



ISTOG/K

Action strategy for

Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali
communities in Istog/Istok municipality

2009-2011

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Opinions expressed in this document present views
of the authors and not necessarily
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Authors of this document see it as needed to explain that if in the text of this strategy haven't been included the works or activities of all the persons who have engaged in the communities that is unintentional. We also express our lament to all the ones who feel that their and their communities' requests or suggestions haven't been included as much as necessary.

Acronyms:

CRPK	- Civil Rights Program Kosovo
IRDK	- New Democratic Initiative of Kosovo
KEK	- Kosovo Energy Corporation
PRBK	- United Roma Party of Kosova
PTK	- Post and Telecom of Kosova
RTK	- Radio and Television of Kosovo
SDC	- Swiss Development Cooperation
SiV	- Syri i Vizionit
SHKA	- Cultural and artistic association
TMK	- Kosovo Protection Corps
UNDP	- United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



Republika e Kosovës

Republika Kosova
Republic of Kosovo



Kuvendi i Komunës Istog

Skupstina Opstine Istok
Municipal Assambly Istog

From: Istog/Istok Municipality

To: NGO "Syri i Vizionit", Pejë/Pec

Subject: Letter of Support for drafting of the Strategy for Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities in Istog/Istok municipality

December 26, 2008

Istog/Istok municipality with all its structures is committed to establishment of a multiethnic society in which will have equality for all of its citizens without any ethnic, religious, gender and other distinctions. In this sense engagement for improvement of living conditions for all communities in this municipality is a permanent engagement of the Municipality. Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities of Istog/Istok are communities which in permanence have given their contribution for building of our society.

Istog/Istok Municipality has supported the work that NGO "Syri i Vizionit" has done in drafting of the Action Strategy with Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities in Istog/Istok municipality and appreciates this a contribution for joint engagement in improvement of living conditions for these communities in our municipality.

Istog/Istok Municipality has cooperated in drafting of this Strategy with "Syri i Vizionit" during 2008.

Municipality expresses its readiness and commitment that with all capacities it possesses, to work on implementation of this Strategy.

With respect,

Istog/Istok Mayor

Mr. Fadil Fetai



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Olof Palme Center

The Olof Palme International Center works with international development co-operation and the forming of public opinion surrounding international political and security issues.

The Palme Center was established in 1992 by the Swedish Social Democratic Party, the Trade Union Confederation (LO) and the Cooperative Union (KF). Today the Palme Center has 28 member organizations within the labour movement.

The centre works in the spirit of the late Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme, reflected by the famous quotation: "Politics is wanting something. Social Democratic politics is wanting change."

Olof Palme's conviction that common security is created by co-operation and solidarity across borders, permeates the centre's activities.

The commitment of these member organisations is the core of the centre's activities. Besides the founding organisations, they include the Workers' Educational Association, the tenants' movement, and individual trade unions. As popular movements and voluntary organisations, they are represented in all Swedish municipalities and at many workplaces. An individual cannot be a member of the Palme Center, but the member organisations together have more than three million members.

International development co-operation is concentrated on six regions: The Balkans, Eastern Europe and Russia, Latin America, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and southern Africa.

The Palme Center and its member organizations are involved in approximately 450 international development projects a year. These range from civic education and organisational structure, to human rights and reconciliation projects.

The centre has a framework agreement with the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA), which finances the international development projects of the member organisations. Most projects are carried out directly by the member organisations, which together with their local co-operation partners are responsible for project planning, initiation and evaluation. This helps to create very strong local ties. The centre carries out relatively few international development projects on its own, except in the Balkans.

The centre also administers the International Solidarity Fund (the I-Fund), which is the labour movement's fund for international solidarity and development co-operation. All money collected by the I-Fund is used exclusively to support trade union and political development work.

The centre is located in central Stockholm.



NGO "Syri i Vizionit"

The organization "Syri i Vizionit" officially registered as a local NGO in September 2001, but started operating as early as 1999 as a Community-Based Organization (CBO) in the city of Pejë/Pec to coordinate the publication and release of a Youth Magazine in Kosovo, with the financial support of USAID. Since inception, the NGO "Syri i Vizionit" has gained in professionalism and implemented a large spectrum of multi-faced projects, proving itself as a genuine Civil Society actor in Kosovo. Throughout most recent years, the NGO "Syri i Vizionit" developed numerous partnerships with a wide

range of national and international organizations, municipalities and other stakeholders Kosovo-wide and in the Balkans (USAID, IREX, DRC, CARE international, OSCE, Swiss Labour Assistance, Olof Palme Center,...)

Mission statement & Values. The NGO "Syri i Vizionit" primarily aims to promote local democracy and citizens' participation in Kosovo, in Pejë/Pec region in the first place. In its continuous efforts to enforce democratic practices, the NGO "Syri i Vizionit" puts a special emphasis on the promotion of good governance, accountability, transparency and participation in multiple spheres of civic life. In practice, any project implemented by the NGO "Syri i Vizionit" seeks to establish sustainable linkages between municipal authorities and civil society actors at institutional and/or individual level.

Programmatic objectives. Since start, the NGO "Syri i Vizionit" has articulated its work around specific objectives:

to develop the provision and dissemination of reliable and tested *information* to citizens

to promote *public awareness* on substantial or/and urgent societal issues among a wider public through awareness-raising actions

to equip citizens with sufficient *advocacy*, lobbying and networking skills to exercise their basic rights and challenge government institutions

Since 2003, the NGO is one of the official partners of One World Web Portal for South Eastern Europe. As of 2004, the NGO "Syri i Vizionit" became an active member of the Kosovo Initiative Program (KIP). The NGO "Syri i Vizionit" plays an active role in the field of youth networking and peace-building at regional level: in the Board of the Kosovo Youth Network for years and is a founding and active member of Pejë/Pec multiethnic youth network since 2002.

The organization takes an active part in other networking initiatives on a project basis such as the ProPeace Platform launched in Kosovo with the participation of local NGOs in 2005, the Coalition for a Clean Parliament, the Coalition for a Civilian Oversight of the Security Sector, the Coalition "Democracy In Action Elections 2007", and the Coalition for Cooperation between Civil Society and Government.



I. Drafting of the strategy

1.2 Legal framework on which the Strategy supports on

Strategy supports the Kosovo Government Strategy for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities, which has been adopted in national level at the end of 2007 and it represents local basis of this strategy, which aims to improve the quality of life for Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities in the region.

Same as the governmental document, local strategy for Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities is called upon the recommendations coming from the Agreement of Roma Decade (2005-2015) of the European Union. Strategy is in line with other international documents such as recommendations of European Council Committee of Ministers for the policy towards Roma in which affirmative approach toward this community is recommended, etc.

Since this strategy has been compiled in cooperation among the municipality, Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities and other important stakeholders in this process, this document will be at the service of the municipality, to use it as needed or to transform it into a working document for the municipality in the upcoming period, or to present it before the donors that might express their interest for action in these communities.

1.3 Route followed for drafting of the Strategy

Strategy has been drafted after a year's work that NGO Syri i Vizionit (SiV) has conducted with Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities, representatives of the localities inhabited with these communities, activists and community NGO's as well as with the Istog/Istok municipality.

Initially, Syri i Vizionit has visited communities in all the localities where they live and has collected data for the conditions and situation in which they live in, in order to have a clearer picture. In lack of previous studies, in the first phase a research was conducted to reflect the situation in figures and concrete facts. Research has been conducted in main localities where the Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities live while it has been focused in main points to find out the state of families and houses among these communities.

After this, in the largest localities of

1.1 What is this strategy?

Action strategy for Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities in Istog/Istok municipality (hereinafter Strategy) is a document that aims to put forward all the problems faced by the Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities in Istog/Istok municipality. It summarizes needs and requests of these communities in localities where they live in the entire municipality, including their living problems, requests and area they live in as well as it enunciates future orientations of the work in these communities.

As such this document is a good basis for municipality, donors and communities in the future. In it have been included all the problems, divided into different sectors, possible solutions have been provided and an approximate calculation of costs has been made for actions in these communities. In this way, Strategy consist an action and activity plan; it slots in itself needs of the municipality and communities.

Strategy has been compiled by NGO "Syri i Vizionit" from Pejë/Pec in cooperation with the communities, village representatives and localities as well as with the municipality, respectively municipal officials for communities. Project has been funded by Olof Palme Center.

Project in itself is a pilot project that aims to mobilize and train Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities, to assist them in better advocacy in order for them to be participants of the changes in their life and decision-making. With the projects that this strategy foresees it is thought to improve living conditions of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities, communities that traditionally have lived in grave economic situations and without an existential minimum, in difficult inhabitation and infrastructural conditions.

Istog/Istok municipality focus groups have been created with members of these communities and a structure has been established with persons in the field with whom Syri i Vizionit has worked and maintained contacts during the project drafting. Focus groups initially have been created in Zallq, Kovragë, Cërcë, Drejë, Oprashkë/Opraska and Gurrakoc/Djurakovac. With these focus groups meetings were organized in each village or neighborhood, in which have been discussed on seven defined problems. There have been seven sectors discussed on and routes of solutions have been sought: Property issues, inhabitation and informal settlements; Education and youth; Employment and economic development; Health and social issues; Antidiscrimination, security, minority rights and representation; Culture, media and information and Women rights.

After presenting the project to communities, their active participation was sought with suggestions and requests they might have, since they know best their problems and needs in their area.

Meetings were held in each locality, in neighborhoods and villages. In such meetings their requests have been obtained, which consisted the basis for drafting of the action plan. Tens of meetings were organized with the groups, but also many meetings with individuals and smaller groups as well as with community leaders.

During this phase have been contacted also representatives of the communities in other areas of the municipality, such as in village of Banjë of Pejë/Pec, Istog i Poshtëm/Donji Istok and Gusar, and finally in Dubravë/Dubrava. Representatives of these villages have taken part in the meetings of "Joint Steering Committee of Communities" with representatives of other villages through the end of strategy bringing the number of localities involved localities in the process to ten.

To make the communities aware that in best manner to put forward their request, ways of presenting and further advocating, for the representatives of the communities three trainings by experts on advocacy, strategy drafting and compilation of project proposals have been conducted.

First time (during month of August 2008) they have been skilled on how to identify problems in the communities they live in and to find ways of advocating until realization of their projects. In the second training, held on September 2008, Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali

communities' representatives have been equipped with skills on compilation of project proposals. While, the third training on strategy drafting, also organized during September, managed to agree with the representatives of the communities that they prepare themselves documents which will be part of the strategy.

After this, joint meetings have been organized with representatives of Zallq, Kovragë, Cërcë, Drejë e Oprashkë/Opraske, Gurrakoc/Djurakovac, Banjë of Pejë/Pec, Istog/Istok i Poshtëm, Gusarë and Dubravë/Dubrava localities with which has been worked chapter by chapter on strategy drafting. Such meetings were participated by municipality representatives and Office of Communities as well as political subjects of communities.

Strategy at its final form is based on all the collected materials from these tens of meetings with the communities and requests made particularly by each locality. It has been drafted by NGO Syri i Vizionit, while before publication it has been provided for review to representatives of the communities in each locality and to municipality.

1.4 Participants in the process of Strategy drafting

Project for drafting of action strategy for Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities has been led by NGO Syri i Vizionit from Pejë/Pec, while it has been funded by Olof Palme Center. Strategy at this step is a result of joint work done during a year between Syri i Vizionit and other participants, communities, community organizations and municipality.

