



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

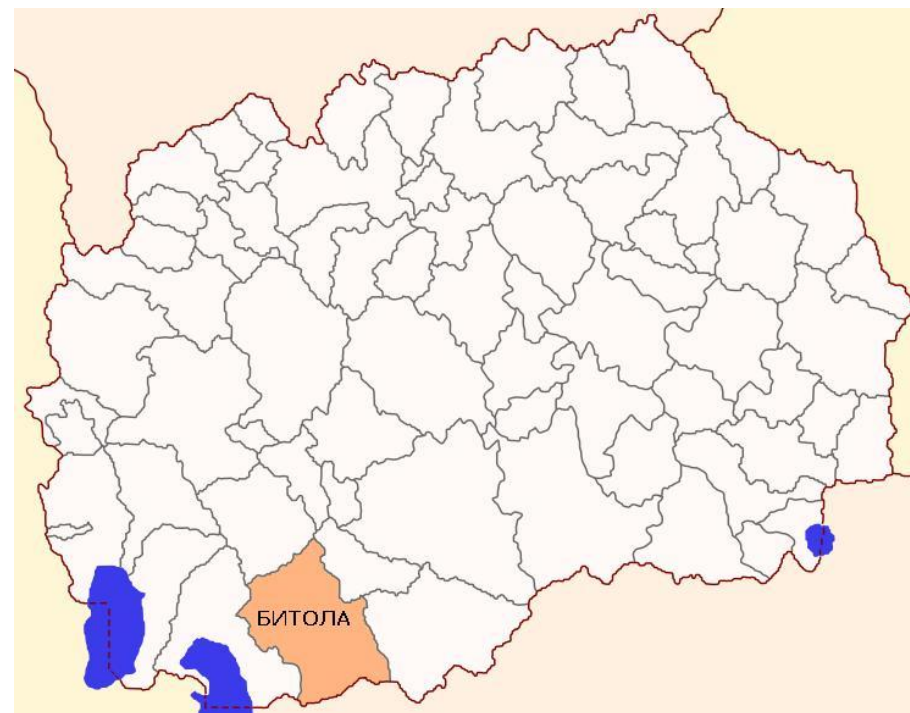
**Regional conference**  
**“Models for inclusion of minorities and vulnerable groups in the Western Balkans – Sharing of expertise and recommendations for improved policy-making”**

17 - 18 January 2023  
Skopje

**Simona Joveska**  
**Municipality of Bitola**  
**North Macedonia**

# Municipality of Bitola - "City of Consuls"

- The Bitola Municipality is composed of the City of Bitola and 65 surrounding villages.
- Population of 85,164 citizens, of which 5,141 are disabled.



# Institutional framework for social protection at local level

- **Social Services Adviser for Vulnerable Groups** (Department for public affairs)
- **Municipal Social Protection Council** is a local mechanism (**municipal advisory body**) composed of representatives of the social and health sectors, education, justice and police, CSOs and religious institutions.
- **Commission for public affairs** (part of the Municipal Council as a decision-making body).

# Legal Framework and Municipal Acts

- Law on local self-government;
- Law on Social Protection (2019);
- **Municipal Social Plan** (strategic document in the social protection area);
- **Annual Municipal Social Protection Program** (annual document);

# Members of the Municipal Social Protection Council

## **Members of the Municipal Social Protection Council:**

- Municipal administration
- Center for social work
- Police
- Public prosecution
- Health
- Educational institutions
- Employment Agency
- CSOs
- Religious institutions
- Urban communities

Municipal Social Protection Council prepared a Municipal Social Plan for the period 2021-2024 as a strategic document that identifies the social problems and needs of vulnerable groups as well as the need for social services .

# Participation in capacity building activities

- In the period 2021/2022, in cooperation with ZELS and NALAS, the Municipality of Bitola has participated in:
- All online courses through the NALAS learning platform;
- Cluster for Awareness Raising;
- In 2021, a **social mapping methodology aiming at identifying the problems and the needs of persons with disabilities** was conducted.

# Achieved results

- Key findings of the Social Mapping were promoted among the Members of the Municipal Social Protection Council;
- Revision of the Social Plan (strategic document) in line with the key recommendations from the Social Mapping;
- Upgrading the Municipal Social Protection Program;
- Allocation of budget for the respective measures;
- An increase in local social services and municipal measures for vulnerable groups.

# Activities of the Municipal Council for Social Protection

- Participated in capacity building activities, both nationally and internationally;
- Delivered Trainings for relevant local stakeholders (educational institutions, service providers etc.);
- Conducted Awareness Raising activities (workshops, flyers, social media campaign);
- Conducted Social Prevention Activities.



# Municipal Social Protection Council participated in capacity building activities



Human Rights Based Approach Training, International Center for Local Democracy, Turkey, 2022

# Key findings of Social Mapping of persons with disabilities promoted among the Members of the Municipal Council for Social protection



Bitola, April, 2022

# Further activities

- Further increasing the capacities of the Municipal Social Protection Council;
- Increasing the availability of a community-based services for vulnerable groups;
- Social prevention;
- Social inclusion of vulnerable groups;
- Awareness raising;
- Alignment of local policies and developing a monitoring system in line with the SDGs and Agenda 2030;
- Strengthening cooperation with relevant local stakeholders.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!



**Simona Joveska - Counselor for social services for vulnerable groups**

Municipality of Bitola

071 385 682

[simonajoveska132@gmail.com](mailto:simonajoveska132@gmail.com)