



Project is funded
by European Union



IRIS Network

SMALL GRANTS FACILITY PROGRAMME







ABOUT IRIS NETWORK

What is IRIS Network?

Founded in 2012, IRIS Network is the unique regional network that brings together CSOs social service providers in SEE. The Network is based on vision of equal rights and opportunities for decent living for all. It is created to ensure the social inclusion by enabling the environment for the provision of high quality services trough support to the developmental policies focused. Also, important part of Networks' mission is to support the national members and decision makers in creation of developmental policies, lobbying and advocacy focused on ensuring access to quality services. Since 2014, IRIS Network has seven national secretariats SEE.

IRIS in numbers

7 national networks

in Bosnia and Herzegovina,
Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro,
Kosovo, FYROM and Albania



150+

organizations from
SEE region are
connected along with
having their capacities
enriched thru provided
social services;



10 000

beneficiaries are provided necessary
social and health services each day
by our member organizations;



500+

decision makers
and stakeholders
from civil and public
sector attended our
national events

36

grass root projects
have been supported,
focusing on improving
social services on the
local level



SMALL GRANTS FACILITY PROGRAMME OF THE IRIS NETWORK

IRIS Network has conducted the Small Grant Facility (SGF) Programme, through which 13 local initiatives for long-term improvement of social services provision and delivery were supported in Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia. Grants in amount up to € 5,000.00 were awarded to IRIS Network members in order to strengthen their organizational, communicational and advocating capacities as well as to assist the grantees in delivery of appropriate services for various vulnerable groups in their countries.

The assessment criteria of the Programme were based the following objectives:

- » **Main goals** of the project proposals had to include the development of sustainable mechanisms of standardization and quality improvement of existing social services and/or creation of the framework for appropriate services delivery where that is missing.
- » **Active participation** of the representatives of target beneficiary groups and the public in foreseen activities and discussions was required, as well as their involvement in the process of local policies development. Local and grass root advocacy initiatives were prioritized.
- » **Analysis, advocacy and monitoring of social sector reforms** at regional and local levels were even a precondition for applying. The grantees also had to be located in the target countries, publicly recognized and independent from the government.



After carefully conducted process of selection, and there were numerous applications, the Small Grants were awarded to:

Beneficiary(ies):	Action Title	Action Location
Association Euro Rom	"Development of Local Action Plans for Effective Social Inclusion of Roma"	Bosnia & Herzegovina
Institute of Romani Culture in Albania	"Advocating for Social Service Delivery by CSOs at Local Level in Albania"	Albania
Partnerë për Fëmijët	"Strengthening Citizenship and Advocacy with Persons with Disabilities"	Albania
Association "Women from Una",	"Local Partnership for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women"	Bosnia & Herzegovina
CAZAS	"Health up – Contribution of Civil Society Organizations to Achieving a Proactive and Dynamic Influence on Decision Making Processes in the Area of Social and Health Policy"	Montenegro
Association of Gerontologist of the City of Bijeljina	"Living with Dignity to the Very End"	Bosnia & Herzegovina
Association of Social Workers of the City of Skopje	"Local, but Vocal!"	FYROM
National Association Education for Life (Shoqata Kombetare Edukim per Jeten)	"From Alternative Training to Better Job Opportunities: A New Approach to Vulnerable Youth"	Albania
Beyond the Rainbow	"Empower Women Equality"	Kosovo
Mus-e Kosova	"Artistic Values to Be Recognized"	Kosovo
Poraka Nasa	"Advocacy Research Tool: Early Adaptive Physical Education and Socialization for Ages 4-7"	FYROM
Association of people with cerebral paralysis "Will for life"	"Equal Chances"	Serbia
Association of Parents of Children and Youth with Disabilities Presevo	"I Also Have the Right to Work"	Serbia

All of the projects have been implemented for six months. Is that period long enough to create and insure the actual changes in the social environment? Find the conclusion within the following reviews of results!



Better life for Roma in Tuzla Canton

Roma people in 6 municipalities of Tuzla Canton in Bosnia and Herzegovina are supported and provided with strategic and action framework for improvement of their life conditions in the future. This significant prosperity is result of successful implementation of the Project **“Development of Local action plans for effective social inclusion of Roma”**, conducted by the IRIS Network member – the **Association Euro Rom**.

City of Tuzla and 5 surrounding municipalities – Zivinice, Lukavac, Srebrenik, Celic and Kalesija, are home to approximately 15.000 Roma (app 20% of total Roma population in B&H). Their representatives finally have access to decision makers' positions. The inclusion process, still uncompleted, now has the official support of the institutions. This strengthens the guarantee of its accomplishment and better life conditions for Roma in future, in terms of housing, education, employment and health.

