

Annual Report 2016



Observatory for Children's Rights

January 2017

About Observatory for Children's Rights

Observatory for Children's Rights (Observatory) in Albania is a non-governmental entity established in 2009 as a civil society network intended to monitor the situation of children in the country. Through its representatives at the sub-national (regional) level and in collaboration with local government units in municipalities and communes, the Observatory is collecting statistical information from administrative records of health, education, social protection and other local authorities. Using the DevInfo software the wealth of statistical information is consolidated into a database accessible online at: <http://observator.org.al/odf2/qarqet-en.html>

So far, the Observatory database has been a unique source of such disaggregated data: a user-friendly interface allows zooming into the specifics of Albania's 374 municipalities and communes. Using this data complemented by survey-generated evidence, the Observatory has been producing situation reports and contributed to action plans for children developed at the national and regional levels. In 2013 it produced the first comprehensive report on various dimensions of child poverty and deprivation in Albania.

An important spill-off of the Observatory's strong presence on the ground has been their ability to advocate with government authorities for enhanced local measures to address the needs of children and families, especially from vulnerable backgrounds. Lately, the Observatory has been among the leaders behind a nation-wide initiative of "Every Roma Child in Kindergarten". Their credibility of those who "know" the real situation has been instrumental in the role of advocates for early inclusion of Roma children.

Within the framework of the post-MDG discourse, the Observatory will continue to play a critical role of an independent screening instrument to measure Albania's progress towards more socially just and inclusive society. This work is being increasingly aligned with the effort of the national statistical agency (INSTAT) to strengthen social statistics, with the understanding that the degree of detail in Observatory's records is likely to remain a unique feature complementing regular data gathering on a more aggregated level.

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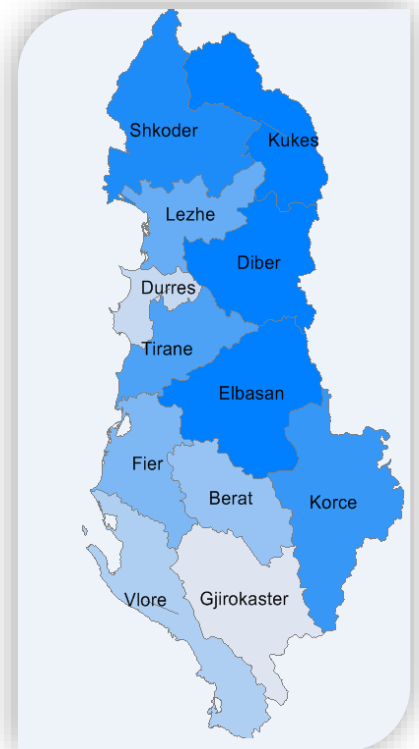


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1. Projects and initiatives developed by Observatory during the year 2016 (January – December 2016)

I. Every Roma Child in Pre-school Education (Year 3)

The third phase of the initiative “Every Roma child in Pre-school Education”: Building advocacy networks and evidence based practices for Roma Children’s access to early childhood development” aimed to set up and support local networks for evidence based advocacy for Roma children early development, by working with social services (social workers) and other institutions that provide care and protection for children, NGO’s and other social partners. Ensuring that Roma and non-Roma children alike receive an equal start in life is one of the main focuses of the cooperation between the Albanian Government and UNICEF. This initiative was designed to play an important role in providing periodical information, data and evidence collection, best practices exchange, gaps identified and analyzed policies implementation for the Roma inclusion, – which result on road mapping practices.

The initiative focuses on the following interventions:

- Facilitate and foster alliances with the local authorities, Roma parents, Youth activist of Roma community for the inclusion in pre-school education of Roma Children;
- Gather continuously data/evidence/good practices and gaps of implementation of policies for Roma children (based on a unified protocol for data and evidence collection);
- Prepare periodic action monitoring reports and to advocate for change and in support of Roma children inclusion in kindergartens;

It implemented a list of actions that targets the role, functions and duties of the local institutions in regards of issuing early social inclusion of Roma children in their locality. These actions were designed in a networking role and duties of government and non-government actors, by producing and conducting permanent collection of data and evidence, case by case solution and exchange the best practices gained, identifying the gaps and finding the proper solution



II. Child Rights Observatory supports evidence-based Child focused policy planning with focus on decentralization actions

Observatory in partnership with UNICEF Albania has intensively worked with child-focused data management at the subnational level. The efforts have intended to identify, understand, address and monitor critical bottlenecks in regards to data collection, analysis, reporting and utilization to inform effective policy and practice decisions at all governance level.