Communities have been engaged in active and creative manner at all times of the project. Each locality had its focus groups, from seven to eight members, which in series of meetings have given their suggestions and ideas. To be more active in participation, representatives of each locality have also attended respective trainings of drafting of projects and advocacy. Gathered suggestions from representatives of the communities have been included in the draft strategy, which afterwards again was analyzed and fulfilled with supplements, suggestions and requests of the communities.

Municipality of Istog/Istok has also been part of the entire work, since it took part in the overall process, starting from the initial information acquired from the municipality, to meetings in the field, in trainings and the review of final strategy version.

1.4.1 Communities involvement in drafting of the Strategy

Communities have been involved in both active and creative manner at all times of the project in several ways:

- Communities were directly involved in drafting of the strategy during the meetings held in localities. In each locality that has a considerable number of inhabitants several meetings were held.
- Representatives of the communities have taken part in "Joint Steering Committee" meetings held in Gurrakoc/Djurakovac in which was discussed about the problems according to fields set.
- During strategy drafting were met community leaders gathered in political subjects, nongovernmental organizations and other groups representing communities.

1.4.2 Municipality involvement in drafting of the Strategy

From the very start of the projects contacts were maintained with the municipality. Mayor in the two first meetings has been informed for the foreseen process on strategy drafting and he took an active role to assign persons in charge for cooperation and further assistance throughout the overall process. From this onwards cooperation mainly went through Office of Communities and Office of Return and it was of crucial importance for Syri i Vizionit which benefited from the experience and work conducted earlier with these communities by municipality.

Apart from assisting in advisory role, these two Offices have taken part in most of the activities implemented throughout the project flow, in the project presentation phase, further in meetings and review of the final draft.

Initial information for the field were acquired from the Istog/Istok municipal officials while it served as basis for research conducted in the field by "Syri i Vizionit".

Subsequently, municipal officials have also taken part in the meetings of "Joint Steering Committee of Communities" and in trainings. Office of Communities has taken active part in the meetings with village representatives and has given its ideas and suggestions, while contacts with municipal officials have been maintained before and after these meetings, until the end of the process for strategy drafting.

Istog/Istok municipality Office of Communities and Office of Return have also taken part in

the trainings organized throughout the project implementation.

Strategy in its draft version before publication has been submitted to municipality, Mayor, Office of Return and Office of Communities to give their suggestions, to fulfill or add something to final version.

1.5 Current situation

1.5.1 Spreading of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities in Istog/Istok municipality

Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities have traditionally lived in very hard situation in Istog/Istok municipality. They live in several localities, but majority mainly are orientated in a number of places: Gurrakoc/Djurakovac, Zallq, Dubravë, Drejë, Oprashkë/Opraskë, Gusar/Gusare, Dubravë/Dubrava, etc. In a small number of families they live in Istog i Poshtëm/Donji Istok, Baincë, Kashicë, Drejë, Kovragë, Banjë, Veriq, Dragolec, Muzhevinë and other villages.

In all these localities they live in vicinity with Albanian majority population and other minorities, with which can be said that during the postwar year have lived in good vicinity. When talking about localities where the Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities live it doesn't imply clean ethnic localities, but rather localities with mixed population, but always these communities being community within the village. In some areas, such as in Zallq village most of houses of these communities are near one to another, but in other areas such as in Dubravë/Dubrava village houses are spread throughout the village and community is organized little or not at all in ethnic basis. In most of other villages, Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities compose of a very small number under the villages with overwhelming Albanian majority.

During the war of 1998-1999 also among these communities there were many displaced from Kosovo. After the war, members of these communities mainly have returned with individual initiative. A part has returned in organized manner in the village of Dubravë/Dubrava, where 13 houses were reconstructed in 2002 by Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) in a joint project of a number of organizations, while other six houses were also reconstructed in the village of Cërcë.

According to approximate figures owned by United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees (UNHCR), in Istog/Istok municipality currently live 2.248 members of these communities, more precisely 2.219 Egyptians, 29 Roma, while there are no Ashkalis in this municipality.

While in Kosovo there are no official statistics of census, currently at disposal are different statistics. In this document for the sake of comparison and for the need of enunciating the situation approximate figures by UNHCR (since it is a credible institution, competent and impartial) and figures extracted in field by "Syri i Vizionit" itself have been used.

1.5.2 Situation in which Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities live in

A part of these communities live in partially urban areas, in old houses and neighborhoods without proper road infrastructure, canalization, etc. Unemployment in these localities is higher than anywhere else, since very few members of these communities are employed. Families of these communities are distinguished for the life in extreme poverty. From the statistics of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) from 2004-2005 around 77% of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities live under the minimum poverty level, while 81% were never employed. Many of them do not attend classes in schools and have little access to health services. In their localities they have unsolved property problems, unregistered properties in cadastre unit and other problems related with the land.

Their social organizing is at a very low level. They have community political subjects, but within these communities other organizing, such as nongovernmental organizations or organizing of youth and women, are little or not at all developed.

1.6 Research conducted by Syri i Vizionit for situation of these communities in Istog/Istok municipality

NGO "Syri i Vizionit" during February and March 2008 has conducted a research for the situation of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities in Istog/Istok municipality. Interviews done by the researchers of NGO "Syri i Vizionit" have collected information of the situation of families from these communities and their dwelling places. Research was conducted in five largest localities inhabited by members of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities: Zallq, Dubravë/Dubrava, Shalinoc, Oprashkë/Opraskë and Gurrakoc/Djurakovac.

In these areas were interviewed all families, from which interviewers have taken general data and in specific topics. Respondents replied on the questions about the number of family members, their age and gender, economic/employment situation, incomes, wealth and properties. Also on the questionnaires for the situation of their houses/objects during interviews were collected data on the size of houses and living space for the families, time and conditions of reconstruction, furnishing of the houses with respective equipment, etc. Interviewing gives a complete picture of the situation in which live these communities, a more detailed picture was not done by any institution earlier, extracting accurate data for the communities and conditions they live in.

1.6.1 Situation of the families

In these five localities of the municipality 48 families have been interviewed. Results have shown that in three villages live 305 persons. Out of the interviewed, it results that in average there are 6.2 members per family, while 55% of the population in these interviewed families belong to young age up to 24 years.

In regard to education, research has highlighted that only a small number of these communities attend schooling, particularly when it comes to higher education. Out of 161 male from the all interviewed families, there are only 11 that have completed secondary school, while from the females, out of 144 which live there, only 4 declare to have finished secondary level of education. This wrong trend of the past continues also now in regard to secondary education: only seven students attend secondary schools of the

municipality; six boys and a girl. While in primary schools situation is better with 70 pupils: 37 males and 33 females. Situation in preschools is also appalling; only two children have access to preschool classes/kindergartens and other institutions of this level.

Research shows also an unhandy situation as far as employment: only one person between 18-65 years of age from these communities is employed, though five families have declared that get monthly incomes between 100 and 200 euros. Other 18 families have monthly incomes lower than 100 euros. Low incomes that these families have mainly come from social assistance (46%), while the other part from come from remittances (54 %). Out of the interviewed 10 out of 48 families possess motorized vehicles.

1.6.2 Condition of the housings

In regard to conditions of the housings, research has showed that during the war 43 percent of the houses have suffered heavy level damages (Category V), while 50% of the houses haven't been damaged. Most of the houses (77 percent) are one floor, while after the war 50 percent of houses were reconstructed. Out of the interviewed, 36% of the houses have bad construction quality. As far as building licenses, 43% declare that do not possess one, while 45% say that they don't have urban accord in use.

As far as municipal services there is a limited access for families of these communities. Interviewing brings out that 87% do not have landline telephones, but also that 66% use cellular phones; 51 percent of the families are not connected to water supply system but use drinking water from the wells, 77 percent are not connected to canalization system, while none of them use legal garbage collection sites. The same as services are like also is the response to obligations: 68% of the interviewed declare that they do not pay property tax.

1.7 Access to public services

In localities where Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities live there are joint services with majority communities in regard to most of their matters. They attend classes in schools with Albanian majority, in mixed classes where classes are held in Albanian language, a language very well known for young members of these communities and they don't encounter language obstacles to attend their classes. Albanian language is mother tongue for Roma.

Health services are provided to them in the same manner as to majority population and in this regard Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities have the same services as major Albanian population. As to social services members of these communities enjoy the same conditions as the all other citizens of Kosovo. In regard to employment in municipal and state institutions, communities have a small number which doesn't reach 15 persons in various municipal institutions.

On representation aspect they have a representative in Istog/Istok Municipal Assembly that came out of communities' political subjects and a MP in Kosovo Parliament, where 20 seats are guaranteed for minority communities in Kosovo.

Housing, property and informal settlements problems with which they encounter, are mainly evident in Rudesh and Cërcë village, while other villages do not face the same problems.

Safety doesn't present a problem for the communities anywhere in Istog/Istok municipality. Members of the communities have their right and safety while they express their ethnic and religious backgrounds without any obstacle.

Due to little number of these communities' members, lack of experiences and cadres, they did not have access to media and information. For their problems has been much covered in Albanian speaking media with an approach that has been entirely positive and affirmative, nonetheless they didn't ever possess a media of their own.

1.8 Approach

Strategy approached communities in affirmative manner. Aim of this strategy is to affirm positive action towards communities, in reconcilability with European orientations for actions with these communities as well as with policies of Kosovo Government toward minority communities in Kosovo.

From the formal point, problems of the communities' strategy approached in two ways: with overall approach and according to particular localities. First approach has to do with requests and problems dealing with the communities in general whenever they live within Istog/Istok municipality. At this point, it deals with topics which are not related with the locality, but are rather joint needs for each and everyone. Here come to surface requests for information, political representation, campaigns for health awareness, etc.

Strategy is supported on the debates with communities focusing on seven main topics considered as most important for them:

1. Houses, property issues, informal settlements
2. Education and youth
3. Employment and economic development
4. Health and social issues
5. Antidiscrimination, security, rights of minorities and representation
6. Culture, media and information
7. Women rights

Taking into account that security matter and another one in the list were not considered to be of any particular difficulty, in this regard less efforts were paid, focusing on other sectors where it was thought that contribution can be greater for communities themselves.

Approach to different localities has to do with particular projects. The most frequent in this aspect are the projects dealing with infrastructure, road infrastructure projects, drinking water, sewage, agriculture, etc.

In this part of strategy drafting "Syri i Vizionit" together with the communities have tried to make approximate costs of budget implications for particular projects. In this way, community requests have taken the form of mini-projects, in which, according to a joint model have been determined some requests such as approximate cost, objectives and goals, beneficiaries, etc. These data were considered as a first reflection to make possible presentation before the municipality and donors and to measure financial engagement possibility.

1.9 Strategy implementation

This document is addressed to all institutions, organizations and the ones interested to work with Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities Istog/Istok municipality. However, at first place Strategy has been drafted to be at the disposal of the municipality and communities, for planning needs, intervention in these communities and to be at the disposal for donors.

Strategy at its drafted form offers to Municipality a reflection of situation in the field, communities' requests and gives suggestions for projects and possible ways of development and investment in the upcoming period. It can be used by municipal officials in the meetings with donors that might see the part where they can get involved to assist both the municipality and communities. With determination of requests/projects Strategy gives also an approximate of intervention costs, therefore it presents a good indicator of needs and budget implications for the municipality itself or donors, in order for them to be able to measure their possibilities and engagement in these communities.

It is a document at disposal notably for the communities themselves, their representatives, either in political institution or civil society to request projects and to develop the communities. It is an important document that reflects overall situation of their communities, possibilities and perspectives.

