

# Addressing the problems of persons without document and access to right

**Roma Active Albania**



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Roma Active Albania was established in April 2006, aiming to contribute in the empowerment and mobilisation of Roma, in order to bring them together in a Roma grassroots movement, that can change the position of Roma and fight against exclusionary mechanisms.

- RAA (Roma Active Albania) is founding member of ERGO-network
- RAA (Roma Active Albania) is “Decade Watch” for Albania
- RAA (Roma Active Albania) is founding member “TernYpe”

## ***EXPERIENCE & ACTIVITIES***

- **“Empowering Roma Voice”** 2006-2010 (Tiranë, Korçë, Fier, Elbasan, Pogradec, Vlorë, Lezhë, Durrës), is a past experience transferred in:
- **“Thank you Mr. Mayor! Local partnership for Roma inclusion”** an awareness rising campaign that aims to advocate for the rights of Roma minority, in order to create civic equality and concrete strategies at local and national level for Roma inclusion. This is a part of the international campaign REACT – make Europe an equal place for Roma.
- **“Empowering the national network of Roma organisations”** January – September 2011, financed by Open Society Foundation in Albania, aiming the establishment and empowerment of the network of Roma NGO. Thus unifying the position and attitudes, and increasing the efficiency of Roma NGOs’ activities.
- **“Civil registration of Roma minority”** a consultancy/assistance project, providing assistance in the civil registration for Roma people, at local offices

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# Political agenda on Roma in Albania

- National Strategy on Improvement of Living Conditions of Roma minority
  - 2010-2015 Action Plan of “Roma Decade”
  - Priority for Albania in the frame of negotiations for Albania accession in EU
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# Activities

RAA activities are focused on:

- Advocacy and lobby, improving access at local level
- Youth peer to peer changing attitudes of society toward Roma
- Empowerment of Roma women in Albania, through self-improvement and networking
- Increasing the effectiveness of Roma NGOs by networking and unifying the attitudes



# Local advocacy

- Local Advocacy is based on:
  - Capacity building of local activists.
  - Campaigning.
  - Training methods & techniques: monitoring & evaluation of local policies.
  - Define quick scan format & planning.
  - Regional workshops in: Fier, Korca, Berat, Vlora, and Elbasan
  - **Monitoring of policies and situation (e.g. monitoring of CENSUS)**
    - **Identification of beneficiaries and priorities**
    - **Assessment of access to services**

# Monitoring of policies and situations

- Reports that covers; Municipalities, NGO-s, Prefecture.
  - Description of the situation.
  - Mini-study.
  
- Mobilization of grassroots in the process (monitoring carried out by Roma professionals).
  
- Addressing the findings & solutions in a professional way.
  - Roma youth congress.
  - Round tables at high level meetings with EU countries ambassadors.
  - National activities involving the crucial stakeholders.
  - Concrete projects.

# Local advocacy





# What we have noticed?

- Roma communities do not have full access to civil registration.
  - Situation unknown to service providers (needs and reality)
  - Procedures are complex and difficult to follow
  - The Roma people face difficulties in the written language
  - Lack of clear actions that provide services suited to the needs of the communities
  - Absence of funds in implementing effective measures in registering Roma people
- Lack of coordination and information sharing at central, local & regional level (information database on civil registration)
- Low awareness of the public administration, justice and public order bodies, toward **standards of Human Rights, especially toward policies and laws for the Human Rights and protection of minorities**

# Recommendations

- Collection and elaboration of data that allows to focus the interventions and adaption of the Civil registration procedures. The data can provide monitoring floor and have to be accessible to the public. It can lead to improvements on the procedures of civil registration for specific cases (e. g. registration of Roma children born abroad).
- Development of a methodology that ensures exact and reliable information, involving Roma NGOs or Individuals who can contribute to this issue.
- The local government units must foresee the necessary finances for the implementation of measures that facilitate the civil registration of Roma people, focusing on the specific needs of each community.

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# Recommendations

- Rising awareness and capacities of the civil servants working with Roma, along with rising awareness in the public administration, and law enforcement entities.
- Inclusion of Roma in providing field information at local level.
- Encouraging antidiscrimination measures at large scale, and creation of sympathy in delivering civil services to marginalized groups, in this case to Roma people.

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Roma Active Albania,

Thank you!