

# The inclusion of Roma and Egyptians in the integration programs of the Municipality of Tirana

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Specialist

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MUNICIPALITY OF TIRANA

GENERAL DIRECTORY OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DIRECTORATE OF PROTECTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL HOUSING

DIRECTORATE OF EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION

DIRECTORATE OF RECONSTRUCTION

DIRECTORATE OF LOCAL EDUCATION

DIRECTORATE OF SOCIAL CARE AND  
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MUNICIPALITY OF TIRANA

GENERAL DIRECTORY OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DIRECTORATE OF PROTECTION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

SOCIAL INCLUSION AND GENDER EQUALITY SECTOR

SOCIAL PROTECTION SECTOR

CHILDREN PROTECTION SECTOR

Specialist for national  
minorities and discrimination

Local Coordinator for  
Gender-based violence and  
Gender Equality Employee

Specialist for LGBT  
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trafficking

## Specialist for national minorities and discrimination

- Monitors and guides the process of identification and verification of persons who need support and protection, cooperating with other public service structures, in order to support individuals who are at risk of social exclusion and violence;
- Creates cooperation with local and central government bodies, for the implementation and monitoring of legislation and state policies on gender equality, violence against women, domestic violence and social inclusion, as well as programs measures to increase capacities for all actors at the local level that are engaged with issues of gender equality, domestic violence and discrimination;
- It provides an effective system of internal control for the preparation of technical administration, protection and social support of persons from marginalized, abused (in general who have experienced gender-based violence) or discriminated strata, for the information and data it has in administration;
- Assesses the needs for the preparation of the action plan and priorities by carrying out activities, polls, surveys for the education and awareness of the citizens of Tirana, on issues of violence and discrimination and interacts with actors operating in these fields;
- Prepares informative materials for the directorate, such as relations, periodical reports, surveys and other documentation on gender-based violence and discrimination.

## MUNICIPALITY OF TIRANA

Multidisciplinary Community Center

Shkoza Community Center

Being Together Community Center

Gonxhe Bojaxhiu Community Center

Shelter Community Center

Local Community Center



24 Administrative Units and 3 Neighborhoods

About 1200 Families

# Roma and Egyptians Population in Tirana Municipality

Roma and Egyptian families are identified by the social service in 17 Administrative unit

No.	Administrative unit	Families no.	Community area
1	Unit no. 1	226 Families	Shkoza and Lanabregas community
2	Unit no. 3	52 Families	Sitki Cico and Ali Baushi street
3	Unit no. 4	290 Families	Allias, Kinostrudio, 3700, Grumbullimi, Gjon Buzuku Community
4	Unit no. 5	245 Families	Selita Community
5	Unit no. 6	34 Families	Purpulitet Community
6	Unit no. 8	78 Families	Siri Kodra, Bregu Lumit, 5 Maj Community
7	Unit no. 9	32 Families	Jordan Misja street
8	Unit no. 11	111 Families	Bregu i Lumit, Instituti, Sulajt Community
9	Neighborhood no. 14	48 Families	Yzberisht community
10	Petrela Unit	31 Families	Farka bright community
11	Kashar Unit	22 Families	Katund i ri Kashar, Mëzes- Fushë Kashar Community
12	Dajti Unit	37 Families	National Transistor Center

- Other families are identified in Administrative Units no, 2, 7, 10, Vaqarr and Zall Herr, but they do not live in the community and are fewer compared to other units.

# Roma and Egyptian Local Action Plan

Approved by Decision of the Municipal Council no. 87, dated 19.10.2022 of the local action Plan for the Integration of Roma and Egyptians 2022-2024

## Justices and civil Registrations

- Providing legal assistance to the Roma and Egyptian Minority in order to solve the problems that prevent them from accessing the civil status service.
- Capacity building for identifying Roma and Egyptians at risk of trafficking/exploitation as well as referral, protection and reintegration of trafficked/exploited cases.