The process of data collection in nation, regional and local level for children, because of the wide range of indicators, is delicate and it has faced different difficulties despite the good will to collaborate by the local institutions. Anyway the progress for the period 2009-2015 has been improving from year to year, which shows a growing awareness of the institutions in this regard. The new territorial division causes a shrink of the data because their collection is conducted in Municipality level and not in Administrative Unit level as integral part of these Municipalities



The initiative focuses on the following interventions :

- National system of data collection to monitor the situation of children is strengthened, to track compliance with CRC obligations
- Analyze the challenges/bottlenecks for child-focused data management, in order to inform improved interventions to potentially address them.

III. Capacity building of Y-Peer network raising awareness and advocacy

Y-PEER is an Albania network, established in global level in 1999 and in Albanian level in 2000. Y- PEER envisions young people to have meaningful participation in decision making related to their healthy lifestyles in order to have equal access to information and services. Y-PEER aims to promote a healthy life style through peer to peer approach and to empower young people to make responsible decisions.

The basic principle of Y-PEER is to promote the equal access to opportunities and “defends the practice” of discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, serologic status, physical capacities and disabilities, political and religious views, ethnic or national. Through this program, developed in close consultation with Y- PEER focal point in Albania, the Observatory proposes to support and strengthen the role of Y- PEER network in advocacy and partnership, capacity building, media and communication in the selected areas. To this end, the program focuses on the detailed capacity building and



reinforcement of young people in the municipality of Tirana, Shkodra and Vlora, Elbasan and Puka. The building capacity of young people has take into consideration international standards and the Albanian legal framework

The initiative was focused on following intervention

- -Humanitarian setting
- -Advocacy and leadership

IV. He for She summer tour and He for She in Stadia

The HeForShe initiative aims to raise awareness on the role of men and boys for gender equality in selected key touristic cities/ locations in Albania. The awareness raising session's part of **HeForShe Summer Tour** has constitute in verbal engagements with the audience, dissemination of promotional materials and gathering commitments from the men and boys who support gender equality and the HeForShe cause. The awareness raising sessions part of HeForShe Tour has constitute in verbal engagement with the audience, promotional materials and gathering commitments from the men and boys who support gender equality. **HeForShe in Football Stadiums'** project, an initiative undertaken in cooperation with the Albanian Football Federation with the support of the Albanian Vodafone Foundation, to raise awareness on the role of men and boys for gender equality. During the first phase of the National Championship the HeForShe Campaign was presented in 10 football games in different Stadia through the launch of a mobile application and the diffusion of messages during the matches.

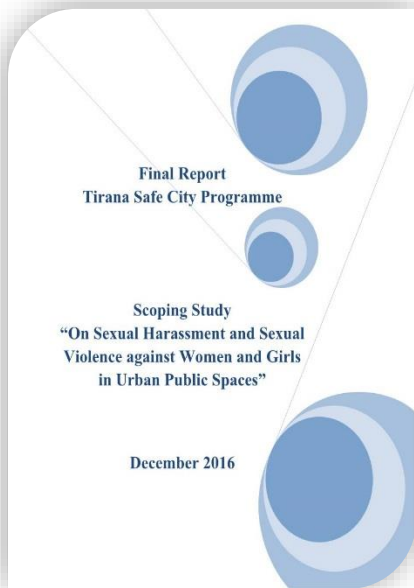


The initiative was focused on following intervention:

- Awareness raising session during the day for 2 hours, where the group will interact with tourists and engage them in gender equality small discussions.
- Manifestation in the main square of each city/location constituting in public messages, commitments from the audience and gender equality information/awareness.

V. Safe City

The scoping study for the Tirana Safe City Programme will be a rapid exercise that will draw on as much readily-accessible data and reports as possible as part of the landscape analysis. The study, using quick and easy data collection techniques aims to provide a deep understanding of the issue of sexual harassment (SH) against women and girls in the selected sub area of the city to inform the design of programme where specific interventions to improve women's safety will be delivered. It will ensure that:



1) specific problems of concern about SH have been defined and are understood, and the need for the programme is clear from the perspective of key stakeholders

2) intended beneficiary groups/agents of change have been identified, and their views on the need for a programme and the changes they would like to see have been clarified

3) potential delivery partners have been located and appraised, the positions and priorities of significant stakeholders have been ascertained

4) relevant existing services and projects have been identified and assessed, especially from the perspective of intended beneficiaries

5) the intervention area(s) has been profiled to provide insight to their demographic, social, cultural, economic and other relevant characteristics development policies, plans and relevant initiatives have been analyzed.

