

**CONFERENCE FOR EMPLOYMENT**

**DECENT WORK FOR  
ROMA**

**1 - 2 DECEMBER**

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**ALBANIA**

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# ACTIVE AND PASSIVE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS FOR ROMA COMMUNITY

- Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities has taken concrete initiatives to develop policies for encouraging and facilitating the Roma community, in order to promote their employment and training, retraining and their integration into the labor market.
- This policy has always been a priority in the implementation of the objectives of the National Strategy "Improving the Living Conditions of Roma."

# ACTIVE AND PASSIVE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS FOR ROMA COMMUNITY

- In the Republic of Albania exercise their activity in the field of employment services, 36 employment offices under the administrative division of the country, 12 regional employment offices are accommodated in each district and 24 are local employment offices which are located at the district level.
- Public Employment Service in Albania according to its mission is providing employment services, job mediation for two main clients, business and jobseekers.

# ACTIVE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

**I. Employment promotion programs are active** state programs that operate directly in the group of unemployed job seekers to encourage them to find a long-term employment. These programs, along with recruitment program really impact on reducing the number of registered unemployed and their removal from passive income support (unemployment payments and financial assistance).

# EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION PROGRAMS

Currently the Employment Offices apply these programs to promote employment:

- The program encouraging the employment of unemployed people in difficulty".
- The Program On the employment of unemployed job seekers through job training.
- The program for the amount of funding, criteria and procedures for implementation of the apprenticeship programs for unemployed, who have completed higher education, inside or outside the country“.

# EMPLOYMENT PROMOTION PROGRAMS

- In employment promotion programs during 2010 are included **1757 unemployed** jobseekers, **26%** of which were from the Roma community.
- For the year 2011 on employment promotion programs are included in total **1170 unemployed** jobseekers, **40%** of which are from vulnerable groups, which is part also the Roma community.

# VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

- Vocational training is an active labor market program, which is implemented through the regional directorates of public vocational training.
- In Albania, we have 10 regional director of public vocational training in the main cities.
- In these public vocational training centers we offer short term courses, mainly for unemployed registered at employment offices, but also for others, who want this service, aiming their integration and reintegration into the labor market. For specific categories and groups we have a favorable policy, which means for the unemployed registered in employment offices we apply reduction of 50% of fees and for special groups (including Roma community) the courses are free of charge.

# VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

- About 150 persons a year from the Roma community in the country, are trained in public VT centers in professions, as tailoring hairdressing, cooking, installation of solar panels, autoservis, plumbers , etc.
- A good job has made by UNDP project "Strengthening Communities in Need", which supports the Roma living in Tirana, Elbasan and Fier, through the implementation of small infrastructure projects, civil registration, training courses, community intermediaries, preparation of National Decade of Roma Inclusion, and by promoting social inclusion.



# VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

- The project has supported 85 individuals Roma and Egyptians (24 of them from Elbasan) to attend professional courses and increasing their opportunities for employment.
- Also, "Save the Children", is working in Albania since 2008 with the "inclusive education, focusing on Roma / Gypsy children". One priority is to provide opportunities for vocational training (through collaborations with public VT centers) for young Roma / Egyptian, to integrate them into the labor market.

# PASSIVE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

Passive employment programs are those of income support from the state budget:

- Unemployment benefit;
- Economic aid.

# THE SITUATION OF UNEMPLOYED ROMA JOB SEEKERS

During the period January - November 2011 "the situation is as below:

The number of unemployed Roma job seekers, registered at the respective offices of employment, who have benefited from various services offered by employment services staff from these offices nationwide, is **7.416 persons** (almost 5% of the total registered unemployed job seekers at national level), from which **3788 are women**. Mainly are in the city of Tirana (38%) and others are in Elbasan, Durrës, Korça, Lezha, etc .

# THE SITUATION OF UNEMPLOYED ROMA JOB SEEKERS

- Regarding classification by level of education, 45% are with primary education, 49% are with basic education (9-years), and 6% are with higher education.
- Divided by age group predominate (about 46% of total) those over 40 and 50 years. They are characterized by the long time of their stay in the lists of unemployed, the "passivity" that mainly characterizes jobseekers coming from the passive schemes income support (social assistance and unemployment benefit) who refuse employment or training. This passivity is justified by the lack of transparency of their employment in an irregular manner in the informal labor market.

- **In any case, I had rather to indicate that:**
- **An important step is the identification of professions that can be learned by roma people; the opening of the vocational training courses for the identified professions in the public vocational training centres.**
- **Establishment of relations with the unemployed roma people by the employment offices, not only with those who are registered these offices.**

- **Also the application of the policies that foresee facilitations for the companies hiring roma people aims: the possibility of financing the companies where employers and employees are from the roma community; the creation of fiscal facilities for the companies, who create new working places for the roma people and support with materials, premises, financial means and human resources for those businesses focused on roma tradition products.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION

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