1.10 Difficulties in implementation of this strategy

Authors of the strategy understand that all recommendations and suggestions that come out of this document cannot be achieved at once or within a short period of time. They remain as permanent orientations for institutions and society in a mid-term and long-term period. However, some of the requests according to sectors and some of the projects distinct on the urgency needed to intervene on them. Priority in this aspect appears the need for intervention in health and social sectors, employment, human rights and discrimination, with women and children in particular. These require urgent intervention, while other sectors are also as much important and with need to act as soon as possible on them.

Authors of the strategy are aware for difficulties that will impact in implementation of this strategy. Main difficulties in these cases are lack of financial means for fulfillment and realization of needs that these communities have. Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities in the localities they live need great change starting from the infrastructure and lifestyle to change of approach and way that institutions and society deals with them. Real possibility of local and central institutions, budget and Kosovar society are very limited, while the needs are high and requests come from all communities and from all the categories.

It is also known that number of donors, where are the funds and international organizations operating in Kosovo and Istog/Istok municipality, has decreased; therefore the possibility for supporting of communities' projects is lesser now.

Another difficulty is by communities themselves, their economic and social situation, lack of development, lack of cultural elite that would lead these communities to identify its needs and routes of solutions, lack of educated cadres within the communities, etc. Communities are not organized in as much as they should, have no competitiveness of thoughts and ideas, under this municipality, apart from two political subjects there is almost no other form of action. Even in the cases when there were attempts to establish nongovernmental organizations or other similar groupings, they didn't manage to get an important role in communities' lives. Another difficulty in this aspect represents the fact that communities are spread into different localities, which quite often are far from each other, in smaller communities that rarely exceed the number of ten families per village.

In this manner communication and intercommunion among communities is little and possibility of joint organizing is lesser too. As far as employment project difficulties add from the fact that of overall Kosovo unemployment in Istog/Istok is at the highest rate, number of new jobs that might open is very small and thus it makes inclusion of these communities' members in employment projects.

Ultimate difficulty that should be mentioned is the fact that Strategy is not obligatory in the sense that it doesn't have a body in charge that would implement this document. In this regard institutions and donors decide themselves for the form and how much they will fulfill recommendations coming out of this document. "Syri i Vizionit" encourages institutions to use this document to the largest extent and to fulfill as much requests as possible coming out of it.



II. Initiatives and Recommendations

2.1 Introduction

Strategy approaches communities in two ways: with overall approach and according to particular localities. First approach has to do with requests and problems dealing with the communities in general whenever they live within Istog/Istok municipality. At this point, it deals with topics which are not related with the locality, but are rather joint needs for each and everyone. Here come to surface requests for human rights, information, political representation, campaign for health awareness, etc. out of which benefit all communities in every locality, including smaller localities in which there are only some families.

Strategy is supported on the debates with communities focusing on seven main topics considered as most important for communities. Selection of these topics came out of the work that Government has done in preparation of the strategy for Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities during 2007. The topics include:

1. Houses, property issues, informal settlements
2. Education and youth
3. Employment and economic development
4. Health and social issues
5. Antidiscrimination, security, rights of minorities and representation
6. Culture, media and information
7. Women rights

As a matter of fact in most of the cases, problems encountered by Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities are general, for all communities, so it is not a matter of problems belonging only to Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities. In most cases with the same problems is encountered also the majority Albanian community itself, such as the matter of informal settlements, lack of living infrastructure, inadequate health services, lack of social support, etc. But there are also problems which are specific for Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities such as the matters of culture and information, and to a certain extent education and gender equality also.

Taking into account that security matter and another one in the list were not considered to be of any particular difficulty in Istog/Istok municipality, in this regard less efforts were paid in the Strategy, focusing on other sectors where it was thought that contribution can be greater for communities themselves.

2.2 Ownership issues, habitation and informal settlements

Situation description: Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities in Istog/Istok municipality at the largest extent lives in communion with Albanian majority and other communities. For this reason, matter of habitation for RAE communities in this municipality is laid together with all other communities. In this aspect Istog/Istok municipality has several informal settlements among which are two are localities inhabited by Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities. In the village Rudesh of Istog/Istok houses reconstruction has been halted since it belongs to one of the so-called "protected zones" according to Martti Ahtisaari's Plan. In this area is located a Serb church and because of it houses reconstruction is not allowed. Before the war in this area 72 Egyptian families have lived while a part of them still possess houses and land there. Municipality has offered a plan according to which these inhabitants would be provided with land in the village of Serbobran, in which they would build their houses. In the village of Cërcë there is a small informal zone made up by a couple of houses, among which four belong to Egyptian community families. Municipality's plan foresees the same solution for them too, providing of the land for usage in the village of Serbobran.

Regarding property registrations, houses and dwelling places, problems in these communities is also the same as with other communities. In a far past, transactions were bases on oral agreements and they were not registered in municipal cadastre and for this matter many of the citizens do not have their properties registered. It is talked mainly for transactions that were done in the period between 50's and 80's of last century. For this matter, Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities, due to higher illiteracy rate, maybe faces more emphasized problem more emphasized than others.

Shelter among Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities is a problem that traditionally is related with lifestyle of a part of these communities that were always without any roof over their head, but also with the damages of war which brought down their houses in Istog/Istok municipality. Around 110 houses have been reconstructed for members of these communities as part of the return process in the postwar period. In the manner

of the problem laid currently with communities it appears also in Rudesh village, where there are owners that possess an entirely small parcel of land, but they are also not allowed to build. In specific cases shelter problem is encountered also in other villages which have inhabitants without shelter or land.

Problems are also present on equipment of citizens with identification documents. There are persons that were never registered in civil office, there is no documentation and as a consequence they do not posses any identification documents. This was a problem in the past, but it also present now, in particular with children that are born out of hospital premises.

Existing initiatives:

Istog/Istog has drafted its Urbanism and Development Plan, while in the upcoming period specific regulative plans will be completed. Completion of the plan for formalization of all the zones will clarify direct actions of work in these neighborhoods and at the same time would verify closely the need of inhabitants for legalization of houses and future possible reconstructions.

Municipality has drafted its plan for giving 2.5 hectares of land for lease in the village of Serbobran for member of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities from Istog/Istok. For homeless citizens and the ones facing problems with formalization of their settlements, would be given 1.2 acres of land in lease. From this plan benefit inhabitants of Rudesh and Cërcë villages.

So far local institutions and international donors have reconstructed 100 houses of the communities. For 2009 Municipality together with UNDP and governmental funds will reconstruct 18 houses in Istog/Istok municipality out of which at least three will be for Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities. Out of 20 families that have benefited a flat in the collective shelter building, financed by United Arab Emirates, one went for an Egyptian family.

In regard to registration and equipment with identification cards for unregistered persons, an international organization, Civil Rights Program Kosovo - CRPK, is implementing a project which deals with solution of these cases. CRPK is an international organization that deals with registration of Roma and Egyptians members which haven't been registered. Their activities are laid also in Istog/Istok, where they have an office at the service of these communities.

Recommendations for further actions:

- to solve the shelter problem in informal settlement in Rudesh and Cërcë
- plan for providing the land in Serbobran to be adopted by Municipal Assembl
- to seek donors who would continue the process of houses reconstruction
- to involve in the project of social building members of these communities which do not have property/house for living.
- to look at the possibility for donation of building plots for these members of communities that do not have property to build their house

2.3 Education and youth

Situation description: Pupils of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities attend their classes in Albanian language on joint schools of Istog/Istok municipality. They are integrated in regular classes together with pupils of Albanian majority population and other communities. Due to low level of awareness, grave economic situation and other reasons, however many Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali children remain out of schools, some of them getting divided from their parents at a very young age. Though according to Kosovo laws in force nine-year education is obligatory, a great part of parents do not send their children at all in school or take them out before finishing primary education. Afterwards these children are used for work or other activities for holding their families.

As far as education, a research conducted within months of February and March 2008 in five localities with great number of these communities in the municipality: Zallq, Gurrakoc/Djurakovac, Dubravë/Dubrava, Oprashkë/Opraske and Shalinoc has made known that only a small number of these communities attends schooling, particularly

when it comes to higher levels. There are only 15 persons claiming that have finished secondary school. This wrong trend of the past continues again when it comes to secondary schooling: only seven students continue attending municipal secondary schools: six boys and a girl.

Egyptian community in Istog/Istok region has Albanian language as their mother tongue therefore its members do not face language obstacles, while Roma community has its old language, Roma language. However this community at home, in daily communication uses Albanian language. The number of young members of Roma community is very little that knows more than a few words in Roma language. In this aspect, regarding their education usage of Albanian language schools does not present a difficulty. An issue raised as the need for education of this community is the one for catch-up classes. Since a great part of the communities is illiterate, pupils, particularly the one of lower classes face learning problems. These children have parents that do not know to read and write and this is assessed to be one the reasons for low results, since they have no support at home to understand tasks and homework. For this matter organizing of catch-up classes for these pupils is considered necessary for improvement of their results.

Also for youth and pupils of these communities could be organized intensive learning classes. We are talking about the one that have passed the age to start attending classes in primary schools that didn't do so. For them would be enabled a fast learning process with reduced programs, in order to finish within a short time period required elementary schooling. This kind of learning would also in eradication of illiteracy within these communities.

Same as with other communities, Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities' youth in Istog/Istok also doesn't have a proper organizing. Some nongovernmental subjects of these communities haven't taken initiatives for youth activities. Within political subjects of these communities there is no organizing or presence of youth component.

Since a vast majority of RAE communities live in extreme poverty a great burden to hold the family falls on youth which very often are used by their families at early age to work and support the family. They are parted from school without finishing even elementary education. As a consequence possibility of these youngsters to get education, but also an elementary cultural formations are quite small or do not exist at all. They are not included in any kind of cultural, sportive or recreational activities.

Existing initiatives:

During 2002-2003 in Gurrakoc/Djurakovac and Zallq villages of Istog/Istok intensive classes were organized for members of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities. These kind of classes organized by Ministry of Education enabled members of these communities that within a short timeframe to complete primary education for the ones that for many reasons were not involved in education process.

Program had a limited timeframe.

Among young people of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities of Istog/Istok there are existing nongovernmental organizations, which though leave a lot to desire have gathered young people in different activities and organizing of youth life. Two youth nongovernmental organizations coming from these communities are functional; "Vizioni 02" and "Piramida".

There is also a non-formal group "Yjet" (Stars) that gathers around 60 young people and it organizes cultural and entertainment programs for Istog/Istok youth, including young people from all the communities.

In Dubravë/Dubrava there is a youth cultural center, which is not used as much as needed, but with new ideas it can be put in action. In Zallq village there is a sports field which could be repaired and serve for sportive events of the communities. At the same site there is a space for a park with toys according to the request of inhabitants.

Recommendations for further actions:

- *to organize catch-up classes for pupils of these communities.*
- *intensive learning for the pupils that haven't been included in education process*
- *to cover travel expenses for members of the communities which due to economic situations cannot attend education*
- *to be worked with teachers and pupils in order to have equal treatment for Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali pupils into schools*
- *to involve youth in cultural and sportive activities*
- *to fund projects for organizing and empowerment of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali youth, starting from youth organization, sports clubs, etc.*
- *to have fellowships for education of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali students*

2.4 Employment and economic development

Situation description: Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities living in Istog/Istok municipality make a small community within the overall population of the municipality. Communities have 2.248 members in a municipality with over 50.000 inhabitants. Number of persons working is not very high, since not only these communities, but the whole region faces with high unemployment and a good part of the municipality population lives in hard living conditions and poverty. According to data collected by "Syri i Vizionit" from the situation in the field it results that in state institutions work a number of no more than 14 persons. In municipal administration and its three main sectors work 5 members of these communities, 1 in Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC), 1 in police department and 7 others in Dubravë/Dubrava Prison. In other services such as Kosovo Energy Corporation (KEK), Kosovo Post and Telecom (PTK), Water Company and Hygiene there are no employees from these communities.

