

Conference

on addressing the problems of persons
without documents and access to rights

The role of Civil Society

Civil Rights Program in Kosovo
CRP/K

Skopje, April 11-12, 2012



Civil Rights Program in Kosovo CRP/K

- Human rights-based NGO
- Free legal assistance, information and counseling
- UNHCR implementing partner in legal protection programs



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Implementation of UNHCR Civil Registration Project

- In 2006, UNHCR estimation – up to 40% of RAE unregistered!
- In 2007 and 2008, project supported by US BPRM
- In 2009 & 2010, regional project supported by EC
- From 2011, within UNHCR II Pillar

Results achieved

- since 2007, over 14,000 Kosovo RAE individuals obtained civil status documents through the regular, subsequent or re-registration procedures
- More than 50% of them are RAE women and girls

Results achieved

Outreach activities 2009 - 2011

Access to rights

- Legal assistance 1964 (with 3169 requests)
- Legal Advice – 1843
- Face to face meetings – 2325 families with 9702 individuals



Results achieved

Public Information activities

- Posters, leaflets, brochures
- TV documentaries
- TV sports

Results achieved

Advocacy activities

- MoU with 26 Municipalities
- Meetings, seminars, workshops with central and municipal official – unification of different practices in implementation of positive legislation
- Legislation working groups

Legislation reform

New Civil Status Law - approved 2011

- enables asylum seekers, refugees, stateless persons and foreigners to register all life events in the civil status registries of Kosovo
- Includes 1954 Convention definition of a stateless person



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Legislation reform

Bylaw – Administrative Instruction for implementation of the Law – January 2012

- provides flexible criteria for late registration for persons that are unable to offer any evidence
- only requirements are fingerprints, photography; signature; statements of two witnesses and payment receipt that proves the paid fine

Legislation reform

- the introduction of compulsory fines
- negative impact particularly on vulnerable members of RAE communities, who are unable to cover such expenses
- In February 2012, UNHCR letter to MiA Minister with request for exempting RAE from payment of fine for late registration
- MIA's Civil Registration Agency positive respond – circular letter *to levy fines for late registrations (birth and death) in respect of the Kosovo RAE communities*. The Circular took into consideration the relevant recommendations of the **Zagreb Declaration of October 2011** and may be regarded as a model of affirmative action in favour of the RAE community in the region.

Current situation

- About 10% of RAE still in need for civil (status) registration in Kosovo



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Thank you for your attention!



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