



REGIONAL CARD REPORT –BERAT REGION "Monitoring of new indicators" for the year 2011



BERAT REGION

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

DCM - Decisions of the Council of Ministers

Observatory - Observatory for children's rights

ACA - Albanian Children's Alliance

CRU - Child Rights Unit

RED - Regional Educational Department

PHD - Public Health Department

PD - Police Department

ROSSS - Regional Office of State Social Service

UNICEF - United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

MES - Ministry of Education and Science

WHO - World Health Organization

UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund

NAPCR - National Agency of Protection of Children's Rights

EA - Economic Assistance

BKTF - Albanian coalition "Together against trafficking of children"

ECDO -Economic Cooperation and Development Organization

DTP dose - Children's vaccine composed in 3 parts against Diphtheria, Tetanus and

Pertussis(Whoopping cough)

BCG dose - Vaccine Bacilllus Calmette et Guerin that is used against Tuberculosis.

I - Foreward and Acknowledgments

The project of monitoring Children's Rights is an initiative of Albanian Children's Alliance supported and in cooperation with UNICEF. Observatories for Children's Rights are civil society structures that aim at encouraging and strengthening alliances and harmonizing the cooperation in order to effectively achieve the realization of children's rights. The observatories periodically collect statistical indicators from governmental institutions such as Health departments, Educational and Social Protection, non-governmental institutions, communities and children themselves on a regional and local level. Based on these indicators, the periodic analysis is performed and annual reports are prepared regarding the writing and effect of the policies for the respect of children's rights on a district level.

The Observatory for Children's Rights has been set as a civil society structure in September 2011 and during a three month period has managed to sign 40 collaboration agreements with governmental institutions and local government organisms in the District of Berat. The impact of Observatory's work is seen positively in the District by NGO-s and institutions which it has cooperated with. The initiatives undertaken by the Observatory have been supported and valued by many local actors, by considering our work as the only civil society actor who is committed to present the situation of children's rights to a Commune level. This type of practice has been missing not only in the District of Berat but in all our country.

The positive collaboration between the Observatory and local unit structures in the country, is based on the readiness of these pertinent institutions to deliver different data and information in time and with a new standard for these Institutions. The Observatory for Children's Rights in Berat, since the beginning of the project has realized a great institutional collaboration by signing 40 collaboration agreements with local units or governmental institutions. Also there have been organized meetings with different associations and NGO-s. Observatory has managed to secure periodical continuous data for the year 2010 and year 2011. There have been organized meetings with students, teachers, directors, personnel, health centers in 13 local units during the period January-April 2011. Observatory Berat is considered to be an important partner on a local level by being part of common tables, activities, seminars and trainings that were organized in the social field. Information and analytic reports written by the Observatory have widely been used on a regional level, for:

- Writing the regional Strategic Plan of Berat 2011-2016
- Writing the regional Strategy for children 2011-2013

For the writing of this study report regarding the Monitoring of new indicators¹, we thank the Regional Department of Public Health in Berat and Kuçovë, the director of INSTAT Berat Mrs.

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¹ Law 10347, date 14.11.2010.

Bardha Bejko, the director of the Department of Social Service Berat Mrs. Luljeta Tavani for the collaboration provided in the writing of this report.

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A special thank you goes to the staff of the project Observatory for Children's Rights Mrs. Suzana Sakiqi (National coordinator – ACA), Mrs. Elma Tërshana, (Project Director), Mrs. Mina Mata (National Data Administrator), Mrs. Ermira Zace (Administrator and Finance Officer) for their understanding and support during the realization of this study.

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II - Introduction

In November 2010, the Albanian Parliament approves the Law nr 10 347 on children's rights, which aims at taking the appropriate measures in order for children to enjoy their rights based on their development level and on behalf of their greater interest. Some DCM-s on the issues of children's rights have been attached to this law, which are:

- 1. DCM nr. 263, date 12.04.2012 "On the definition of detailed rules, regarding the collaboration between institutional mechanisms and non profit organizations, on the realization of local policies regarding the protection of Children's Rights"
- 2. DCM 265, date 12.04.2012 "On the creation and functioning of the work coordination mechanism between state authorities, responsible for referring cases of children at risk, and the way it proceeds"
- 3. DCM Nr. 266, date 12.04.2012, On the coordination of the activities of mechanisms on a central and local level regarding issues of Children's Rights protection.
- 4. DCM nr. 267, date 12.04.2012 on the types, the way of exchanging and processing information and statistical data from the Agency (State Agency of Children's Rights Protection) and state responsible structures, on a central and local level.