The remaining part is mainly unemployed. Their families live in extreme poverty under minimal surviving conditions, without much perspective.

The reasons why this situation is such are numerous. They come from previous years and a position in which these communities weren't well-organized and didn't know to present and address their requests. Reasons are low awareness, lack of stronger organizing and a more inferior positioning towards other communities. Also, based on the factual situation it is evident that respective cadre is missing, but even when there are qualified cadres, they do not have much work.

Among these communities there are no initiative takers in private sector, which would create possibilities for employment or self-support. This comes also from the reason that a part of this population does not have their properties, doesn't have jobs (wages) and as an outcome doesn't have access to banks and chances for getting loans to start businesses. In the past, a good part of these communities worked to support themselves with professions which were inherited crafts in these communities. They were engaged as blacksmiths, coachmen, ironmongery sellers, cultivators and sellers of horses, etc., professions which have lost their importance and do not offer many opportunities. A part of these communities' members keeps on surviving by collect ironmongeries and other recycling materials from waste, in order to sell

them later. While the remaining part mainly survive through processing the agricultural land that brings minimal incomes for the families. Diaspora is very important for communities' existence. Most of the incomes in the communities come from members of their families living in different countries of Western Europe.

Existing initiatives:

A number of around 14 members from these communities already are employed in different state, municipal and regional institutions. There are 5 persons employed in the municipality (administration, education and health), 1 in KPC, 1 in police department and 7 others Dubravë/Dubrava Prison. Though this figure is very small, it presents a good basis for a start and has brought down the taboo regarding these communities employment, which in the near past were rarely any employed in state sector.

A good part of these communities possess agricultural land and from different projects implemented by organizations in the area, they have benefited assistance for agricultural development, work equipment and other agricultural tools for land processing, a farming fund, little and big livestock. Such projects provided individual assistance, for particular families, not for the entire communities. Return process has also been associated with the process of income-generation for self-sustainability of returned families, under which each family was provided with grants according to their requests.

NGO "Vizioni 02" under its projects has provided skills in various professions for dozens of communities' members. Male members were equipped with skills for electricians, machinists, while females on tailoring, hairdressing, etc.

Among the communities there are a small number of trade entrepreneurs that have started their small businesses. With their support and development they would be able to employ more members of these communities.

Recommendations for further actions:

- *institutions with finances from Kosovo budget to employ members of these communities within them*
- *in particular members of these communities should be employed in projects concerning them*
- *to support farm projects and mini-businesses which would be run by members of these communities*
- *to support agriculture development in*

the village zones in which these communities have properties

2.5 Health and social issues

Situation description: Members of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities have joint health services with other communities in their localities. Mainly, in each locality there are ambulances that conduct basic services for all citizens of Kosovo. For Zallq, Veriq, Dobrushë and Banjë of Pejë/Pec there are ambulances among the village. Other villages do not have an ambulance of their own but they get their health services either in neighboring villages or in Gurrakoc/Djurakovac and Istog/Istok.

How the real situation of communities is in this regard there is no accurate research, but it is evident that members of these communities have emphasized health problems. A part of them die at very young age, babies and children mortality is high and noticeable health problems.

In localities inhabited by Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities, houses are below the general living conditions. Many of them live in conditions which do not fulfill inhabitation standards, supplying with healthy food for some of them is not satisfactory, a large number of them do not have the possibility to have completed bathrooms nor sewage canals. Since a great majority live in extreme poverty, they have no adequate food; many times they feed themselves with things found or given that can be very harmful. All these impact on human health and beginning of diseases. A number of children are born out of hospital facilities, while babies and children are not vaccinated. Medical checks are not regular as an outcome of proper health education of parents coming from these communities.

As far as social services it should be taken into account that Kosovar society doesn't offer much in social policies. Small number of the ones that benefit from this assistance comes from the fact that benefiting criteria are very strict and rare are the ones that can match them. In November 2008, Center for Work and Social Welfare has evidenced in general 712 beneficiaries in Istog/Istok municipality. Out of them at least 46 families with 215 members come from Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities, but their number is higher for the fact that not all have declared their ethnic background.

One of the most worrisome occurrences of society today is the one of young beggars coming from these communities. Children, mainly up to 10 years of age, wander the streets of Istog/Istok seeking alms. According to information possessed by the communities, community activists and their representatives, in Istog/Istok municipality these begging children do not come from their families, but rather have been brought from other municipalities or even not rarely from out of Kosovo.

Occurrence as such is very worrisome for the fact that these children spend a part of their childhood being used by adults, which in most cases are their parents, are forced to leave schools, wander the streets not wearing properly, without proper health care seeking alms in streets and shops. Furthermore, a part of parents use these children immediately after they come to life taking them to the streets when they seek alms, or leaving these babies laying on the sidewalks in inhuman conditions waiting for alms by people passing by. Local and central institutions, together with the Center for Social Work and police should create and implement policies for giving an end to such occurrences of child use in inhuman manner for children, a part of which from the very early age face with this bitter human fate.

Existing initiatives:

Municipality together with donors during last five years has implemented tens of infrastructural projects for improvement of living conditions including roads, drinking water systems, sewages, etc in all localities inhabited by these communities, which have impacted in the quality of life for Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities.

There are a number of ambulances in these villages which provide health services for the population. Some of the nongovernmental organizations have implemented activities, mainly courses, and have distributed health care awareness materials, importance of hygiene, family planning and other issues regarding health.

Police in cooperation with international organizations at all times are organizing actions for taking children seeking alms out off the streets, while at the same time is worked with parents to prevent using little children for alms.

Recommendations for further actions:

- *to make a complete research for health situation within these communities.*
- *to increase medical visits in localities inhabited by communities.*

- *to monitor vaccination situation and to vaccinate children which haven't done so*
- *to distribute preventive tools for free, medicines against contagious diseases, awareness materials on the importance of hygiene*
- *to support NGO projects for communities that deal with health*
- *to build and implement policies for prevention of children usage for seeking alms and to move away the ones coming from other municipalities to Istog/Istok*

2.6 Antidiscrimination, security, minority rights and representation

Situation description: In lack of official census accurate number of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities' members in Istog/Istok municipality is not known. According to data that UNHCR possesses in Istog/Istok municipality there are 2.248 members of these communities, but figures vary because this population is on the move and changes their living space, therefore there is no accurate number of these communities. They live in poverty with very low incomes and few employment opportunities or private entrepreneurship, mainly not involved in social life. For a long period they have faced with society negative opinions for their lifestyle, poverty and social status as well as prejudices that came in lack of education, cultural formation, nomad life and conditions they lived by these communities. With the position they once had, earlier it was impossible their inclusion in administration or in other job positions. Though today almost in all institutions are employed persons from these communities. With all this change for the better of these communities, nonetheless they have requests for more employments.

Their unequal position is particularly felt in comparison with other minority communities. We talk about for a huge difference in employment compared to Bosniacs and Serbs, which are fewer in number compared to Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities. Though the number of Bosniacs is twice lower than the number coming from Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities, they are not equal regarding employment in state institutions: out of 1365 Bosniacs living in Istog/Istok municipality (according to UNHCR), 29 of them are employed in municipality, while Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities with 2.248 members have only 5 of them employed in the

municipality.

Official languages of Istog/Istok municipality are both Serbian and Bosniac, but not also Roma.

Distinction with other minority communities is also in return process and houses reconstruction. During the five last years of return development in Istog/Istok from governmental projects and other foreign donors for Serbs have been reconstructed around 310 houses and return has taken place in six Istog/Istok villages. For Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities only two organized return projects have been implemented: in Dubravë/Dubrava and Čërcë with 22 houses.

Discrimination is sometimes felt also during offering of state public services, from the employed persons in these institutions or in daily life. It happens that doctors do not treat the same way patients coming from these communities, quite often due to their hygiene, due to poverty they are in, or because they don't give them money. Or there are cases such as when teachers don't put Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian pupils in separate tables or when the parents do not want their children to sit in the same table with pupils coming from these communities.

As far political representation of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities, they are represented by one political subject that mainly gathers members of these communities: New Democratic Initiative of Kosovo (IRDK) which in its program has engagement for situation of Egyptian community in Kosovo. Since the number of Roma is small, political subjects of this community, United Roma Party of Kosova (PRBK), doesn't have any particular activity. IRDK has one counselor in Istog/Istok Municipal Assembly won directly by the citizens' votes. Communities also have their representatives in different comities of the Assembly.

Safety doesn't present a problem for the communities. Members of the communities have the right and safety while they express their ethnic and religious backgrounds without any obstacle, while during the last years there were interethnic incidents whatsoever. These communities neither in the past had problems in relation with Albanian majority population.

Existing initiatives:

Istog/Istok municipality has a number of these communities' members in its three budget sectors: administration, education and health where 5 members of these communities work. 7 others are employed in Dubravë/Dubrava Prison, 1 in police department and 1 other KPC. These employees, even though not many in number present a positive change compared with the past.

In Kosovo higher educations have also been opened possibilities for enrollment of students from these communities. Apart from the same competition as all other students, Prishtinë/Pristina University also divides specific quota for members of these communities in each of its faculties, to guarantee higher education.

Minority representation in Kosovo Parliament is foreseen with Kosovo Constitution. According to the Constitution for Egyptian community at least a seat is allocated in Kosovo Parliament where 100 seats for MP's are won through votes while 20 other are reserved for minorities.

In Istog/Istok Municipal Assembly there is one deputy Mayor coming Egyptian community. Assembly has two Committees which are foreseen to deal with minority problems: Communities Committee and Committee for Intermediation in which minorities have majority of members. While, under municipal governance there are two offices dealing with communities: Office of Communities and Office of Return, where have been employed representatives of the communities. Municipal Assembly divides 5.3 percent of its annual budget for minority communities.

Recommendations for further actions:

- *on cases of employment according to national basis to see and have as a basis a kind of percentage, not to happen that one minority is favored and other ones neglected.*
- *in institutions such as KEK, PTK, Water Company and Public Hygiene to employ members of these communities*
- *recommendation for educational institutions to work with their cadre to prevent distinction cases among pupils in classes.*
- *to continue with reservation of seats for minority communities' representation in municipal and central bodies according to the "positive discrimination" principle*

2.7 Culture, media and information

Situation description: Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities have their national identities. While Roma community has a more separate and emphasized identity, Egyptian community in many things is common with Albanian majority community. Egyptian community has Albanian as its mother tongue, same national wears and flag. Roma community has its language, national wears and Roma national flag.

Roma language according to data of some studies and history has some centuries that it has been used in Kosovo. It is part of the language that this community speaks in other countries of the world. But in Istog/Istok municipality, where there are only a few Roma families, the greatest number of members of this community, in particular young generations do not know it at all or not it very little. In this way, it slowly is risking to disappear among members of this community, since it is known only by elderly persons. To protect this inherited part of Roma identity, learning of Roma language is one of the interests for this community. This would be achievable by organizing courses with one or two classes a week for learning Roma language. Teaching initially would be organized for all interested persons, while it would be covered with a teacher, who would be hired from abroad, since in Istog/Istok municipality there is no one present would be in the position to cover it.

Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities also have their cultural heritage, known Roma folklore. In the past there were good examples or artists' representation and of this culture but nowadays there are no efforts at all for preserving and further development of this cultural inheritance. Currently there is no institution, organization or association that would deal with communities' culture and while other communities always get funds, assistance and subventions for development and preservation of their cultural identity, these (RAE) communities haven't ever benefited in this aspect from governmental or donor funds. As a matter of fact until not even the communities were ready to present and argument such a request. Therefore establishment of a kind of body (Cultural and Artistic Association or Center of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali culture) could play the role of a coordinator of cultural life. Such body would motivate youth to learn and further keep this heritage which includes songs, dances and traditional wears of these communities.

In regard to information of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities get informed from the news provided from the ones in Albanian and other minority languages. From the language aspect this doesn't present a problem for them, since these communities themselves use as first language the Albanian one, but the problem is that in these media are few shows or news regarding the situation of these communities. Currently Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities do not have a medium of their own in Istog/Istok municipality. Public broadcaster of Kosovo, RTK, has an informative and entertainment show once a week. Communities request a show in RTK which would transmit a program once in two weeks for Egyptian community. A local newspaper which primarily would be published once or twice a month would cover also the need for information. Such newspaper would launch with a very limited number of pages, and it would be published in Albanian, language used by these communities. But within pages of this newspaper would be talked about problems and topics concerning these communities.

Apart of information, a medium in Roma language would also impact in increasing of connections and communications within communities' members.

Existing initiatives:

In public broadcaster of Kosovo, RTK, there is a weekly show in Roma language that serves to a certain point in affirmation of Roma language and culture. Show also gives information for community lives and developments occurring among them, important events and developments such creating a linking space between Roma in Kosovo.

Communities' representatives in the Consultative Council for communities have submitted requests for a program in Kosovo public broadcaster (RTK), dedicated to Egyptian community. Community also has a project for a music studio and a multiethnic radio station, which if it finds financial support would be a local radio at the service of the communities in the municipality.

Kosovo media often have written about these communities and projects implemented in the areas they live. Approach was mainly positive and in the function of communities affirmation. For five years in the row in region municipalities have been published and distributed the civil society newspaper "Herald". In each of its editions, it contained two pages for Istog/Istok municipality and two dedicated to communities, in which were tackled also the problems faced by these communities and activities developed.

In the municipality website there is a number

of articles for communities and activities covered by the communities' activists. A non-formal group called "Yjet" (Stars) which deals with artistic activities, mainly music and dancing, gathers around 60 young people of the communities. During the year they organize several times artistic programs, concerts with songs and dance in the Istog/Istok House of Culture.

Recommendations for further actions:

- *to support establishment of a Cultural and Artistic Association (or of another cultural body) that would work on preservation of folklore heritage of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities*
- *to allocate a budget for protection of heritage of these communities the same way municipal and central funds are allocated for heritage of other communities*
- *to organize a course for learning Roma language*
- *to support opening of a newspaper in Roma language*
- *to finance employment of a journalist in local radio station to prepare a radio show dedicated to communities*

2.8 Women rights

Situation description: As far as position of women in Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities there is no specific research that reflects it is proper, but there is space to doubt that their position is very hard within the family and society. Being a woman and a member of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities she in some way is faced with double discrimination.

Families of these communities mainly are patriarchal functioning in that way where women are not offered much space, while being without school education, poor and without any economic support she has no possibility to fight for more rights in decision-making within the family. Situation is particularly difficult for girls of these communities, a good part of which are stopped from school at a very young age. These girls from their young age are forced to work and

support the family. A particular problem is marriage of these girls at very young age. They as minors are very often married without their approval, often selling them in exchange for money.

As a consequence of marriages at young age they become mothers at young age too. This is followed with many births during lifetime which come as lack of health education, family planning, etc. which make the life of these women even harder.

Existing initiatives:

Various local and international organizations have implemented activities on women awareness in Istog/Istok municipality, among them also with women coming from Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities. NGO "Vizioni 02" has organized activities with interest on economic empowerment of women of these communities. Tailoring, hairdressing and other courses of the kind organized by this organization were attended by more than 80 communities' women who got skills in respective professions. Women of these communities have also taken part in other programs and recreational activities, music and culture, organized by this NGO.

Recommendations for further actions:

- *to create as much spaces as possible for education of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali women,*
- *to organize courses for women, illiteracy courses, qualifying them on tailoring, hairdressing, etc.*
- *to hold constant medical visits in which would be talked about family planning, women, in particular girls of Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities to explain their rights in order for them to be able to face their parents regarding decisions they take for marriage at young age*
- *to create employment opportunities for women through supporting projects for village women on knitting, handcraft, tailoring, etc.*



III. Intervention in the communities

3.1 Introduction

This part of the strategy deals with approach into different localities, with specific projects within neighborhoods and villages of Istog/Istok municipality. The most frequent ones are infrastructural, road infrastructure, drinking water systems, sewages, agriculture, etc.

In this part, during drafting of the strategy together with the communities "SiV" has tried to make approximate calculation of budget implication for specific projects.

In this way communities' requests have taken the shape of mini projects, in which according to a joint model have been determined some requests such as approximate costs, goals and objectives, beneficiaries, etc. These data have been considered as a first reflection before municipality and donors to weigh possibility of financial engagement.

Implementation of these projects smoothes most evident problems in communities which appear initially at the areas where they live, but don't solve problems generally regarding the communities, therefore this third part of the strategy should be seen as addendum to of the second where recommendations are given.

In this projects' list have been included nine main localities, those villages where the request of communities can be articulated and addressed before the donors.

3.2 Zallq Village

Zallq village is mainly inhabited with Egyptian community. Among 283 inhabitants living in the village 15 families are from the Albanian community. Most of the Zallq inhabitants, respectively Egyptian community, were displaced into neighboring countries, concretely in Montenegro, but the number of returnees in the village is increasing from one day to the other.

Zallq inhabitants live in hard economic conditions, with unemployment as the most emphasized problem, since the vast majority is not working anywhere. Existence of these families is dependant on remittances coming from their family members living in different European countries, a part from social assistance while a part of them simultaneously get engaged in agricultural works no matter of the fact that they do not possess respective work equipment.

Inhabitants of this village have a great number of problems and difficulties, particularly the basic ones, such as lack of drinking water, since there is no water supply system, roads are damaged, etc.

Project Title: Road asphaltation in Zallq

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 8 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Zallq, Istog/Istok

Budget: 170.000 €

Project goal:

Improvement of the living conditions for communities of Zallq village, a village in majority inhabited with Roma and Egyptians. This project aims to improve of infrastructural conditions in the village of Zallq that would be cross-linked with the road that sends to Osojan/Osojane village mainly populated with Serb inhabitants.

Objectives:

- Improvement of living conditions for the inhabitants currently living in the village and the ones that will return
- Regular education attendance in the primary school by pupils of this village
- Increase of trust between communities living in the village

Beneficiaries:

Inhabitants living in this village that come mainly from Roma and Egyptian communities and a small number of Albanian community. At the same beneficiaries will be also communities and families that will return from current displacement in other regional countries.

Approach:

Under this project will be asphalted the road throughout Zallq village which connects with the highway Istog/IstokKlinë/Klina as well as with the road with the Osojan village of Istog/Istok municipality. The road mentioned is very damaged in particular by the fall seasons. During wintertime movement of inhabitants and children is very difficult since many muddy ravines are created. The road to be asphalted is two kilometers long and three meters wide. Asphaltation of this road would be the best solution of the road problem for village inhabitants.

Project Title: Water supply system in Zallq

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 9 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Zallq, Istog/Istok

Budget: 50.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims to supply with drinking water inhabitants of this locality. They haven't been included in the water supply system project for a number of villages which is being implemented by Istog/Istok municipality. The only sources with water for them remain wells, which has unsuitable water for the ones consuming it. Analyses conducted by Spanish KFOR have shown that this water doesn't meet the conditions for drinking.

New water system for inhabitants will improve living conditions, prevents the risks from diseases, and stimulates return and integration of RAE communities which inhabit this village.

Objectives:

- Supplying with drinking water for each family in the village
- Prevention of risks and diseases from consumption of unclean water
- Improvement of living conditions and stimulation of the return for displaced persons
- Increase and deepening of the trust towards institutions and the very ethnical groups living in this locality

Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries of this project are 270 inhabitants that are currently in the village, the vast majority, over 90% of which come from Roma and Egyptian communities.

Approach:

This project would be implemented through connection in the existing water supply system project being implemented by Istog/Istok municipality in a number of the villages. Connection of this system would be made in distance of two kilometers length, respectively in the Gurrakoc/Djurakovac-Klinë/Klina highway. Water supply channel would pass throughout the village road leaving possibility open for other inhabitants to have access to it.

3.3 Gurrakoc/Djurakovac local community

The approximate number of inhabitants in the Gurrakoc/Djurakovac local community is 6.500 though after 1999 there were movements of the communities, i.e. Egyptian, Roma, Bosniac and Serb of this local community. Possibility for creating a functional life is difficult to achieve since it is known the hard situation of these communities in socio-economic aspect and at the low level of education. Work with this community is very necessary in order to at least to create some kind of opportunity for these people to get convicted that such situation could change. Therefore, much work should be done to alter this situation, in smoothing dependence and unemployment for all the communities living in Gurrakoc/Djurakovac.

Gurrakoc/Djurakovac local community is ethnically mixed with Albanians, Roma, Egyptian, Bosniacs and Serbs that have returned during the recent years.

It is very well known the fact that people of these communities have inherited backwardness in society in general and particularly in spheres of education, economic and social situation and other ones which have impacted negatively in overall development of these communities.

Number of Egyptian inhabitants from Gurrakoc/Djurakovac that work on land processing is considerable and that have more than a hectare of it, though without proper equipment needed to work, therefore economic situation of these people is very grave, since no inhabitant is employed and as such living standard is low. Some of them are dependant on the social assistance, but agricultural works and vegetables cultivation are done through the spring season. They are also dependant and expect assistance from their relatives to help them with equipment for processing the land.

Main sources of incomes in these neighborhoods come from agriculture, since inhabitants possess their land. In Gurrakoc/Djurakovac there are a number of local stores where the inhabitants get their supplies, while present is also the Health Center.

Project Title: Installment of new power station

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 1 year (starting from 2009)

Place: Gurrakoc/Djurakovac, Istog/Istok

Budget: 25.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims to better supply with electrical power inhabitants of the locality. Gurrakoc/Djurakovac inhabitants face a lot of problems with power supply. Though the area has around 40 families they get supplied from the same power station that is located in Gurrakoc/Djurakovac center. This makes that supply is very poor, with low tension and frequent failures due to overload that existing power station goes through. Frequent are also causes of damages in home equipment due to irregular power supply. Such damages aren't compensated by anyone. A new power station would solve the problem for communities of this neighborhood.

Objectives:

- Supply with electricity for inhabitants of this area
- Prevention of the risks from damages caused by existing network
- Facilitation of the electrical power supply network

Beneficiaries:

All inhabitants of Gurrakoc/Djurakovac since the supply will be better. Beneficiary will also be KEK, since supply and maintenance would be done more easily and ultimately it would impact on increase of payments for electricity.

Approach:

With this project a new power station would be built in the neighborhood. It would be built in a Gurrakoc/Djurakovac neighborhood and would offer access to 40 families. Apart from providing relief to the existing network, the overload would also be brought down and inhabitants of the neighborhood would have better supply with electricity. Improvement of the supply would impact in stepping up of the payments for electricity.