## Education

- Quality, inclusive and equal education for Roma and Egyptians at all educational levels.
- Roma and Egyptian cultural heritage as a value of Albanian cultural heritage

## Anti- Racism

- Increasing awareness of R&E and the general public about their rights, as an integral part of Albanian society

## Housing

- Improvement of the conditions in the existing housing of the Roma and Egyptian minorities • Improving access to include Roma and Egyptians in social housing programmes

## Employment

- Promoting the employment of Roma and Egyptians through employment promotion programs • Promotion of (social) entrepreneurship and self-employment of Roma and Egyptians.

## Social Protection

- Inclusion of Roma and Egyptians in social protection programs • Strengthening the protection mechanism for cases at risk of exploitation and/or trafficking. • Increased access of Roma and Egyptians to social care services.

## Health

- Increasing awareness and access to health services for members of the Roma and Egyptian minorities • Improving the quality of health services received by members of the Roma and Egyptian minorities



# Inclusion and Support in Education



- No registration and attendance fees in kindergarten. (216 children benefited in 2021).
- Free transportation for attending the educational system. (35 children benefited in 2021).
- Scholarship for attending vocational secondary education. (83 Scholarships from 2016-2021).
- Anti-illiteracy courses for adults (50 Roma & Egyptian beneficiaries)
- Beneficiaries of daily services as well as those who do homework in community centers (285 Roma & Egyptian children )
- Assisted children to register in the education system (148 Roma & Egyptian children )



# Inclusion and Support in Housing



- Beneficiaries of the Low Cost Social Housing Program. (106 Roma & Egyptian Families)

- Beneficiaries of the Housing Bonus Program (35 Roma & Egyptian Families)



Lanabregas Social Housing

- Beneficiaries of the Loan Interest Subsidy Program (4 Roma and Egyptian Families)

- Beneficiaries of housing built for Roma and Egyptian families in Shkoza and Lanabregas (120 families)



Shkoza Social Housing

- Information and/or inclusion in social housing and reconstruction programs (82 families in 2021)



# Inclusion and Support in Employment



Tregu Selitës



Tregu Shkozës



- The opening of markets in Shkoza and Selitë and self-employment for Roma and Egyptians. (207 self-employed without taxes for one year)
- Employment in the collection of recyclable waste (54 Roma and Egyptians)
- Fund for the support of women entrepreneurs (6 beneficiaries and 4 employed in these businesses)
- Information sessions to be included in professional training courses and business grants. (22 young for Professional Training Course and 17 girls and women for grants)
- Job seekers interviewed and referred for work in private businesses (716 of which 163 are Roma and Egyptian)





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# Protection and Promoting Cultural Value



First Roma Monument



Roma Resistance  
Symbol



24 June, activity of  
GBCC



24 June activity of  
BTCC



8 April, activity of  
SHCC



8 April, activity of  
MCC



8 April, activity of  
GBCC

- The First Roma monument, skillfully designed by the artist Sead Kazanxhiu, in the yard of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, when the current mayor was a minister.
- Installation of the Symbol of May 16, the Day of Roma Resistance in the Autchvitci camps, on the facade of a building on "Bajram Curri" boulevard
- Day of the Egyptian Community, the activity of June 24, at the "Gonxhe Bojaxhiu" Community Center
- The approval of the name of Professor Marcel Couthiade in one of the streets populated by Roma
- Roma Community Day, activities on April 8, in the Community Centers of Tirana Municipality



# Protection and Promoting Cultural Value

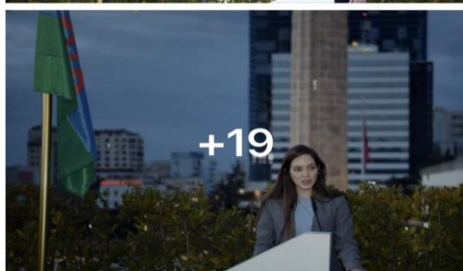


Anisa Ruseti

10 Apr 2022 •

Tirana European Youth Capital 2022 u përket të gjithëve.

