolled four new municipalities in ROMED 1 programme: Berovo, Kocani, Debar and Kicevo.

After two years of implementation in 22 countries and trained 1300 mediators, from 2013 the ROMED Programme has moved on to another level, its second phase. ROMED2 aims to support local partners in 70 municipalities across 12 countries. ROMED 2 programme focuses on ensuring the participation of Roma citizens in the decision-making process at local level in their municipality.

In Republic of Macedonia this programme is implemented in cooperation with the NGO RDDA SONCE- Tetovo which is National Focal Point since 2011, as well as the tenth included municipalities: Tetovo, Gostivar, Prilep, Bitola, Shtip, Vinica, debar, Kicevo, Kocani and Berovo.

The main goal is democratic governance and participation of the community through mediation. The program focuses on the formation of local action groups (composed of members of the communities and local governments) that contribute to the active participation of the Roma community integration in decision-making at the local level.

Under the program from 2013- 2016 godina Romed2 focused on lobbying and advocating for the Roma community, through meetings held at local level, training and national workshops.

##### ***4.1.1 Indicators from the implementation since 2011 to date***

- ❖ Trained 129 intercultural mediators
- ❖ Ensured 25 voluntary positions in local institutions
- ❖ Opened Roma information center in Kicevo
- ❖ Formed 6 Local Action Groups in 6 municipalities
- ❖ Applied 6 IPA Concept notes linked to Roma issues, prepared by the Roma community
- ❖ Realized priorities of the Roma community in 6 municipalities

##### ***4.2 Project „My voice- my responsibility“***

The platform „My voice- my responsibility“ is formed to ensure active participation of the Roma community in the political system, opportunity to give their contribution towards development of the democracy and democratic processes through fair and democratic elections, for political



education of the community and ensuring conditions for implementing the right to vote, for ensuring accountability and transparency by elected representatives in the Parliament, as well



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active participation and contribution to public policies, decision making and their implementation. This initiative is led by five civic organizations Initiative for social changes „InSoC“- Skopje, Association for Roma community development „Sumnal“- Skopje, Humanitarian and Charitable Roma Association „Mesecina“- Gostivar, NGO „KHAM“- Delcevo and National Roma Centrum- Kumanovo. The activities of the platform are directed towards political education of the Roma community, inclusion of Roma in the process of observation of the electoral process, ensuring accountability and transparency of the political parties.

### 4.2.1 Indicators

- ❖ Informed 250 Roma about the value of their voice
- ❖ At least one programme activity for Roma of the programme of the holders of the sixth election unit

Name Ferdi Ismaili, Executive Director

Signature

Date 31.12.2017