Project Title: Supplying of the community with equipment for agricultural development in Gurrakoc/Djurakovac

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 1 year (starting from 2009)

Place: Gurrakoc/Djurakovac, Istog/Istok

Budget: 60.000 €

Project goal:

Project aims to assist inhabitants of this village in land processing through providing them with relief on insemination of field. This will impact on development of agriculture in rural areas and will also impact on improvement of the economic situation for Roma and Egyptian communities of this zone.

Objectives:

- Providing of collective equipment for development of agriculture
- Organizing of this community to get engaged in agriculture development
- Improvement of economic situation through creating incomes from agricultural cultures
- Relief in land processing as far as working equipment

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are inhabitants of Roma and Egyptian communities, since they do not possess equipment for land processing, though many of them possess agricultural land. With providing of equipment for land processing they will manage to inseminate their fields with different agricultural cultures which they will send to the markets thus creating incomes for their families.

Approach:

According to this project tractors will be procured with all needed equipment for agriculture. Agricultural equipment will be at the disposal of all inhabitants. A person will be selected to be in charge of the tractor and equipment as well as to coordinate farmers' works as far as land processing with it.

Project Title: Building of Communities' Center in Gurrakoc/Djurakovac

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 2 years (starting from 2009)

Place: Gurrakoc/Djurakovac, Istog/Istok

Budget: 130.000 €

Project goal:

Project aims to offer better conditions for Roma and Egyptian communities, as well as to advance youth of these communities in informatics and foreign language skills through courses. Project will make integration of these communities in the society and develop their knowledge on information technologies.

Objectives:

- Opening of the Communities' Center and empowering of youth from these communities
- Empowering of communities' youth and their awareness through information technologies
- Offering of the space in order for the communities to have the possibility for developing joint activities

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are Roma and Egyptian communities as well as inhabitants of all the villages from Istog/Istok municipality that will have the opportunity to use this Center. Particular beneficiaries will be youth of the communities since they will have the chance to get skilled on information technologies through various courses and in the future youth of these villages get easier access to society and have greater potential for finding a job.

Approach:

According to this project a Communities' Center will be opened in the center of Gurrakoc/Djurakovac with aim to include other villages since it has a suitable location for inclusion of all the villages around. This Center will also be equipped with all equipment for an adequate functioning. It will be used by all age groups. Communities will be empowered through courses and trainings that will be organized within this Center, will be aware on how to approach different municipal institutions regarding their problems and needs with which they face and do not where to address.

Project Title: Repairing of the road
GurraKoc/Djurakovac - Tomoc

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 6 months (starting from 2009)

Place: GurraKoc/Djurakovac, Istog/Istok

Budget: 10.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims to improve infrastructural conditions for villages of GurraKoc/Djurakovac and Tomoc through repairing of the road connecting them. It also aims improvement of living conditions for all inhabitants of these two villages where Roma, Egyptian and Albanian communities live.

Objectives:

- Improvement of living conditions for inhabitants of this zone and villages around
- Regular attendance in primary school by pupils of these two villages
- Increase of security level for pupils in the traffic
- Prevention of the risks and damages caused by falls and river which is located near the road

Beneficiaries:

All inhabitants of GurraKoc/Djurakovac and Tomoc villages, pupils of these two villages and inhabitants of other ones around

Approach:

According to this project idea road that connect these two villages will be repaired. Road will be repaired with gravel to assist in improvement of living conditions for inhabitants of the villages and other villages around. Road will be paved in a length of one kilometer and width of three meters. Due to economic conditions inhabitants of this village do not have the financial possibility to implement this project, but will assist at all times of project implementation and paving of the road.

Project Title: Placement of garbage
containers

Sector: Health and environment

Timeframe: 4 months (starting from 2009)

Place: GurraKoc/Djurakovac, Istog/Istok

Budget: 6.000 €

Project goal:

Project aims to create a cleaner environment in the village, to protect health of the village inhabitants as well as to make them aware on protection of living environment.

Objectives:

- Placement of the garbage containers
- Creation of a healthier and cleaner society through protection of environment and hygiene
- Cleaning of the illegal garbage dumpsites
- Offering of better services for environment protection.

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are all inhabitants of GurraKoc/Djurakovac coming from different communities. With placement of containers level of hygiene in the village will be increased and better living conditions would be created in particular in health aspect, since with placement of containers garbage would be removed from village streets and illegal dumpsites.

Approach:

According to this project 15 containers would be placed into different village neighborhoods, illegal dumpsites would be cleaned from the garbage created by villagers themselves. Public Service Company would be engaged for weekly cleaning of containers and garbage removal.

Project Title: Communities professionalism through professional courses

Sector: Women Rights

Timeframe: 12 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Gurrakoc/Djurakovac, Istog/Istok

Budget: 10.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims professionalization of Roma and Egyptian communities through professional courses on tailoring.

Objectives:

- Communities' women professionalization through adequate and professional tailoring and hairdressing courses.
- Awareness of communities for determining their profession.
- Capacity building of communities through courses and trainings on tailoring and hairdressing.

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are women and young girls groups between 18 and 40 years of age. At the same time beneficiaries will be women of Roma, Egyptian and Albanian communities from the surrounding villages, taking into account that there is need for such courses into many villages.

Approach:

According to the project, for implementation of this professional course that impact positively in the communities, private spaces will be used. It has been foreseen that two groups with different schedules will be attending it. It should be invested in creating of conditions for implementation of the course with tailoring machines and other materials needed for successful completion of these courses.

3.4 Drejë and Oprashkë/Opraske Villages

Drejë and Oprashkë/Opraske are two neighboring villages in the right part of the tenth kilometer

Gurrakoc/DjurakovacKlinë/Klina highway. Villages are mainly inhabited with Egyptian and Albanian communities. They have been engaged keep being so in many agricultural activities though conditions for developing these activities are not the best. The land is fertile and can produce different products and a good profit, but it is lack of agricultural equipment that hinders these activities.

Out of approximately 500 inhabitants of Drejë and Oprashkë/Opraske villages only 10-12 persons are employed with wages from Kosovo budget while 12 families receive social assistance. For youth of these villages, which make 70% of the population, emigration to West remains tempting since they do not see a local perspective.

These two villages face with difficulties due to lack of drinking water, sewage, garbage and road. Inhabitants do not get supplied with drinking water from the water system but as alternative remain wells which are never analyzed or tested.

Road of these villages is in a miserable state. Consequences of it are most suffered by children since they have to pass through it everyday in order to get to the school in other village, not having a local one. In these two villages there is no ambulance present for medical services and inhabitants need to get them in the village of Zallq.

Project Title: Repair of the road Drejë-Zallq

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 4 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Drejë, Istog/Istok

Budget: 12.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims to improve infrastructural conditions for Drejë and Zallq villages, through repair of the road connecting them. Project also assists in improvement of the living conditions for all inhabitants of these two villages inhabited by Roma, Egyptian and Albanian communities.

Objectives:

- Improvement of living conditions for inhabitants of this zone and villages around
- Regular attendance in primary school by pupils of these villages
- Increase of security level for pupils in the traffic
- Connection of other villages with this one and connection with the Istog/Istok and Klinë/Klina centers

Beneficiaries:

All inhabitants of Drejë village, pupils of this village and inhabitants of other villages around, such as: Oprashkë/Opraske, Zallq, Kosh, Leskoc and Shalinovc.

Approach:

According to this project idea will be repaired the road that connects several villages among each other and Klinë/Klinë and Istog/Istok centers. Road will be repaired with gravel to assist in improvement of living conditions for inhabitants of the villages and other villages around. Road will be paved in a length of three kilometers and width of three meters. Due to economic conditions inhabitants of this village do not have the financial possibility to implement this project, but will assist at all times of project implementation and paving of the road which has been set as top priority in this village.

Project Title: Electric network repair

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 9 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Oprashkë/Oprasje, Istog/Istok

Budget: 37.500 €

Project goal:

This project aims better supplying of inhabitants with electric power, offering them a normal life.

Objectives:

- Supply with more qualitative electricity for inhabitants of this village
- Repairing of the electric network and improvement of power supply
- Prevention of the risks from damages caused by existing network

Beneficiaries:

All inhabitants of the village which get supplied with power, since at the present this supply is very low

Approach:

According to the project idea, electric network which at present is much damaged will be repaired. Currently inhabitants do not have the opportunity for satisfactory supply with power. It also presents risks for village inhabitants. Network to be repaired is one kilometer long. With installment of power station these families will have it easier to cover payments of the KEK services.

Project Title: Reconstruction of sewage system for DrejëOprashkë/Oprasje villages

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 1 year (starting from 2009)

Place: Drejë-Oprashkë/Oprasje, Istog/Istok

Budget: 80.000 €

Project goal:

To offer better conditions for Egyptian and Albanian inhabitants as well as to solve problem of sewage and excrements waters. Village lacks its sewage system where they would be emptied and it would connect to general one that would impact in protection of their health.

Objectives:

- Creation of better living conditions for communities and reconstruction of Drejë-Oprashkë/Oprasje villages sewage system
- Connection of all houses in the town's sewage system
- Protection of inhabitants lives from sewage odor.

Beneficiaries:

Drejë and Oprashkë/Oprasje inhabitants since they still haven't solved the sewage problem. With channeling of sewage inhabitants health will be protected with children in particular from potential infections from sewage odor.

Approach:

According to this project opening of the ditches will start at the beginning of the village and continue towards Oprashkë/Oprasje. Ditch length will be around two kilometers long and it will be laid in all village parts.

Project Title: Providing transport for pupils
Sector: Education and youth
Timeframe: 24 months (starting from 2009)
Place: Drejë-Oprashkë/Oprasje, Istog/Istok
Budget: 15.400 €

Project goal:

Project aims to offer better transport conditions for students of Drejë and Oprashkë/Oprasje villages that need to travel daily for more than four kilometers on foot to attend primary school located in Zallq village.

Objectives:

- Ensuring of a bus
- Increase of pupils attending education from these villages
- Regular school attendance by pupils of these villages

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are inhabitants of Drejë and Oprashkë/Oprasje villages, in particular children which attend primary school in Zallq village. With provision of transport for these children will also be increased safety of pupils to attend school, while the number of preschool children would also increase.

Approach:

According to this project a bus will be provided which will transport pupils of these two villages to and from school. This bus will have four routes a day sending students in morning shift and the afternoon shift.

Project Title: Installment of new power station
Sector: Infrastructure
Timeframe: 10 months (starting from 2009)
Place: Drejë, Istog/Istok
Budget: 50.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims to better supply with electrical power inhabitants of the locality, offering them a normal life since the existing power station is located far away.

Objectives:

- Supply with electricity for inhabitants of this village
- Better conditions for opening of any business
- Prevention of the risks from damages caused by existing network

Beneficiaries:

All inhabitants of village which will get supplied with electrical power, in particular 25 families of Drejë coming from Egyptian and Albanian communities. Beneficiaries will also be businesses, since they will be provided more favorable conditions to invest in this village such as to open a mini-factory or run a business.

Approach:

New power station will be built at the center of Drejë village while it would offer access to 25 families which face problems on getting supplied with electricity. With installment of power station these families will have it easier to cover payments of the KEK services.

Project Title: Building of an agricultural cooperative in Drejë village

Sector: Economic Development and Employment

Timeframe: 16 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Drejë-Oprashkë/Opraskë, Istog/Istok

Budget: 160.000 €

Project goal:

Project aims to impact on agriculture development and improvement of economic situation through investments in agriculture.