Kënaqësi e veçantë të dëgjoje historitë e suksesit të të rinjve të komunitetit rom të cilët falë vullnetit dhe aftësive të tyre sot janë shëmbuj për tu ndjekur nga shumë të rinj të tjerë.





# Protection and Support for Covid-19 Situation



Support from the adopt a grandparent initiative, (3654 elderly people were supported with food, shopping, medicines, etc.)

- Frequent disinfection of Roma and Egyptian settlements in Yzberisht, Shkoza, Lanabregas, etc.

- Support with food packages for Roma and Egyptian families (2950 packages, only in the period March-April 2020)

- Reports of being affected by the covid-19 virus in communities with Roma and Egyptian populations. (1 case of the Roma community)





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# Protection and Inclusion in Social Care Programs



New child protection management cases (102 Roma & Egyptian cases for 2020 and 71 for 2021)

- Roma and Egyptian families benefiting from the social assistance scheme (288 families in Economic Aid and 152 disability payments)
- The establishment of the "Shelter Tirana" Community Center for sheltering the lonely and homeless . (26 persons sheltered in total 3 out of whom are from Roma & Egyptian minorities)
- The establishment of the Local Community Center for the identification of individuals in street situations. (161 Roma and Egyptian)



## Awarded “Most Roma-Friendly Mayor”



For his great dedication and paying special attention to solving the problems of the Roma community, the Mayor of Tirana in 2018 was awarded the "Most Roma-Friendly Mayor" award.

# Minority Commissioner Project (Problems)

- Low number of Roma and Egyptian families included in the housing program;
- Low number of Roma and Egyptians employed in formal jobs;
- No Roma or Egyptian employed in the Community Centers of Tirana Municipality;
- High number of Roma and Egyptian children who do not attend the education system;
- Low number of Roma and Egyptians receiving scholarships for attending vocational secondary education;
- High number of Roma and Egyptians that are in street situation;
- High number of Roma and Egyptians that are not informed about local social care programs;

# Minority Commissioner Project (Objectives)

- Informing 200 Roma and Egyptians about social protection programs and the facilities created by local legislation for the inclusion of members of these minorities;
- Informing 100 citizens to report cases of children and adults in street situations to social care institutions;
- Creating opportunities for community center employees with tools that serve to improve work for the Roma and Egyptian minority;

# Minority Commissioner Project (Activities)

- Four meetings in community centers for the informal education of Roma and Egyptian women to be included in the social programs of housing, education, employment and professional skills;
- - Presentation on the importance of education and professional education;
- - Social housing programs and procedures for inclusion in them;
- - Employment programs and procedures for inclusion in them;
- - Local Social Care Programs and Services that offer Community Center;
- Informing citizens with a brochure to report cases of children and adults in street situations to social care institutions
- Delivery of materials to the community centers of the municipality of Tirana for the improvement of service towards Roma and Egyptians

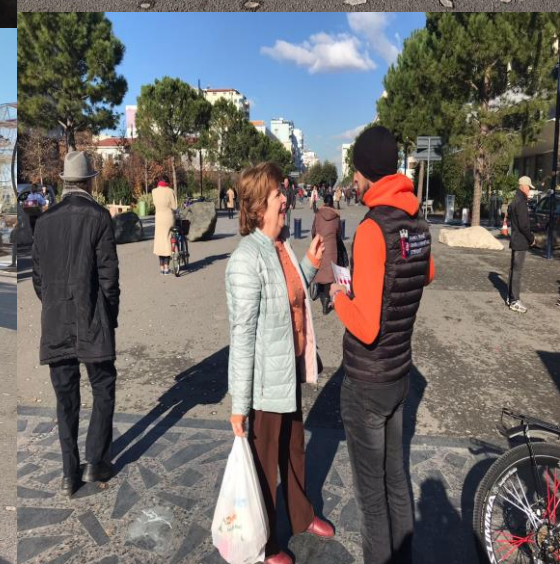
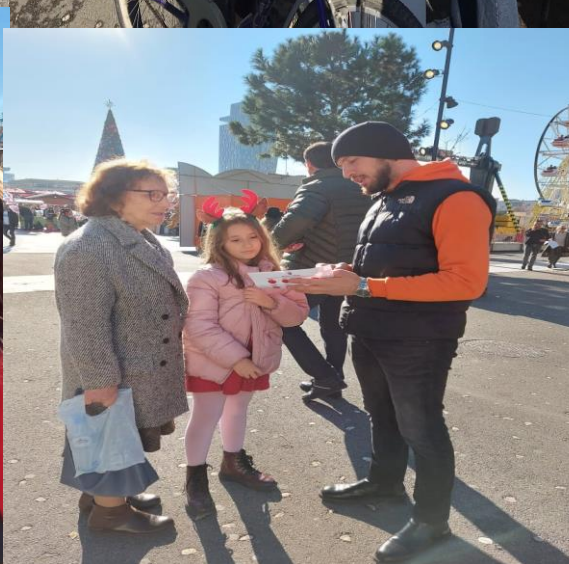
# Minority Commissioner Project (Results)