Project was supported by Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees B&H, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Tuzla Canton, Ministry of Interior TC, City Council of Tuzla and Commission for National Minority Rights Protection.

#VulnerableGroups #AlternativeTrainingApproach
#JobProvision #ImprovingSkills #Support

Improving Social Services for Roma in Fier District

In order to insure the rights and improve life conditions of Roma minority in district of Fier in Albania, the **Institute of Romani Culture in Albania** has implemented Project **"Advocating for Social Service Delivery by CSOs at Local Level in Albania"**. About 500 people benefited from the project activities in 8 areas of Fier region.

The Project has insured the adoption of the Local Action Plan of Integration of Roma Communities by the local authorities, as well as budget allocation for the foreseen actions. The group of final beneficiaries doesn't include just the linguistic Roma population, but also the other citizens of Municipality of Fier and CSOs involved in provision and delivery of social services for Roma – their capacities for lobbying and advocating are significantly increased.

Representatives of Roma community participated in development of Action Plan for social integration of Roma and contributed to strategic planning of activities' implementation. This will insure the effectiveness of Action Plan and give Roma people power to influence on the practical policies of their concern at the local level.

#Roma #SocialInclusion
#Advocacy #ActiveParticipation
#CapacityBuilding



When it Concerns Them – They Have a Say

Within the Project **"Strengthening Citizenship and Advocacy with Persons with Disabilities"**, 35 youth with disabilities and 100 members of their families were empowered to lobby for their rights improvement through negotiations with local governments in 2 target municipalities in Albania. Project was funded through Small Grants Programme of IRIS Network and has been successfully implemented by IRIS' partner **Partnere per Femijet**, assisted by **NGO MEDPAK**.

For the very first time, disabled citizens of Librazhd and Perrënjës had the opportunity to participate in development of long-term action plan of social services provision, based on their real needs. The strategy was created in coordination with project staff and local authorities. It was preceded by trainings which prepared beneficiaries for development of questionnaires, households' needs survey and selection of priorities which were to be included in the action plan.

The trainings also helped the beneficiaries to enhance their capacities, in order to improve social environment for services provision.

#PWD #VulnerableYouth #StrengtheningCitizenship
#ActionPlanDevelopment



“Safe from Fear, Safe from Violence”

Awareness raising campaign, conducted through the Project **“Local partnership for preventing and combating violence against women”**, targeted more than 700 women, including real and potential victims of domestic violence in Una-Sana Canton (USC). Thanks to the efforts of the IRIS Network partners – NGO **Women from Una** and **Foundation LARA**, the numerous cases of violence against women are finally visible for institution – the necessity of the sustainable protection mechanism creation is prioritized.

The Campaign was supported by Ministry for Health of USC, Office for free law help providing of USC, Coordination Committee for gender equalities of USC and 8 non-government organizations of the minority protection sector. Round table discussions organized within the campaign have reflected the necessity of more intensive cooperation between institution and NGO sector and highlighted the importance of creating a long-term strategy of violence prevention on national level. The mechanisms which are to be developed in the future will be lined up with the Istanbul Convention.

[#Women](#) [#DomesticViolencePrevention](#) [#PolicyPapers](#) [#IstanbulConvention](#) [#Standardization](#)

Health Up!

Non-governmental organizations **CAZAS** and **Montenegrin HIV Foundation** have successfully implemented the Project **“Health Up – Contribution of civil society organizations to the achievement of proactive and dynamic influence on decision making processes in the area of social and health policy”**, within the Small Grants Facility Programme of the IRIS Network.

CSOs social and health services’ providers in Montenegro are encouraged and supported in taking more active participation in analysis, monitoring and advocacy in the framework of social policies development. Their capacities for cooperation with local, national authorities and key figures of private sector are strengthened even more, while their influence on decision making processes is increased through creation of Cost-Benefit Analysis of services provided to most vulnerable populations as an important advocacy tool in securing long term sustainability of their services. All of this came through the foundation of NGO Coalition “Health Up” and advocacy campaign conducted within the Project.

All of the efforts expressed through the Project came in order to provide better services for groups that are more at risk in Montenegro, in terms of prevention and assistance to ones who are HIV positive. By focusing on long-term effect, conducted activities leave the sustainable framework for joint actions and stronger engagement of CSOs in the future. Finally, CAZAS, together with SOS Telephone Podgorica and NGO Parents, secured the continuation of implementation of “Health Up” programme by obtaining support from the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro for the next two years through the EU Civil Society Facility Montenegro Programme IPA 2014.