Objectives:

- Economic development through agriculture
- Opening of new jobs
- Support of farmers with equipment for processing of land
- Equipment of cooperative with agricultural tools

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are inhabitants of Drejë, Oprashkë/Opraskë and Zallq villages coming from all the communities, in particular greatest beneficiaries are Roma and Egyptian communities, since they lack most equipment for land processing. This will also impact in relief for working the land; will increase productivity of the villages with different agricultural cultures, arboriculture in particular.

Approach:

According to this project would be built a 250 square meters space at the village center. Space is thought to be equipped with all agricultural work equipment, an office for the cooperative coordinator and a bathroom in order to offer better conditions for work within the cooperative.

3.5 Cërcë Village

Cërcë village is located in a distance of three kilometers from Istog/Istok town and it is spread on the southern part of the town, near the road that connects Istog/Istok with Vrellë. Village is inhabited with over 100 families, out of which 15 from Egyptian community with 52 members. Local inhabitants mainly work on agriculture, as the only source of incomes for their families.

Egyptian community lives in hard economic situation while the vast majority of families live from social assistance.

Village lacks its ambulance to get medical services nearer and due to this they need to go to Istog/Istok Health House and in Vrellë Family Medicine Center.

Children of this community attend primary schools in Istog/Istok and Vrellë, while secondary schooling in Istog/Istok and Gurrakoc/Djurakovac. Village lacks also recreational center that would enable youth to get involved in some kind of activities.

Project Title: Increase of knowledge level

Sector: Education and Youth

Timeframe: 1 year (starting from 2009)

Place: Cërcë-Trushevinë, Istog/Istok

Budget: 90.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims to empower and support women and youth groups from Cërcë and Trushevinë villages through courses and trainings on hairdressing, tailoring as well computer basic skills.

Objectives:

- Opening of a Communities' Center and offering the possibility for functioning through different activities
- Capacity building of communities' women groups through trainings on hairdressing, tailoring and computers within the Center
- Equipping youth with skills on foreign languages and computers

Beneficiaries:

Youth and women from Trushevinë and Cërcë villages that will benefit from these activities in the Communities' Center

Approach:

This project will focus on building of a Communities' Center that is seen as very much needed from the communities of these two villages. Under this center are planned to be implemented many activities with women and youth, such as courses on; English language and computer for youth while hairdressing and tailoring for women groups. Idea of this project came out as need of the communities since in these villages is evident lack of activities and general knowledge, particularly in English language, computers, tailoring, hairdressing, etc. On the long run this Center is thought to assist in decreasing unemployment because it is pretended that after completion of the tailoring and hairdressing courses, to open saloons for hairdressing and tailoring. There would be offered charged services for people living in these two villages in hairdressing as well as in tailoring which would assist in sustainability of the Communities' Center.

Project Title: Asphaltation of the road Cërcë-Trushevinë

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 10 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Cërcë-Trushevinë, Istog/Istok

Budget: 250.000 €

Project goal:

Improvement of the living conditions for communities of Cërcë and Trushevinë villages vastly inhabited with Egyptian community. This project aims to improve of infrastructural conditions in the Cërcë and Trushevinë villages that would be cross-linked with the road that sends to Istog/Istok town.

Objectives:

- Improvement of living conditions for the inhabitants currently living in the villages of Cërcë and Trushevinë
- Relief in conditions for regular attendance in the primary and secondary schools by pupils of these villages
- Increase of trust between communities living in the villages
- Connection of the villages with other ones and Istog/Istok center

Beneficiaries:

All inhabitants of Cërcë and Trushevinë villages, pupils of these villages and inhabitants of the villages around

Approach:

Under this project will be asphalted the road throughout Cërcë and Trushevinë villages which connects with Istog/Istok. The road mentioned is very damaged in particular during the fall seasons. During wintertime movement of inhabitants and children is very difficult since many muddy ravines are created. The road to be asphalted is two and a half kilometers long and five meters wide. Asphaltation of this road would be the best solution of the road problem for inhabitants of these villages.

Project Title: Building of a mini-farm and its empowerment

Sector: Economic development / Employment

Timeframe: 3 years (starting from 2009)

Place: Cërcë-Trushevinë, Istog/Istok

Budget: 100.000 €

Project goal:

Project aims to impact on development of farming and improvement of economic situation through investments in this field.

Objectives:

- Economic development through farming
- Opening of new jobs
- Support for village farmers and their empowerment

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are inhabitants of Cërcë and Trushevinë villages coming from all the communities, while the greatest beneficiaries will be from Egyptian community.

Approach:

According to this project would be built a 450 square meters space. It is thought to have a garage of 40 square meters, where would be stored work equipment, an office for the cooperative coordinator with 12 square meters and a bathroom of six square meters. This space will offer better conditions for work within the cooperative and better services for farmers of this village. Simultaneously, under this farm it is needed to be procured 20 cows and 10 calves. A tractor with the following equipment would also be required for providing relief in the works of mini-farm. Milk product will be distributed to respective collection points in order to create incomes for inhabitants and farm maintenance.

3.6 Kovragë Village

Kovragë village is inhabited with Egyptian, Albanian, Bosniac and Serbian communities. Around 200 families of these mixed communities live in the village.

Problems faced by this village are numerous: unemployment is emphasized at the highest rate; inhabitants live from primitive agriculture and social assistance. Infrastructure of the village is at the worst situation, streets are damaged, they have no drinking water and many other problems hinder lives of Kovragë village inhabitants.

Kovragë village faces problems also in the fields of education and health, since there is no local school or ambulance premises, therefore community cannot get these services within the village. Inhabitants of Kovragë get their medical services in Istog/Istok town which is 10 kilometers away. While for a part of the village education is a problem since school premises are also away, approximately three kilometers while their children need to attend classes in Llukafci i Thatë/Suvi Lukavac village.

Project Title: Road asphaltation in Kovragë

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 13 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Kovragë, Istog/Istok

Budget: 80.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims at improvement of infrastructural conditions in Kovragë village. Asphaltation of this road would give inhabitants the possibility to have better access to Gurrakoc/Djurakovac.

Objectives:

- Improvement of living conditions for the inhabitants currently living in the village
- Relief in conditions for regular attendance in the primary and secondary schools by pupils of this village
- Prevention of the traffic risks for village children

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are all inhabitants, including Albanian community living in the village. Beneficiaries will come from Roma and Egyptian communities of the village as well as primary school children frequenting this school.

Approach:

Under this project will be made possible asphaltation of the road within the village where is much damaged and it hasn't good conditions for movement, in particular by the fall seasons, since many muddy ravines are created. The road to be asphalted is one kilometer long and three meters wide. Asphaltation of this road would be the best solution of the road problem for village inhabitants.

Project Title: Medical visits for inhabitants of Kovragë village

Sector: Health

Timeframe: 1 year (starting from 2009)

Place: Kovragë, Istog/Istok

Budget: 10.000 €

Project goal:

Organizing of doctor visits for village inhabitants of Kovragë, in particular for elderly persons

Objectives:

- Increase of the medical services quality
- Adequate care for village inhabitants, in particular for elderly
- Creation of better conditions and integration of Roma and Egyptian communities in society
- Increase of the health insurance level in rural areas for everyone

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are all inhabitants of Kovragë village, with emphasis on elderly persons that do not have adequate family care.

Approach:

Organizing of weekly medical visits in the village by doctor specialists for all the inhabitants needing treatment, with aim to increase and improve health situation as well as approach of communities in institutions as well as realization of their needs.

Project Title: Reconstruction of an underpass in Kovragë village

Sector: Security

Timeframe: 2 years (starting from 2009)

Place: Kovragë, Istog/Istok

Budget: 50.000 €

Project goal:

Project aims to create security for all inhabitants, primarily for primary school pupils, by reconstruction of an underpass in Gurrakoc/Djurakovac Istog/Istok highway.

Objectives:

- Increase of security level in traffic for all inhabitants of Kovragë village and other villages around
- Creation of living conditions and prevention of traffic victims
- Increase of security level in traffic for pupils of primary school in Kovragë and villages around.

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are all inhabitants of Kovragë village as well as the inhabitants of other villages, whose children attend primary school of the village. Direct beneficiary is the school since its pupils will no longer feel endangered when crossing the street to attend school classes. This project will impact also in traffic security, since with its underpass reconstruction there will be no more victims from crossing the street.

Approach:

According to this project a modern underpass would be reconstructed, with a length of 10 and width of two meters. In both its ends staircases for entry and exit will be built. Within it enlightenment will be put to offer better conditions for pupils and inhabitants while they pass through it.

3.7 Gusar Village

Gusar village is located in the sixth kilometer of the Gurrakoc/Djurakovac - Mitrović/Mitrovica highway. It is a village with mixed communities in which live approximately 34 families, majority of them belonging to Egyptian community. Gusar village is among villages in which communities face poverty and many other problems.

Among main problems in this village are the ones dealing with economic development and extreme unemployment, education, health, while the ones regarding infrastructure are largely emphasized.

A part of the Gusar village inhabitants get more engaged in agriculture and farming, since their families come from the same, while another part live from remittances of their families living in the Western countries. Village inhabitants get their medical services in the Gurrakoc/Djurakovac or Istog/Istok ambulances, located far from Gusar.

Project Title: Road repair for Gusar village

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 2 years (starting from 2009)

Place: Gusar, Istog/Istok

Budget: 80.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims to improve living conditions for Gusar village, through repairing of the road that connects Gusar with Gurrakoc/Djurakovac - Mitrović/ Mitrovica highway. Road will also assist in improvement of the living conditions for all the village inhabitants coming from Egyptian and Albanian communities.

Objectives:

- Improvement of living conditions for communities of this area
- Relief for regular attendance of primary school by Gusar village pupils
- Increase of security level for pupils in the traffic

Beneficiaries:

All inhabitants of Gusar village, pupils of this place which attend classes in Kovragë village school

Approach:

According to the project ideas road that connects Gusar village with Gurrakoc/Djurakovac-Mitrović/ Mitrovica highway will be laid. It will be laid with asphalt to assist in improvement of living conditions for inhabitants of this village and surrounding ones. Road will be laid in a length of one kilometer and three meters wide. Repairing of the road is one of the top priorities for village community.

Project Title: Communities empowerment through hairdressing and tailoring courses

Sector: Education and Youth

Timeframe: 6 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Gusar, Istog/Istok

Budget: 5.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims to empower women and girls' groups through hairdressing and tailoring courses.

Objectives:

- Communities' professionalization through professional adequate tailoring and hairdressing courses.
- Capacity building of women and girls through courses and trainings on tailoring and hairdressing.
- Creation of better conditions for women and girls' groups through different courses.

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are groups (women and girls) between 18 and 40 years of age. At the same time direct beneficiaries will be women which have more dispositions for this field.

Approach:

According to the project, implementation of these courses will impact positively in capacity building of women and girls from the Roma and Egyptian communities in Gusar village. For ten years there was no activity implemented in the village that would contribute for the interest of communities. Gusar is one of the villages with majority of inhabitants of young age. Around 70 young live in this village while none of them had the opportunity to get engaged in some kind of activity of course. Project on hairdressing and tailoring will be organized in two different groups with different shifts, since the interest is very high from women and girls of this village which feel neglected by society. For organizing of the courses a number of conditions should be met, thus equipping them with tailoring machines and different materials for hairdressing as well as tailoring. For launching of these activities community has provided the space where it is possible to implement the project.