- 158 Roma and Egyptian Citizens are informed about local social programs
- 100 citizens are informed for reporting children and adults in street situations to the local institutions that protect them;
- Four community center take material support for working to raise database, follow up cases, in order to have a better view of the needs and requirements, and to use them in further consultations and policy making process.

Categories	The year 2022						
	Total	SHCC	MCC	BTCC	GBCC	SHELTER CC	LCC
Total Beneficiary Based on Files	1621	467	280	173	504	30	167
Roma Citizens	441	275	5	2	117	9	33
Egyptians Citizens	298	65	42	3	153	11	24
Number of employees	88	14	3+9	6	23	5	28
Roma Citizens	20	4	2	4	7	2	1
Egyptians Citizens	35	0	3+7	2	16	3	4



# Minority Commissioner Project (Activities)





# Minority Commissioner Project (Activities)

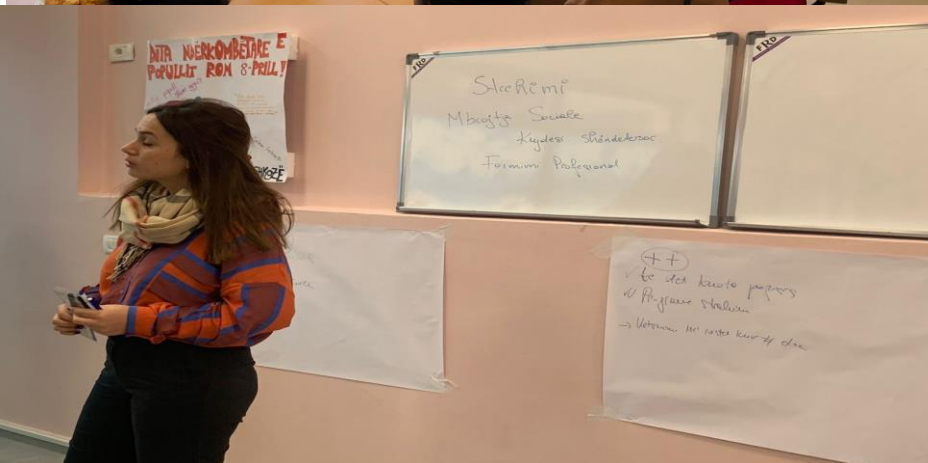






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# Minority Commissioner Project (Activities)







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# Minority Commissioner Project (Activities)





# Minority Commissioner Project (Activities)





# Objectives for 2022-2024



- Increasing the number of Roma and Egyptian employees in the Public Administration
- Support to encourage and motivate Roma and Egyptian children to attend the education system. (Offering scholarships for children who do not attend school for economic reasons)
- Reduction of local taxes to the extent of 50% for businesses established by Roma and Egyptians and for those businesses that employ a significant number of Roma and Egyptians.
- Creation of facilities for the transfer of civil status for Roma and Egyptian families living in informal settlements
- Improvement of housing conditions through the application to the ministry's grant for housing reconstruction
- Promotion of the Historical and Cultural Elements of the Roma and Egyptian Communities