

Project: "Scaling up of minorities inclusion models and strengthening of service delivery in municipal structures in the Western Balkans"

Regional conference

"Models for inclusion of minorities and vulnerable groups in the Western Balkans – Sharing of expertise and recommendations for improved policy-making"

17 - 18 January 2023 Skopje

> Ankica Kijajova Municipality of Probishtip North Macedonia

Municipal Council for Social Protection

- In 2019, the Municipality of Probishtip established a Municipal Council for Social Protection. It is a local, municipal mechanism with the goal of developing local social protection policies and measures. The Municipal Council for Social Protection is composed of representatives from the municipal administration, social and health sector, education, police, CSOs, etc.
- The Municipal Council for Social Protection is actually a counterpart of the Forum for Social Dialogue.

Social plan

- The Municipal Council for Social Protection prepared a Municipal Social Plan for the period 2022-2025. The social plan is a strategic document that identifies the problems and needs of vulnerable categories, with a focus on the needs for social services.
- Interviews with each member of the Municipal Council for Social Protection were conducted, and data were collected from all institutions in order to prepare the Social Plan (social sector, police, education, CSOs...).

Strengthening the capacities of the Municipal Council for Social Protection

• In the period 2021/2022, in cooperation with ZELS and NALAS, the Municipality of Probishtip joined several online courses through the NALAS learning platform, including the Forum for Social Dialogue course, as well as the Cluster for Social Dialogue Forum.

Strengthening the capacities of the Municipal Council for Social Protection

- It was assessed that the Municipal Social Protection Council needs to strengthened its capacities for designing and monitoring municipal social protection policies.
- Within the framework of the project *Studies and Experts Fund CEE/SEE Regional Learning for the Implementation of the Agenda 2030 in South East Europe,* implemented in cooperation with ZELS and NALAS, a two-day training was conducted for the members of the Municipal Social Protection Council.
- The goal of training was to improve the knowledge about:
- ✓ Role of the Municipal Council for Social Protection;
- ✓ Legal framework and the competences of the municipality in the field of social protection, with a focus on development of social services.
- As a subsequent activity, in 2022 the Municipality of Probishtip developed and adopted the **Rules of Procedure of the Municipal Council for Social Protection** (adopted by the Council of the Municipality).

Training for the Municipal Social Protection Council of the Municipality of Probishtip



Rules of Procedure of the Municipal Council for Social Protection

As a subsequent activity, in 2022 the Municipality of Probishtip developed and adopted the Rules of Procedure of the Municipal Council for Social Protection. **Key provisions:**

The Municipal Council for Social Protection prepares a social plan;

- Identify social problems and vulnerable groups in the municipality;
- Identify needs for development of social services;
- Initiate coordination of all relevant stakeholders working in the area of social protection in the municipality;
- Monitor the provision of social services in the municipality;
- Contributes to the development of the Municipal Annual Social Protection Program;
- Initiates the inter-municipal cooperation in the field of social protection;
- Initiates cross-border cooperation with regions from other countries in the field of social protection.

Social service provided by Municipality of Probishtip - Home services for elderly people

- The social service is provided with the support of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy.
- An inter-municipal cooperation has been established between the municipalities of Probishtip and Kratovo and the local service provider Red Cross from Probishtip.
- Target group: elderly people, old and frail people, people with chronic diseases, people with moderate and severe disabilities as well as people with limited functional capacity.

Further activities

- Thematic trainings for the Municipal Social Protection Council;
- Establishing subgroups to address particular problems to certain vulnerable groups;
- Strengthening the efforts of the Municipal Council for Social Protection to establish partnerships in order to increase the availability of social services at the local level and mobilize resources.

Thank you!

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