Referring to the law mentioned above and the attached DCM, has been created the study themed "New indicators". The objective of the study is the analysis of the children's situation after the approval of law 10 347 and the attached DCM on the new indicators.

The objectives of this study are:

- -To analyze the coordination of institutions regarding the acknowledgement, gathering and inter institutional communication on the new indicators;
- -To present the situation of children's rights according to law 10347 with problematic and priorities in relevant fields.
- -The impact of law 10347 date 14.11.2010 on every target group.

-The comparative analysis of new indicators presented in the law, to the indicators gathered until now from the Observatory.

The study on new indicators serves to interest groups, State Agency of Children's Rights Protection, state institutions, local units and civil society in the district of Berat. The source of statistical indicators focused on realizing and guaranteeing children's rights is: State Social Service, Regional Educational Department, Public Health Department and Local Units. As regarding to other reports of the Observatory, this report aims at helping CRU-s in the district, CPU-s and responsible people in local units who, because of legal obligation, are now directly involved in gathering the information according to new indicators. Also the report will aim at making concrete suggestions on how to solve problems that surface during this process.

The study has used the Desk Review methodology and information and data have been gathered from meetings with focus groups. During the evaluation process and the analysis of reports and different documents (desk review) we have referred to statistical data, national UNICEF reports, international reports, regional strategies, - to which we will refer later following the report analysis.

For a fuller and more direct information, besides statistical data, in the district of Berat were organized also meetings with 4 focus groups, respectively in:

- The city of Berat and
- The city of Kuçovë.

These two local units were appointed because they are the only local units that have some civil society organizations that operate in these areas (NGO). In these meetings there were in total 32 participants. With student groups were realized 2 meetings, in which there was a totality of 16 participants. Student meetings were organized in the municipality of Kuçovë, respectively with students of the 9 year cycle school "28 November" and with high school students of 'Bab Dud Karbunara'' (Municipality of Berat). In these local units were organized meetings with student groups, teacher groups, groups of institution specialists and with NGO-s. During the meetings a questionnaire was delivered (in Annex 1 you can find the questionnaire) and many discussions were organized regarding children's rights.

The limits this study encountered during its implementation, was the limited budget. This budget insufficiency made impossible to represent the situation of children's rights in the area of Skrapar (and surrounding communes), which have been forgotten because of the lack of infrastructure. Another factor that limited our study and that was out of our competencies, was the lack of information from local institutions regarding some of the new indicators already approved by law. This information was insufficient because of the non cooperation between institutions; availability of data regarding absolute Poverty Rate, an important indicator to analyze the problematic that derives from it and violence, trafficking and child protection

indicators; The approach regarding this information, would have enabled the presentation of many facts and new problems in the field of protection of children's rights. Another limit is the fact that new indicators gather and monitor the situation of children on a regional level by skipping the situation on a commune level.

II – The analysis of the situation of Children's rights

In the year 2011, the District of Berat has a population of 231.132 ² inhabitants and a general number of families of 68.482³. Comparing the population number with year 2010 (234.683 inhabitants) in 2011 we notice that the population has decreased. According to the results of the population registration (Census 2001 and 2011), the district population fell by an average of 27% in a decade. Around half of the population (52%) lives in the municipality and the other half (48%) in communes. During the period 2002-2010 the population number fell by 4% (according to the civil registry) or by 27% (according to the Census). Population movement is one of the main reasons that affect the decrease of the population number in the region. The number of urban population increased by 4% since year 2002⁴. During this period, the population has moved in two directions:

- (i) Inside the district from the mountain areas in southeast towards Berat, Kuçovë and their surroundings, and
- (ii) Outside the district towards developed areas like Tirana, Durrësi, Fieri and Vlora.

The economic situation in the District of Berat, measured by the GDP per capita, is lower when compared to other districts, but near the national average, taking in account the reduced number of population. Based on GVA⁵, Berat is a region oriented towards agriculture, commerce and tourism. The District of Berat has a relatively small group of young people (18% between 0-15 years old and 76% 15-64 years old). It is characterized by the domineering demographic and spatial traits as presented below:

- The population decrease has been one of the highest, with people moving between districts from mountain areas to ground-level areas where the land is more productive and also to the cities; however there are no signs of stability.
- Economic activities are focused in the central-western part: the communes of Berat and Kuçovë.