Project Title: Professional courses on languages and computer

Sector: Youth

Timeframe: 12 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Gusar, Istog/Istok

Budget: 12.000 €

Project goal:

To offer course for 100 young people of this village, as well advancement of Roma and Egyptian youth in society. To professionalize youth in informatics (computer) field and foreign languages (English and German) that will contribute to ease their employment.

Objectives:

- Professional qualification of youth for work
- Organizing of youth and development of youth in rural areas
- Establishment of youth center

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are young people of Gusar village, who will learn more on using computers and foreign languages, as elementary qualifications for employment. The society in general will also benefit since youth of Istog/Istok will be added one more professional cadre in the fields of informatics and foreign languages from Roma and Egyptian communities.

Approach:

Courses will be organized three times a week with two hours on computers, English and German languages. Ten computers will be procured for organizing computer course as well as books for welfare of the language courses. Youth will be divided into three groups of 20 each and each group will attend courses for four months in the row.

3.8 Istogu i Poshtëm/Donji Istok Village

Istogu i Poshtëm/Donji Istok is mainly inhabited with Egyptian and Albanian communities. It is located near Istog/Istok town. In this village live around 100 members of Egyptian community.

Though Istogu i Poshtëm/Donji Istok is located very near Istog/Istok town, communities face with a series of problems such as economic development and unemployment, since the number of village members employed in public or private institutions is very low.

A part of the families coming from Egyptian community in Istogu i Poshtëm/Donji Istok mainly live from social assistance, a part from remittances, but also families that gets their incomes from agriculture works, physical work. This locality is also has different needs, such as the ones in infrastructure, education and health.

Project Title: Road repair for Istogu i Poshtëm/Donji Istok

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 8 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Istogu i Poshtëm/Donji Istok, Istog/Istok

Budget: 30.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims to improve infrastructural conditions for Istogu i Poshtëm/Donji Istok village, through repairing of the road that connects Istogu i Poshtëm/Donji Istok with Istog/Istok road. Road will also assist in improvement of the living conditions for all the village inhabitants.

Objectives:

- Regular attendance of primary school from pupils of these villages
- Improvement of infrastructural conditions
- Increase of security level for pupils in the traffic

Beneficiaries:

All inhabitants of Istogu i Poshtëm/Donji Istok village, pupils of this zone, all inhabitants of Muzhevinë village and the road connects these two villages among each other.

Approach:

According to the project idea road will be laid with gravel to assist in improvement of infrastructural conditions for inhabitants of Istogu i Poshtëm/Donji Istok village. Road will be laid in a length 660 meters length and three meters wide. Due to hard economic conditions inhabitants of Istogu i Poshtëm/Donji Istok village don't have the possibility to participate with means, but will provide physical assistance.

Project Title: Placement of garbage containers

Sector: Health and environment

Timeframe: 6 months (starting from 2009)

Place: Istogu i Poshtëm/Donji Istok, Istog/Istok

Budget: 3.000 €

Project goal:

Project aims to create better conditions, cleaner environment and better health for all inhabitants of Istogu i Poshtëm/Donji Istok village.

Objectives:

- Placement of the garbage containers within the village
- Cleaning of the illegal garbage dumpsites
- Offering of better services for environment protection.

Beneficiaries:

Beneficiaries of this project are inhabitants of Istogu i Poshtëm/Donji Istok village coming from all communities. With implementation of this project living conditions and environment will improve.

Approach:

According to this project 5 containers would be placed within the village, while illegal dumpsites would be cleaned from the garbage. It is idea of the project to engage also the Public Service Company to offer services, cleaning of containers and garbage removal.

3.9 Banjë of Pejë/Pec

Banjë of Pejë/Pec village is mainly inhabited with Albanian, Roma and Egyptian communities. In it live around 130 members of Roma and Egyptian communities.

Inhabitants of Banjë of Pejë/Pec face with a series of problems such as economic development and unemployment, since this phenomenon is very much present in the village with almost no one employed from Roma and Egyptian communities.

Vast majority of the families coming from Egyptian and Roma communities in Banjë of Pejë/Pec live from social assistance, a part from remittances. Few inhabitants that get engaged in agriculture ensure their family incomes from it. Inhabitants of this village face problems in infrastructure, particularly in the neighborhood inhabited with Roma and Egyptians. While communities in general get their medical services in Banjë of Pejë/Pec since there is the ambulance and children attend local primary school.

Project Title: Road asphaltation in Banjë of Pejë/Pec

Sector: Infrastructure

Timeframe: 1 year (starting from 2009)

Place: Banjë of Pejë/Pec, Istog/Istok

Budget: 50.000 €

Project goal:

Project aims to improve conditions in infrastructure for Roma and Egyptian communities living in Banjë of Pejë/Pec village.

Objectives:

- Improvement of living conditions for Roma and Egyptian inhabitants
- Regular education attendance in the primary school by pupils of this neighborhood
- Increase of trust between communities living in this neighborhood inhabited by Roma and Egyptians.

Beneficiaries:

From the project will benefit inhabitants of this village, particularly Roma and Egyptian communities which live in hard infrastructural conditions. At the same beneficiaries will be also communities and families that will return from current displacement in other regional countries.

Approach:

Under this project will be asphalted the road through the neighborhood inhabited with Roma and Egyptian communities. The road to be asphalted is 600 meters long and three meters wide.

3.10 Dubravë/Dubrava village

Dubravë/Dubrava village is mainly inhabited with Albanian and Egyptian communities. In it live approximately 15 Egyptian families with around 90 members. Dubravë/Dubrava village is very specific since this village before the war it was inhabited with a large number of Egyptian families, but also with Serbian community. It is a village where the return of Egyptian communities has taken place.

Problems faced by this community are numerous. Unemployment is at its highest rate in the village, almost none of is employed. Most of the families live from primitive agriculture and social assistance.

Dubravë/Dubrava village stands better in comparison to other villages which have emphasized problems in infrastructure and lack of spaces for different activities, youth in particular.

Infrastructure in the village is satisfactory. It also has its Communities' Center, but it is not used by anyone, not even by young people, as an outcome of community non-activation in the village.

Dubravë/Dubrava village also has its primary school and ambulance which is built few years ago by different organizations that operated in this village.

Project Title: Reactivation and empowerment of communities in Dubravë/Dubrava village

Sector: Education and Youth

Timeframe: 1 year (starting from 2009)

Place: Dubravë/Dubrava, Istog/Istok

Budget: 30.000 €

Project goal:

This project aims to empower and support women and youth groups from Dubravë/Dubrava village through courses and trainings on foreign languages, hairdressing as well as hairdressing and computer basic skills.

Objectives:

- Functionalizing of Communities' Center in Dubravë/Dubrava through different activities
- Capacity building of communities' women groups through trainings on hairdressing, tailoring and computers within the Center
- Equipping youth with skill on foreign languages and computers

Beneficiaries:

All inhabitants of Dubravë/Dubrava, in particular women groups, young girls and village youth

Approach:

This project will focus on activation of Dubravë/Dubrava community and functionalizing of its Communities' Center which was not operative until now. Center has been well built and is at a good state, but what is missing is activation of community groups. Idea of this project is that young people go through courses and training on computer and language skills within the Center that would help in youth activation and better functioning of the Center. Women and young girls' groups will also have the opportunity to attend courses on hairdressing and tailoring at this Center.

It has come out as need of the communities since in the village is evident lack of activities and general knowledge, particularly in English language, computers, tailoring and hairdressing.

IV. Budget



Budget

No.	Item	Units	Duration Month	Unit cost EUR	Total EUR
1	Education and youth				140,400.00
1.1	Drejë and Oprashkë/Opraske Villages				15,400.00
1.1.1	Providing transport for pupils	1	24	641.67	15,400.00
1.2	Cërcë Village				90,000.00
1.2.1	Increase of knowledge level	1	12	7,500	90,000.00
1.3	Gusar Village				5,000.00
1.3.1	Communities empowerment through hairdressing and tailoring courses	1	6	833.33	5,000.00
1.3.2	Professional courses on languages and computer	1	12	1,000.00	12,000.00
1.4	Dubravë/Dubrava village				30,000.00
1.4.1	Reactivation and empowerment of communities in Dubravë/Dubrava village	1	12	2,500.00	30,000.00
2	Employment and economic development				1,324,500.00
2.1	Zallq Village				220,000.00
2.1.1	Road asphaltation in Zallq	1	8	21,250.00	170,000.00
2.1.2	Water supply system in Zallq	1	9	5,555.56	50,000.00
2.2	Gurrakoc/Djurakovac local community				225,000.00
2.2.1	Installment of new power station	1	12	2,083.33	25,000.00
2.2.2	Supplying of the community with equipment for agricultural development in Gurrakoc/Djurakovac	1	12	5,000.00	60,000.00
2.2.3	Building of Communities' Center in Gurrakoc/Djurakovac	1	24	5,416.67	130,000.00
2.2.4	Repairing of the road Gurrakoc/Djurakovac - Tomoc	1	6	1,666.67	10,000.00
2.3	Drejë and Oprashkë/Opraske Villages				339,500.00
2.3.1	Repair of the road Drejë-Zallq	1	4	3,000	12,000.00
2.3.2	Reconstruction of sewage system for Drejë–Oprashkë/Opraske villages	1	12	6,667	80,000.00
2.3.3	Installment of new power station	1	10	5,000	50,000.00
2.3.4	Building of an agricultural cooperative in Drejë village	1	16	10,000	160,000.00
2.3.5	Electric network repair	1	9	4,167	37,500.00
2.4	Cërcë Village				350,000.00
2.4.1	Asphaltation of the road Cërcë-Trushevinë	1	10	25,000.00	250,000.00
2.4.2	Building of a mini-farm and its empowerment	1	36	2,777.78	100,000.00
2.5	Kovragë Village				80,000.00
2.5.1	Road asphaltation in Kovragë	1	13	6,153.85	80,000.00
2.6	Gusar Village				80,000.00
2.6.1	Road repair for Gusar village	1	24	3,333.33	80,000.00
2.7	Istogu i Poshtëm/Donji Istok Village				30,000.00
2.7.1	Road repair for Istogu i Poshtëm/Donji Istok	1	8	3,750.00	30,000.00
2.7	Banjë of Pejë/Pec				50,000.00
2.7.1	Road asphaltation in Banjë of Pejë/Pec	1	12	4,166.67	50,000.00
3	Health and social issues				19,000.00
3.1	Gurrakoc/Djurakovac local community				6,000.00
3.1.1	Placement of garbage containers	1	4	1,500.00	6,000.00
3.2	Kovragë Village				10,000.00
3.2.1	Medical visits for inhabitants of Kovragë village	1	12	833.33	10,000.00
3.3	Istogu i Poshtëm/Donji Istok Village				3,000.00
3.3.1	Placement of garbage containers	1	6	500.00	3,000.00
4	Antidiscrimination, security, rights of minorities and representation				50,000.00
4.1	Kovragë Village				50,000.00
4.1.1	Reconstruction of an underpass in Kovragë village	1	24	2,083.33	50,000.00
5	Women rights				10,000.00
5.1	Gurrakoc/Djurakovac local community				10,000.00
5.1.1	Communities professionalism through professional courses	1	12	833.33	10,000.00
					0.00
	Overall Total (1+2+3+4+5+6)				1,543,900.00

Budget forecasting in this financial overview is referred only to the third part, intervention in with project in communities. Part two, under which fall initiatives and recommendation hasn't been budgeted, because strategy authors believe that such recommendation remain permanent orientations for work with the communities.

V. Photos