[#HealthInsurance](#) [#LivingWithHIV](#) [#ImprovingSocialPolices](#) [#CSOs](#) [#Cooperation](#)



Never Disregard Dignity

The Association of Gerontologists of City of Bijeljina in cooperation with NGO **Ruhama** from Zenica has successfully implemented the Project **“Living with dignity to the very end”** related to the improvement of life conditions for elderly who suffer from life threatening illnesses in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Thanks to the Project, public and relevant institutions met the needs of this marginalized vulnerable group and become aware of the importance of palliative care insurance, which was never addressed before.

The local initiative was supported by Department of Social Services of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Within the round table, attended by numerous representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations of the social secure sector, the Study on need of organizing palliative care was represented. The Study, also created within the Project, is based on expressed needs and opinions of 100 respondents who participated in field research. Creation of such a study means that the first step of insuring the rights of elderly in need is made.

[#Elderly](#) [#Dignity](#) [#PalliativeCareInsurance](#) [#ImprovingSocialPolices](#)



New Approach to Vulnerable Youth in Albania

Through the project **“From Alternative training to Better Job Opportunities: a new approach to vulnerable youth”**, 35 people in Tirana (16-20 years old), gained the necessary support. Implemented by the IRIS Network’s partner **Shoqata Kombetare Edukim per Jeten (SHKEJ)**, the Project has promoted innovative Professional Training model, based on Case Management procedure. This model increases the capacities of youth on personal and professional level and makes them recognizable on the job market.

Beneficiaries, including youth, Roma, Egyptians, people living in poverty and teenage mothers, are selected from target groups, which are facing difficulties accessing formal education system. They become qualified and skilled for finding a job thanks to the alternative training approach. Public entities and CSOs, which are dealing with professional training policies and their implementation, took part in the project activities and improving service provision for the vulnerable groups.



#VulnerableGroups
#AlternativeTrainingApproach
#JobProvision #ImprovingSkills
#Support



LOCAL, but VOCAL!

Single parent families of 10 municipalities of City of Skopje, finally get the chance for their voice to be heard, thanks to the Project **“LOCAL, but VOCAL!”** implemented by the **Association of Social Workers in the City of Skopje**. The project gained the support of Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Institute for Social Activities, Local Government Units, Social Work Centres, schools and the results have attracted significant media attention.

The Project gave the opportunity for single parents to express and properly address every-day problems they are faced with: unsettled legal child support; inaccessibility to social services due to the extensiveness of documentation; unemployment and poor living conditions; the lack of day-care centres.

Moreover, representatives of relevant institutions and NGOs of children protection sector supported the Project and the idea of local social policy development, in order to protect children in such families and improve life conditions of single parents. Within the final manual published under the Project, relevant actors are provided with findings of extensive research, conducted on ten focus groups of single parent households in different municipalities of Skopje, as well as with recommendations for local social policy improvement. The Manual is available in Macedonian, Albanian and English language.

#SingleParents #ChildProtection
#NeedsAddressing #ImprovingSocialPolicies



The Power of the Media in Empowering Women's Rights

Three thematic episodes – “Women in Business”, “Women Leader” and “Single Mothers”, which were produced and broadcasted within TV show **“Elementi i 5st”**, have attracted the attention of more than 100.000 viewers and provoked a meaningful debate in Kosovo and wider. The episodes were produced under the Project **“Empower Women Equality”**, implemented by NGO Beyond the **Rainbow**, member of IRIS Network.

People's attitudes toward men, women and the gender roles, are predominantly influenced by media. Due to this fact, the thematic episodes had the aim to breakdown prejudices, stereotypes and highlight the unequal treatment of women in patriarchal Kosovo society, in order to empower their status and positions. The TV shows were broadcasted and re-broadcasted on digital TV station RRokumi, in order to reach Albanian Diaspora living around the world.

Encouraged by the messages of the show and stories of guest speakers, more than 200 women world-wide have directly contacted editorial staff, while many others left their comments on the social media platforms, so to share their own experiences and discuss information gathered by the shows. The impact of the shows is also demonstrated by the huge interest of viewers on the official Youtube channel and Facebook page, which gained more than 60.000 followers by now.

[#WomenInBusiness](#) [#WomanLeaders](#) [#SingleMothers](#) [#EmpoweringWomensRights](#)

The Learning – Creative Process of Creation

The organization **Muse- E Kosova** has successfully implemented the project **“Artistic Values to be recognized”**, which aimed to introduce educational reform in the field of art and intercultural learning in schools. More than 650 pupils, from 2 selected elementary schools, participated in the activities. The Project was implemented in coordination with partner NGO AVOKO and financed through Small Grants Programme of the IRIS Network.