Berat is a district with great touristic potential, especially in cultural tourism – the city of Berat has been promoted as an international cultural heritage center (the traditional neighbourhoods of Mangalemi, Goricë and castle, The National Museum of Iconography "Onufri" and other galleries, museums, churches and mosques).

² General Department of Civil State - Tiranë, Ministry of Interior, July 2012

³ General Department of Civil State - Tiranë, Ministry of Interior, July 2012

Regional Development Strategy Berat 2011-2015
 Gross Value Added, INSTAT, September 2011

During the period 2002-2010, the percentage of the group age 1-14 years old *increased* in the municipalities of Çorovodë, Poliçan and in the communes of Qendër, Bogovë, Çepan, Potom, Leshnje, Gjerbës, Vendreshë and Zhepë, by depopulating the southeast areas⁶. Referring to statistics the number of children 0-18 years old for the district of Berat is <u>57.137</u> *children*. Regarding children's group ages the situation is represented as below:

Table 1: Number of children divided by group ages for the District of Berat **Source**: Social Service Office Tiranë, Ministry of Interior (July 2012)

Group ages	0-18 years old	3-6 years old	6-15 years old	15-18 years old	0-6 years old	0-15 years old	6-18 years old
Number of inhabitants	57.137	11.371	29.424	15.436	16.130	45.554	43.968

The Municipality of Berat in 2011 has a population of 63.132^7 inhabitants; meanwhile the municipality of Kuçovë is a city with a lower number of inhabitants 30.009^8 . Regarding the number of families, the Municipality of Berat has a number of families of 16.596^9 and the Municipality of Kuçovë is composed of 7.040^{10} families. $77\%^{11}$ of the population lives in lowlands, Berat and Kuçovë and their surroundings. Regarding the economic development the commerce sector dominates and especially private enterprises which are centered in Berat and Kuçovë and communes around them. The number of children aged 0-18 years old comparing both municipalities are: Municipality of Berat 13.897^{12} children and Municipality of Kuçovë 6.571. The division by group ages is presented below in the tables and graphics:

Table 2: Division of group ages in the Municipality of Berat Source: State Social Service Tirane, July 2012

Group ages	Number of
	inhabitants
0-6 years	3.819
old	
<i>6-15</i> years	7.219
old	
15-18 years	3.822

⁶ Regional Development Strategy Berat 2011-2015

⁷State Social Service Tiranë, Ministry of Interior, July2012

⁸State Social Service Tiranë, Ministry of Interior, July2012

⁹ State Social Service Tiranë, Ministry of Interior, July2012

¹⁰ Statistics Office, city coucil of Berat, November 2012

¹¹Regional Development Strategy Berat 2011-2015

¹² State Social Service Tiranë, Ministry of Interior, July2012

old	

Table 3: Division of group ages in the Municipality of Kuçovë Source: State Social Service Tirane, July 2012

Group ages	Number of
	inhabitans
0-6 years old	1435
6-15 years	3680
old	
15-18 years	1927
old	

Figure 1: The graphic of group age division in the Municipality of Berat Source: State Social Service Tirane, July 2012

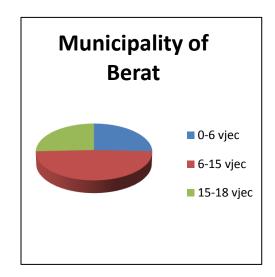
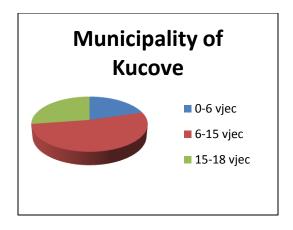


Figure 2: The graphic of group age division in the Municipality of Kucove Source: State Social Service Tirane, July 2012



The analysis of the situation of Children's Rights regarding to the new indicators

On the 4th of November of the year 2010 the Albanian Parliament approved the law 10 347 "On the protection of Children's Rights", which aims at taking all the measures to grand the possibility to every child to enjoy his/her rights in accordance to his/her development level, to assure survival, living, and children's development. For the implementation of the above mentioned law, the National Agency of Children's Rights Protection in collaboration with ministries have built a system of monitoring indicators of children's rights on a national and regional level by subjoining some DCM-s to the law. The indicators are divided in 8 fields and 21 divisions as follows below:

- Demographic indicators;
- Monetary poverty indicators;
- Social care indicators divided by categories;
- Health indicators divided by categories;
- Family violence, trafficking, blood feud and protection indicators;
- Justice for minors indicators;
- Child labour indicators:
- Child education indicators;

The indicators are partly *indicators* that reflect the existence of structures that support/enable the realization of some of the children's rights and oriented to show the realization of children's rights and the Albanian reality of families.

