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President of RRF "ARKA"

ARKA marked the year of 2007 as one of the most successful in its ten years of existence.

It is important that in this period ARKA made a territorial expansion in functioning, which included the area of Skopje where the greatest number of citizens from Roma Community reside.

ARKA turned its focus to obtaining documentation for Roma which is an issue that deserve special attention . Thanks to its staff made of 20 employees ARKA managed to serve over 2000 people who required help in our two offices.

This year is also noticed for reorganization of the management and new strategic plan was made.

It is especially important the new project "Accessing Democratic Institutions for Roma" supported by European Commission, this project present a new perspective for the solutions connected to the Roma rights.

Surely, it is very important for ARKA the cooperation with European Commission, there are possibilities for long lasting cooperation and access to the European Funds.

ROMA RIGHTS FORUM "ARKA"



Definition of ARKA'S VISION:

ARKA is a leading, financially stable and transparent Roma NGO that collaborates with governmental and non-governmental institutions to promote, protect and improve human rights and freedoms of citizens on a national and regional level.

ARKA'S MISSION:

ARKA is a leading Roma NGO which develops and implements quality programs for the promotion, protection and improvement of human rights and multi-ethnic cooperation and the development of a civil society by providing free legal help, monitoring, education and research.

ARKA programme goals

Goal 1: Providing free legal help for the citizen.

Objectives:

- 1.1 Make service contracts with lawyers in order to represent clients (people that are on a benefit, single parents, disabled persons) at Coart, managing bodies or social institutions.
- 1.2 Provide free legal help for person encicled by readmission.
- 1.3 Provide free legal help through counsels and collecting all necessary documentation for registration of firms.
- 1.4 Provide free legal help for person who lack documentation and refugees.
- 1.5 Provide free legal help for person who lack personal documentation.
- 1.5 Provide informational service (tel. line) for free advices for citizens.

Goal 2: Education of citizens and NGO for human rights.

Objectives:

- 2.1 Continuing education of citizens for their rights by opening of training center.
- 2.2 Organizing public events in order to raise citizen`s awareness for their rights.
- 2.3 Developing system for standarts and procedures for respecting human rights.

Goal 3: Monitoring the implementation of human rights.

Objectives:

- 3.1 Monitoring judicial procedures.
- 3.2 Monitoring police procedures.
- 3.3 Monitoring citizen's access to the realization of their rights in the democratic institutions.
- 3.4 Monitoring the progress of Roma families followed by ARKA in surpassing their problems.
- 3.5 Monitoring the implementation of the human rights in rural areas.

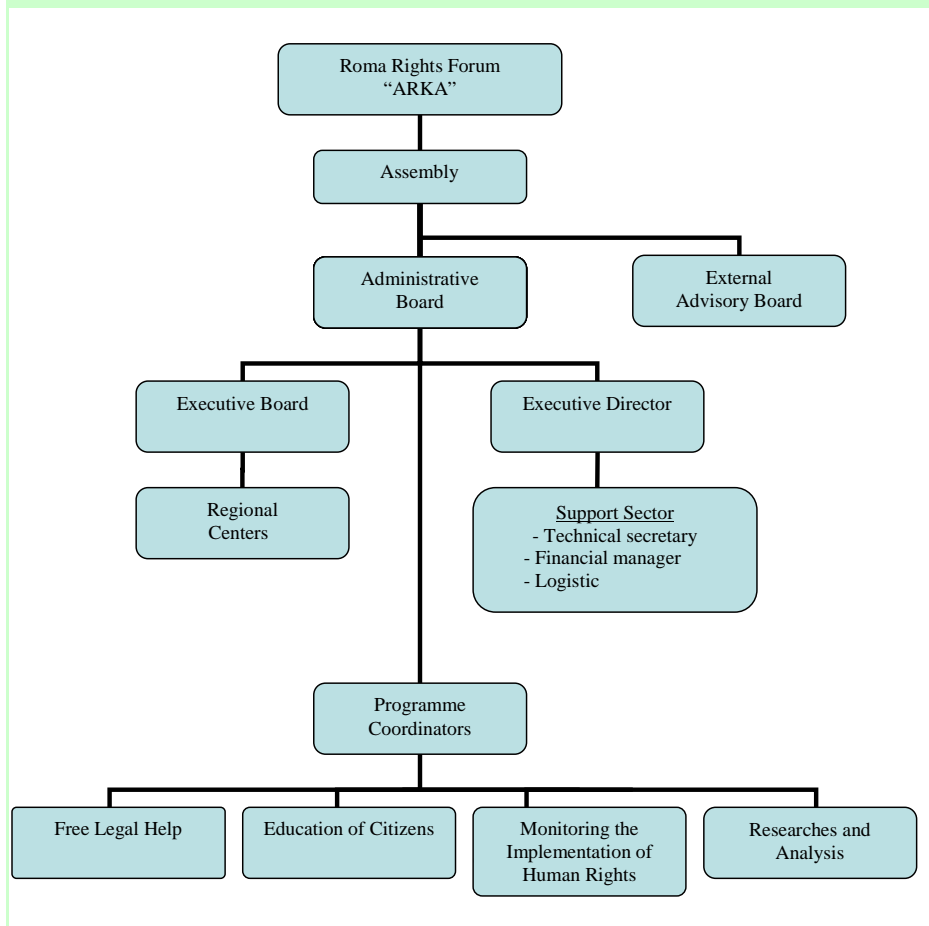
FUTURE GOALS:

Research and analysis

Objectives:

- 4.1 Make legal analysis of the ongoing ARKA's projects.
- 4.2 Conduct a research of the region for the possibilities for opening of new offices (on national and regional level).
- 4.3 Conduct an annual research and analysis for the rights of Roma people in Macedonia.

Organizational Scheme



ANNUAL REPORT 2008



CIVIL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING PROJECT

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE THE CENTER FOR INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CIRA); EUROPEAN CENTER FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT LAW (ECNL);
AND MACEDONIAN INSTITUTE FOR MEDIA (MIM)

Project: Children Registration and Roma Documentation- Skopje

Donor: Institute for sustainable communities in cooperation with USAID

Time Frame: April 2007-March 2008

Project Goal:

Children registration in the Register office and obtaining personal documentation for Roma from Skopje.

Target Group:

Roma from Skopje

Location:

The Project is implementing on a wide area in Skopje.

Activities: According to the project it is planned 800 cases to be processed i.e to provide help for 800 Roma in obtaining personal documentation as well as registering of children in the Register Office.

In order to realize this activity our team consists of seven person work on a daily bases in the office where they process people`s requests into the data base which enables later on our mobile team, consist of two members, to subject the requests every day and pay all financial payments for our clients.

In order to register children who so far are in a great number, a need has ocured for realization of clients requests out of Skopje and R.Macedonia, who have to obtain documents for their parents fist, and than to achieve the wanted results.

Our lawyers many times went to R.Serbia to obtain documents for our clients. We were working in Kosovo area through our partner organization services to obtain the documents for our clients from Kosovo.

To help our clients who has never had any documentation we cooperate with the managing structures in the Register Service. We find their advices and oppinions very helpful for obtaining the needed documents for our clients.

Results:

According to the last report for the period from October to December 1159 Roma people came to our offices seeking help for obtaining personal documents. 615 of them have been process for all kinds of services that are offered in our office.

We hope that till the end of this project this number will be over 1000 person.

Swedish Helsinki Committee

For Human Rights

Project:

Roma Registration and Personal Documentation

Project Goal:

Reducing the number of people lacking personal documentation

Target Group:

Roma people

Location:

Kumanovo, Kriva Palanka and Kratovo

Donor:

Swedish Helsinki Committee

According to the last census conducted in 2002 , officially in Macedonia reside 53.879 Roma people i.e. 2.7% from the total population. 4.256 Roma reside in Kumanovo, 669 in Kr. Palanka, 151 in Kratovo where ARKA works on local and regional level.

In all abovementioned municipalities Roma people live in getoes on the margine of the society, rejected from the social system, which indicates existance of numerous prejudices and stereotypes about this population.

All this led to various difficulties from the aspect of using their basic human rights and freedom, introduced and protected with international agreements of United Nations, Universal Declaration for Human Rights, Framework Convention for protection of national minorities etc.

It is well known that Roma people are the most vulnerable category where many needs and problems occurs. Only one segment of that problems is lack of personal documentation, or destroyed, demaged, outdated which is a huge problem for this target group. This problem lasts for a long time and it passes from generation to generation.

There are many factors that contributes to lacking of personal documentation. The major obstacles are the low level od education, not knowing the procedures for obtaining personal documents, lack of awareness about the benefits of personal documentation and lack of finances.

RRF "ARKA" as an organization made enormous efforts for this problem giving the priority for surpassing it. With gratitude to the Swedish Helsinki Committee, ARKA's donor of the project "Roma Documentation" has started with realization of its goals and activities for obtaining personal documentation.

This project has started with implementation from 01.01.2008 to 31.12.2008. The major goal of the project was reducing the number of Roma people who are without legal identity. The project was implementing in two parallel activities.

The first one was directed to raise the awareness of Roma for the importance of having personal documentation. On the other hand, the second one was directed to provide legal, administrative and financial support, needed for the beneficiaries of the project services for obtaining personal documents. In order to see which documents the target group needs we used the door to door method and immediately after we are starting the procedures for obtaining personal documentation, as well as registering children into the register office. Moreover, this door to door method turned out to be very successful because it includes an outreach working and all the information that we are receiving from the outreach workers we are putting into our database, we cover areas in Kumanovo, Kratovo and Kriva Palanka.

