

Living in Multiethnic Environment – Citizens with Equal Rights, Opportunities and Protection



Под исто сонце
Nën të njëjtin diell
Aynı güneş altında
Telo jekh kham
Под истим сунцем
Sum idghu soari
Under the same sun

The project „*Living in Multiethnic Environment - Citizens with Equal Rights, Opportunities and Protection*” is funded by European Commission in the framework of the EIDHR – Campaign 4: Advancing Equality, Tolerance and Peace and Foundation Open Society Institute - Macedonia (FOSIM). FOSIM in cooperation with the NGO Common Values and the 12 NGO Support Centers implements the project in the region of Veles, Prilep, Stip, Kicevo, Struga, Resen, Gevgelija, Negotino, Strumica, Delcevo, Kratovo, Debar, Kumanovo and Tetovo.

The project aims **to improve the status of minorities groups and to strengthen capacities for active participation in public policy making on local and national level.**

Project duration is 30 months starting from January 2007 till June 2009.

The project has the following objectives:

- To raise awareness about minorities groups’ rights and to promote the respect for and protection of non-majority ethnic communities in accordance with the relevant international conventions and national legislation;
- To monitor the implementation of the existing provisions against discrimination in municipalities;
- To motivate representatives of minorities groups (women and men) for participation in public–policy making and reforms, especially in the area of protection of their rights;
- To develop capacities and cooperation of NGOs and institutions working with marginalised ethnic minorities and ethnic communities;
- To influence the governmental institutions for further implementation of the strategy on equitable representation of non-majority ethnic communities in the public administration and public enterprises.



Final beneficiaries of the project are representatives of different ethnic minorities in the country.

Immediate beneficiaries of the project are:

- NGOs working with minorities’ issues that will strengthen their capacities especially for lobbying and advocacy for implementing international and national provisions and for active participation in decision-making processes;
- local authorities, who will increase their knowledge to recognize and deal with the needs of non-majority communities and will be encourage in practicing and promoting effective civic participation in drafting adequate policies;
- public institutions on local and national level, that will improve their cooperation with civil society actors in terms of protection of minority rights;
- media, that will develop their sensitivity for the issue of minority rights and discrimination, understanding the protection mechanisms, and the role of various institutions;
- citizens, that will be adequately informed on the responsibilities of central and local governments to perform their duties in terms of protection of non-majority rights and will be further encourage to acquire means and provisions for active participation in policy formulation and decision-making.

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The project consists of the following components:

Component 1: Capacity Building and Networking aimed at building capabilities of relevant institutions, committees for interethnic relations, and NGOs working with minority groups/issues. Needs assessment and training will secure better results of the work done for minority rights. TOT will create a core group of high-qualified trainers capable to deliver training on different aspects of minority rights protection. This component secures better communication and encourages networking and cooperation on local and national level of the NGOs, experts and institutions working in the field of minority rights protection.

Component 2: Lobbying & Advocacy and Building Public Awareness

aimed at strengthening lobbying and advocacy capacities of minority groups for promotion and protection of their rights, increasing the level of sensitivity and public awareness for the rights of national minorities and assisting the introduction of EU standards on minorities in the country. This component consists



of the following activities: Publication and promotion of international conventions and declarations and national legislation for minorities rights, campaign for increasing awareness on the issue of rights of non-majority ethnic communities, local and national events (debates, meetings, workshops) with respective institutions in order to discuss actual problems related with minorities rights.

Component 3: Monitoring of the local administration

aimed at observing and analyzing on-going decentralization processes in terms of inter-ethnic improvements, specifically in non-majority ethnic communities, as well as to inform and put forward recommendations for further activities, possible measures and solutions. Monitoring teams, established in 12 towns, monitor the work of local administration in implementing the international and domestic legislation related to minorities groups' rights, and will prepare reports with recommendations.

Activities in the project will contribute to achieve the following results:

- 1) Increased capacities of NGOs and institutions working on minority rights issues;
- 2) Extended number of effective NGO networks will be created that will advocate on issues important for minority groups on local, regional and national level;
- 3) Improved relations and cooperation of relevant stakeholders will benefit by better understanding the rights and obligations of both sides (institutions–citizens) as well as influence sensitive policy-making;
- 4) The citizens will be informed about the legislation for minority rights;
- 5) Awareness concerning the importance of “equitable representation of minorities” (women and men) in all areas of social life will be raised;
- 6) Advocacy and lobbying activities will influence decision-making processes on local and national level.



European Union Mission