The monitoring of the indicators, divided by categories is realized from the information provided by the Regional Public Health Department, Regional Educational Department, Regional Police Department, Regional Labour Office, and State Social Service. The counting measure depending on the indicator is a number or a percentage. The monitoring of the indicators is made yearly. The legal frame regarding children's rights protection is complete, but how much is it known, implemented and how much do we benefit from this legal frame?

In the framework of this study, as we stated above, there have been realized meeting with focus groups composed of: children, teachers, parents, specialists of different institutions. With these focus groups we organized questionnaires, meetings, conversations regarding the new indicators and in accordance with the legal frame. Below are represented some of the topics discussed during the meetings:

- What was the impact of the approved law 10 347 date 14.11.2010?
- Did the relevant institutions for Children's Rights Protection undertake initiatives or projects and what was their impact?
- Have you been notified by your institution regarding the approval of the DCM for gathering and monitoring new indicators regarding the issue of children's Rights?
- How was realized the process of gathering new indicators and was it coordinated with other institutions?

The approval of the law 10347 has identified that efforts to protect children's rights have increased and of course not only from state institutions, but also NGO-s that have an important place in the process of informing, public awareness and lobbing with different actors focused on children's rights protection. We notice that in the municipality of Berat are focused these organizations: CPU, CRU, Observatory for Children's Rights, Association "Help for Children", Association "Children in the focus".

In the municipality of Kuçovë are present with projects CPU, Youth Center, Roma Association, in the meantime in the district of Çorovodë there are no NGO-s focused on children's rights protection, where children can benefit from services or help. Children's Rights Unit is writing the Regional Strategy for children of the District of Berat. Meanwhile the Children's Protection Unit in Berat, for the year 2011, has had <u>108 cases</u>¹³ regarding children's rights protection from which 61 cases were solved; the others are still in process.

Table 4: Cases supported and referred from CPU Berat, year 2012 **Source**: Children's Rights Protection Unit Berat, March 2012

¹³ Children's Protection Unit Berat, February 2012

Te dhena Janar-Mars 012	Nr.raste	W	F	Rome	Egjiptian	PAK	I mbartur	l ri	I zgjidhur
Situate rruge	1		1			1	1		Ne trajtim
Probleme shendetesore	2	1	1		1		1	1	2
Probleme me ligjin	1	1					1		Ne trajtim
Te parregjistruar	5	3	2	4	1				Ne trajtim
Konsulence	3	1	2	3			1	2	3
Rast dhune/i dhunuar dhe dhunues	1	1						1	Ne trajtim
Total	13	7	6	7	2	1	4	4	5+

Implementing the DCM Nr 263¹⁴:

- In the municipalities of Berat and Kuçovë in 2010 were built the structures of children's protection Units and they function;
- In 2011 was built the structure of Children's Rights Unit and
- The Regional Strategy for Children of the District of Berat is currently being written.

Referring to DCM nr 264 and 265¹⁵, the Council of the District of Berat, started working to build the Evaluation of Needs Committee. This is a necessary structure for solving problematic cases of children's rights violation. The legal frame for structure building is complete. The work done by the Observatory Berat until now and from the institutional communications that have been realized we notice that there is a good institutional collaboration. Another testimony of this fact is the building of the structure of Children's Rights Unit. The regional Strategy for the children of the District of Berat is almost complete.

Table 4 reflects the good work done by the Children's Rights Protection Unit and case treatment is due to good institutional collaboration.

From a general point of view on the situation of children's rights, health is the mirror of well being. The health of the child is monitored by <u>27 indicators</u> that are focused on the level of mortality, sickness, alimentation, immunization, care during pregnancy. Infant mortality

¹⁴ DCM Nr 263 date 12.04.2012 "On appointing detailed rules, cooperation between institutional mechanisms and non profit entities, realization of local policies regarding the protection of children's rights"