VI. Juvenil Justice

The People's Advocate, in collaboration with the Observatory for Children's Rights and UNICEF have realized the report "With the voice of children deprived of their liberty: monitoring of the conditions and treatment in the institutions of custody, pre-trial detention, and prisons". The study includes the findings and recommendations from the monitoring during August – December 2016 in Police Stations of Tirana, Institution for Serving of Criminal Sentences (ISCS) in Kavajë and Shën Kollë (Lezhë).

This study is prepared by a group of specialists in the field of human rights, justice and sociology and cognitive of international standards, in terms of juvenile justice. These experts, who developed the methodology and questionnaires, followed fieldwork for conducting the monitoring, analyzed data and prepared the report.



VII. Out of school children

This initiative, piloted in Durres region, is fulfilled in partnership between UNICEF and Observatory for Children's Rights, with the attention of the Ministry of Education and Sports and with the support of all local structures. The purpose is to identify and register in school every child, despite the fact that they were born in the area or not, creating a favorable environment to live.

In January 5th was signed the Common order of the three Ministries (U3M – Ministry of Education and Sports (MAS), Ministry of Internal Affairs (MPB) and Ministry of Health (MSH)) “To identify and register in school every child at compulsory age”, in order to coordinate the inter institutional collaboration to make possible that every resident child attend school.

In this context several important steps have been taken regarding the children education including:

- Raising a work practice for the workbook of the roles of the responsible institutions for the implementation of U3M.
- The practice of the intersection training between the staffs of the schooling and local institutions which are charged with responsibility and role by the U3M signing.
- The guides and instructions for monitoring the best schooling practices for reducing the school abundance and for integrating in school the out of school children.
- The training practices for the actors in the base educational institutions in order to ensure the regular attendance and the completion of the base education by every children.
- The work practice for the extraction of the data for international indicators of the educational system.
- The practice of the intersection of the lists from different sources in order to identify out of school children.
- The practice of the inter institutional collaboration to intensifies the work regarding the case of out of school children

The call for the children education is addressed to everyone. The education of every child is an every day mission, the implementation of which asks for attention and commitment in time of everyone.



VIII. Prevent Early Child Marriage in Albania

Observatory in partnership with Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), has realized the third phase of the study “Prevent Early Marriage in Albania”.

Observatory with the support of CFLI has implemented the initiative “Prevention of early marriages in strengthening the legal mechanisms and social perceptions, as a tool to empower women and girls (PREVENTION)”. The project is implemented by the Observatory through “monitoring decisions of District Courts of Korca and Pogradec for the period 2011 – 2016” followed with the social analyze of these cases.

Aiming the improvement of the court decisions with the respect of highest interest of the child, the open meeting has collected the representatives of international and national institutions, various ministries and the central and local subordinate institutions together with NGOs operating in the field of children's rights.



2. Partner contributions

No	Project title	Period of Implementation	Supported by
1.	Every Roma Child in Pre-school Education (Year III)	May 2016 –February 2017	UNICEF
2.	Capacity building of Y-Peer network raising awareness and advocacy	May- December 2016	UNFPA
3.	Child Rights Observatory supports evidence- based Child focused policy planning with focus on decentralization actions	May – November 2016	UNICEF
4.	He for She summer tour and he for she in Stadia	August – December 2016	UN Women
5.	Safe City	June – December 2016	UN
6.	Juvenil Justice	August- December 2016	UNICEF
7.	Out of school children	May – November 2016	UNICEF

8.	Prevent early child marriage in Albania (3 rd study)	November – February 2017	CFLI
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3. Reviews about Observatory for Children's Rights, during this year (2016)

"I acknowledge the cooperation with Observatory since 2014. Observatory has consistently demonstrated a very correct and responsible approach in working with Canadian Fond for Local Initiatives" Canadian Embassy Representatives

"Observatory has contributed to the creation of a harmonious, friendly environment for children. The staff's expertise of Observatory has also served in capacity building and training of school staff and local social welfare institutions in Durres on important social and educational issues" Mr. Roland Xhelilaj Institution of Prefecture Durres Region

"Institution of the People's Advocate, based on the very successful cooperation experience, recommends the Observatory as a partner organization and very active in the implementation of various initiatives in guaranteeing and fulfilling the rights of children and youth" Mr. Igli Totozani Ombudsman