Contrary to old-fashioned official school programme, the creative workshops, organized within the Project, quickly attracted children's attention. By playing and learning at the same time, the children had the opportunity to express and improve artistic skills. Young participants also assisted in the organization of “Kids Festival of Play”. The Festival, as well as other activities, was supported by the Municipal Department of Education in Pristina.

Furthermore, the cooperation between Municipal Department of Education in Pristina and NGO Muse- E Kosova, is strengthened by signing a Memorandum of Understanding, which insured the continuation of activities in all elementary schools in Pristina for next 2 years.

[#Children](#) [#EducationReforms](#) [#ImprovingIntellectualSkills](#) [#Art](#) [#CreativeApproach](#)



Pushing the Limits of Possibilities

Will for Life, the Association of the people with cerebral palsy and infantile paralysis from Velika Plana, assisted fifteen beneficiaries to gain new skills, and become visible and valued on the labour market. This assistance came through the Project **“Equal Chances”**.

Training course, which has lasted for 21 days, involved fifteen beneficiaries with work ability into the process of self-actualization. They learnt how to produce decorative items – candles, clocks, small baskets, which could be sold on the market afterwards. Thanks to the Project, beneficiaries were also provided with fully equipped work place, where can produce and storage the items.

Direct beneficiaries of the Project’s activities are now able and encouraged to earn, which is extremely important because in the most cases their families live in poverty. On the other hand, the rest of the community is more visible and the Association is provided with necessary support of the institutions – the cooperation with local government, which existed before, is significantly improved within the Project.

#PWD #ImprovingSkills

#EconomicSustainability #SupportProvision

Time to Play!

One of the essential rights, that makes the childhood healthy and happy, is children's right to play. For those with intellectual disabilities in Kumanovo, NGO **Poraka Nasa** has provided 6 months long programme of psycho-social and physical trainings under the Project **"Early Adaptive Physical Education and Socialization for ages 4-7"**, implemented through IRIS Network.

Children took part in the programme in order to increase their motor and fine motor abilities, sports participation, health awareness, cognitive development and socialization. In all observed categories – speed, strength, flexibility, balance, and willingness to participate in trainings, all the children have shown significant progress. It is apparent that children are more capable to get engaged with their social environment and more self confident. The greatest progress can be seen in the area of growing skills for balance and coordination. The results made both proud – the parents and the trainers.

Furthermore, parents were provided with educational sessions and materials, based on promotion of optimal care, healthy eating and home activities for their children. This is very important due to essential role of parents as primary caregivers.

#ChildrenWithIntellectualDisabilities

#Socialization

#AdaptivePhysicalEducation

"I also have the right to work"

Through the advocacy campaign and series of trainings, the **Association of parents of children and youth with disabilities Presevo** has assisted 260 families with a disabled member and raised awareness in the community, especially in the population of youth, on the importance of social inclusion and job opportunities provision for disabled. The actions were implemented under the Project **"I also have the right to work"**.

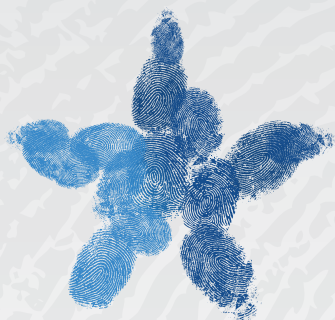
Wide range of trainings and 4 street campaigns were organized in order to familiarize community with the needs of PWD. The Living Library, educative method used within the campaign, engaged 120 persons with disabilities. Interactive trainings and workshops were conducted for high school students and youth initiatives' members. Some of them gave significant contribution to the campaign and were involved in brainstorming and conduction of activities.

Furthermore, on the Day of People with Dowd Syndrome, the debate was hosted in the building of local Parliament. The event brought together more than 30 decision-makers of different professional backgrounds. They supported the Project and, in accordance to their positions, expressed the willingness to provide better future and job opportunities for PWD trough cooperation with CSOs.

#PWD #RightToWork

#AwarenessRaisingCampaign

#LivingLibrary #Inclusion



Contact us and keep in touch with our activities!



iris@iris-see.eu



[/IRISsNetwork](https://twitter.com/IRISsNetwork)



[/irissnetwork](https://facebook.com/irissnetwork)

www.iris-see.eu



This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund Deutschland e.V. and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.