The results of this project were astonishing and visible, namely, in the period from 01.01.2008 to 31.12.2008 the team involved in this project managed to provide 1000 Roma with all the personal documentation needed. This however means that the legal identity of many Roma was improved although earlier they were discriminated against in the social life.

Considering the achieved results of this project and the necessity of having personal documentation to this target group precisely, we will continue with the implementation of the project in the following year as well, with a great support from the donor.



Project title: **Human Rights Support Project**

Major Goals:

Providing free legal help for alleged victims of MOI's authorised officers abuse when they are on duty as well as initiating legal and institutional reforms for more efficient protection of human rights connected to the police.

Target Group:

Citizens from the Republic of Macedonia

Activities:

Interrogation of the clients, gathering relevant proves about the police abuse, submitting an Application to the Sector for Internal Control and professional standards in MOI, and also an Application to the Public Prosecutor as well as Criminal charges to the General Public Prosecutor.

Copartners in this project are: "All for Fair Trials" Skopje, Center for Democratic Development – CDD Tetovo, "Choice" Strumica, and Citizen Initiative Centre- CIC, Prilep.

Copartners in the project are also Public Prosecutor, Sector for Internal Control and professional standards in MOI and the General Public Prosecution.





Title : “ Accessing Democratic Institutions for Roma”

Goals:

Major Goal:

Provide direct, tangible access to basic human rights for Roma by removing barriers (personal and institutional) to democratic institutions.

Specific Goals

- 1) Form professional advisory board;
- 2) Provide forty Roma families with intensive case management;
- 3) Publish a report with recommendations for improvement of the Roma access to the basic human rights.

Activities:

With the project “Accessing Democratic Institutions for Roma” an effort is made to provide direct tangible access to the basic human rights for Roma by removing barriers (personal and institutional) to democratic institutions.

With the implementation of the project activities we can perceive the socio-economic problems of Roma by monitoring of forty Roma families, that are on benefit, in order to discover the causes that influence on providing relevant services and possibilities offered by the institutions.

The project will improve access to human rights for the beneficiaries of the project through the use of intensive case management. **The five case management activities are:** assessment, planning, linking, monitoring, and advocacy.

The implementation of the project activities has started on 10 October 2007 by signing an agreement with European Commission and will last till 10 October 2008.

Four case managers were chosen through the advertising on the local media. Case manager is a new concept in Macedonia that is the reason for the person that gain this position went through training designed in two parts: for understanding the concept case manager and skills required for working with Roma families.

Case managers are visiting the families on a daily basis, identifying the everyday problems of Roma when contacting the institutions.

Information received at the terrain are the starting point for formulation of the further steps required in order to make the Action Plans for the families.

The Action Plan is efficient mechanism for development strategy and undertaking changes in a certain community in the given case which is a tool for discovering the possible ways for making successful planning and than linking, monitoring and advocacy as well as various educations on each family member.

The whole project is being monitored by a professional advisory board consist of leaders on various democratic institutions who have the capacity for removing the barriers and either improving or weakening of the policy that Roma are faced with.

This group held a meeting on every three months in order to find solutions for the problems of Roma families and they are supposed to suggest changes to the relevant procedures and processes inside in their organizations.

When the project will show successful outcome in context of improving the life of Roma by using the case manager model it could be an example not only for human rights or humanitarian organizations but also to the governmental social institutions at all.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2008

BALANCE SHEET OF EXPENCES AND INCOMES

01.01.2008.-31.12.2008

	DESCRIPTION	Current year 2008
	EXPENSES, MATERIAL EXPENSES SERVICES AND AMORTIZATION	1351064
1	Spent materials	107762
2	Spent electricity	89240
3	Other services	852522
4	Transport services	32287
5	Advertisement and representation	
6	Rent	240411
7	Other material expenses	28842
	OTHER EXPENSES	3703740
8	Bank fees	26082
9	Travel expenses	229777
10	Human resources	2946704
11	Other expences	501177
12	Transferred capital	
	CAPITAL AND OTHER DEVICES	3100
	ADDITIONAL DONATIONS	213863
13	Fees and helping people	
14	Other help and givings	213863
	SALARIES AND COMPENSATION OF SALARIES	329101
15	Taxes which are not related to the results	329101
	TOTAL EXPENCES	5600868
16	Incomes of sales of products and services	16000
17	Incomes from donations	3316093
18	Other incomes	317427
19	Transfer from the bonus incomes from the previous year	1715718
	TOTAL INCOMES	5365238
20	Owing Incomes	235630
	TOTAL INCOMES	5600868