

“Enhancing democracy through Promotion and Protection of Minority Rights”

Title	“Enhancing democracy through Promotion and Protection of Minority Rights”
Final Beneficiaries	Members of non-majority communities that are less than 20% of the population; local civic non-governmental organizations and municipalities.
Partners	The Achievement Rights Agency on Communities (ACRR)
Summary	<p>In the circumstances where minority-related issues are not sufficiently covered by the governmental policies, ACRR should improve its performance and visibility by promoting the rights of the communities and initiating inter-ethnic dialogue.</p> <p>The project aims at institutional strengthening and setting up procedures for implementing the Law on communities and promoting government policies relevant to minority groups.</p>
Objectives	<p>Main objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the efficiency, competitiveness and accountability of key institutions responsible for protection of community rights and promotion of equal opportunities for all citizens. <p>Specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening ACRR by building capacities and providing consultancy, through including other national institutions and stakeholders, involved in the implementation of policies relevant to non-majority communities.
Impact / Outcome / Result	<p>Targeted outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the capacities of ACRR • Facilitating ACRR’s joint activities organized with cooperation of the local communities and other stakeholders, on issues concerning ethnic identity and antidiscrimination • Improving the visibility of ACRR <p>Expected results :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved capacities of ACRR in terms of monitoring and evaluation while providing adequate internal and external expertise. 2. Established cooperation between ACRR and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) assisted by other state institutions dealing with important issues related to the minor ethnic communities. 3. Increased visibility of ACRR by enhancing communication, creating PR strategy and conducting appropriate promotional campaign. <p>Activities:</p> <p>The first component will focus on strengthening ACRR’s capacities, starting with an assessment of the current state of the institution.</p> <p>The trainings will focus on monitoring and evaluation, international instruments and national legislation for the protection of communities as well as on anti-discrimination, reporting techniques and tools, project cycle management, presentation and mentoring skills, public relations.</p> <p>The team will also conduct activities aimed at strengthening the role of monitoring and evaluation of ACRR. These activities will be conducted by enhancing the internal professional legal advisory functions.</p> <p>Further activity will focus on train the trainers in the area of human rights, activity which will enable ACRR staff to conduct trainings for the local communities.</p>

	<p>The team will also support and advise ACRR in establishing an external volunteer advisory body whose members will have national as well as international expertise and credibility. This entity will provide guidelines for ACRR and will help to enhance their profile at national and international level. At the same time it will assist them in creating valuable network for conducting strategic events such as regional Balkan conference for promotion of minority rights.</p> <p>The team will eventually support ACRR in implementation of their own mandate in accordance with the appropriate law, as well as permanent assistance in case some specific issues arise.</p> <p>The second component will focus on facilitating joint activities between ACRR, the local communities and other stakeholders, on topics related to ethnic identity and anti-discrimination.</p> <p>The activities under this component will include preparation and delivery of on-site research to assess the needs of each community at local level. These activities will be conducted in collaboration with ACRR employees and local NGOs. The following areas will be covered: education in mother tongue, involvement of communities in cultural life, use of language, symbols, media, fair representation of non-majority communities in the institutions on national and local level.</p> <p>The joint activities with local NGOs will mainly be implemented as workshops aimed at encouraging the local civic organizations to contribute to the improvement of the situation of minorities as well as promoting better interethnic relations with the private sector at local level. The team will mainly provide technical and logistical support that will include offering expertise, panel discussion, printed materials and publications, book promotions as well as promotional events.</p> <p>The team will also support ACRR in establishing procedures for effective coordination and cooperation among state authorities dealing with issues relevant to the situation of non-majority communities, through supporting the process of creating a working group that includes ACRR, the Secretariat for the Implementation of the The Ohrid Framework Agreement, the Commission for Protection against Discrimination, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the Ombudsman and other relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>The third component will focus on improving the visibility of ACRR through updating and implementing communication and public relations strategy, plus creating PR plan and promotional campaign for community rights in at least 10 municipalities.</p>
	<p>Time frame: November 2018 - June 2020</p> <p>Budget: 288.090 EUR</p> <p>Implementation partner:</p> <p>The Achievement Rights Agency on Communities (ACRR)</p> <p>Contact:</p> <p>Team Leader – Alessandro Simoni simonialessandro@gmail.com</p> <p>Human Rights and Advisory Expert – Filippo Romoli filipporomoli@gmail.com</p> <p>Administrative Assistant – Ljubica Tomic tomic83@gmail.com</p>

