



PROJECT FACTSHEET

Embassy of Switzerland in Albania

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR ROMA CHILDREN



Roma children learning and playing in summer camps organised by Swiss-funded Alternated Education and Vocational Training project. ©J. Benzenberg

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Providing social and educational services

Roma children have been enrolled into schools, drop-out rates have fallen and number of children who pursue education and vocations has increased in the four areas where the project works. The project identified and then registered Roma children into public schools, supported them in homework and extra curriculum activities, created summer camps where Roma and non-Roma children mingle, play and learn together, raised capacities and awareness of schools, teachers and local authorities on the needs of this community.

Developing social care capacities

Local authorities in the municipalities of Tirana, Elbasan, Berat and Korçë were introduced to instruments and skills on providing social care to Roma communities. Meetings, roundtables and consultations were held with local government representatives to determine how they can inherit the services hitherto provided by the project, and continue to offer them.

Inclusion of Roma into the job market

The school-to-work transition and labour market insertion for Roma youngsters have been supported. Furthermore, specific coaching for employment schemes for Roma families were developed and implemented.

Albania's social safety net has to be strengthened to address the conditions faced by marginalised groups, in particular the Roma. The project integrates Roma children into the education system, provides tools and skills to local social care services, and documents best cases of social inclusion for further replication.

The Alternated Education and Vocational Training (CEFA) Project has contributed to further inclusion of Roma children into the mainstream educational system in Albania. It has also impacted the economic standing of Roma families by introducing vocational and employment opportunities and encouraging better social care services from authorities in four municipalities.

BACKGROUND

Roma communities in Albania have a high risk of social exclusion. At the same time improving social inclusion of marginalised groups is one of the 12 key requirements for the country's membership to the European Union. Switzerland as a supporter of reforms in decentralisation and integrated social services and with a long-standing and recognised experience at the local level is well positioned to support this effort.

RESULTS

- Access of Roma children to schools increased by 40% in four project locations compared to 2012.
- Drop-out rates decreased by 60% compared to 2013 whereas the national average decrease was 8%. In several communities in Tirana and Korçë the drop-out rate is zero.
- The project informed and educated via extracurricular activities over 2'000 individuals.
- Access to vocational education for over 300 Roma individuals as well as provision of economic development opportunities with micro credits for more than 400 Roma families has been facilitated.

RESULTS FROM PREVIOUS PHASES:

- Increased enrollment of drop-out Roma children into schools.
- Better integration of Roma children into the mainstream society and mingling with non-Roma children.
- Raised capacities of the local implementing partner NPF and local social service providers in Tirana, Elbasan, Berat and Korçë.
- Broken poverty circle of Roma families through economic initiatives and facilitation of vocational educational and training.
- Improved perception of Roma in the four regions.

CONTACT

Embassy of Switzerland in Albania
Rruga "Ibrahim Rugova", Nr. 3/1
1019 Tirana
Albania

THE PROJECT IN BRIEF

NAME

Alternated Education and Vocational Training Project

THEME

Social Inclusion

COUNTRY

Albania

PARTNERS

Ndihmë për Fëmijët NPF (implementation)
Municipalities of Tirana, Elbasan, Berat, and Korçë

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Increase social inclusion and reduce poverty and marginalisation of Roma people in Albania

TARGET GROUPS

Roma communities, families and children

PHASE DURATION

November 2012 – October 2016

PHASE BUDGET

CHF 2'250'000

FUNDING

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)