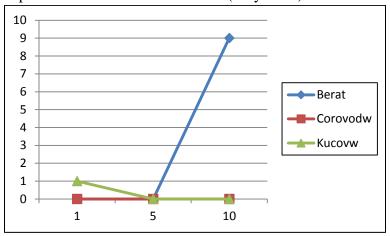
¹⁵DCM nr 264 and 265 "On the creation and functioning of work cooperation mechanisms for referring cases of children at risk"

measures the level of wellbeing of the child and mother that are linked to poverty alimentation and access to health services. According to the evaluation from UNICEF, infant mortality in Albania has decreased from 36 on <u>1000 births</u> alive in <u>16 on 1000 births</u> alive for the year 2010; meanwhile mortality under the ager of 5 years old has decreased from <u>40/1000</u> births alive in <u>14 on 1000</u> births alive¹⁷. The numbers presented above reflect the national situation regarding infant mortality. If we compare the three districts of the region of Berat regarding the number of infant mortality (number of children that passed away until the age of 1 year old) the situation is as it follows:

For the year 2011 the region of Berat had 9¹⁸ cases, meanwhile the region of Kuçovë 1 case and the region of Çorovodë did not have cases of infant mortality 0-1 years old.

Below is presented the graphic of the situation of infant mortality for the three districts.

Figure 3: Graphic of the situation of infant mortality about the 3 districts of the region of Berat **Source**: Regional Department of Public Health Berat (May 2012)



From the graphic presented above and the mentioned indicators we notice that the district of Berat has a higher infant mortality. This is explained by the fact that the city of Berat and some of its communes have a higher number of Roma communities. The people of these communities constitute the major number of cases because of alimentation problems, hygene, and pregnancy follow up. Çorovoda is the only district in the Berat region that does not have Roma population.

During year 2011, attention has been directed towards improving infrastructure in maternity hospitals by sending contemporary equipment, that aim at decreasing infant mortality, from the UNFPA investment that has improved the medical equipment of the regional hospital of Berat. The specialists of the Public Health Education Office have organized trainings with every nurse

¹⁶ Report from Unicef, World Bank, WHO, Levels & Trends in Child Mortality, Report 2011

¹⁷ Report from Unicef, World Bank, WHO, Levels & Trends in Child Mortality, Report 2011.

¹⁸ Regional Public Health Department Berat, May 2012;

of the health centers in Berat discussing: family violence, Thalasemy and Care towards the mother and her child¹⁹. Children Sickness indicators measure the level of sickness of children until 5 years old, acute respiratory infections and diarrhea, and regarding the level of utilization of health services. If we analyze the situation of children in the district of Berat we will notice that the number of children with symptoms of ARI (Acute Respiratory Infection), that have received the necessary health care in the district of Berat, for the year 2011 is 233^{20} children. Regarding children with diarrhea that receive the necessary treatment and alimentation in the district of Berat is 116 children. The prevalence of Iodine deficiency on children and women is $0\%^{21}$. Below we present some other indicators:

Table 5: New indicators of health care for the year 2011 **Source:** Regional Department of Public Health in the District of Berat (November 2012)

New indicators of health care	P	ercentage by Muni	cipality
% of children until one year immunized with	Berat	Kuçovë	Çorovodë
one dose of BCG			
% of children until one year immunized with	100%	100%	99.9%
one dose against measles			
% of children immunized with 3 doses of	100%	99,9 %	99.7%
DTP			
% of children immunized with 3 doses of	100%	100%	100%
Hepatitis B			
% of children immunized with 3 doses of	100%	100%	100%
Polio			
Number and % of births assisted by	100%	100%	100%
professional Staff			
% of pregnant women that visit the doctor at	100%	99,8%	99,7%
least one time during pregnancy			
Number of girls until 18 years old that have	3 cases	5 cases	-
given birth			
Percentage of women 15-49 years old that	80%	84%	80%
have knowledge of at least 2 ways of family			
planning			
Percentage of women 15-49 years old that	80%	82%	78%
use a way of family planning			

¹⁹ Education Office in the Regional Public Health Department, Mrs.G.O, June 2012.

²⁰ Regional Public Health Department Berat, November 2012

²¹ Regional Public Health Department Berat, November 2012

Referring to the numbers presented above, the level of vaccination has reached its maximum. This shows that the level of health services utilization is high; mother awareness has increased according also to the meetings that were realized from specialists of health centers.

The new indicators presented above were gathered by the Regional Department of Public Health. The responsible peoplefor analyzing statistics were fully informed regarding the new indicators in the health fild and they were preparing the report regarding the performance of these indicators towards the CRU and NACRP. At the meeting realized with health employees of the Education Office, we noticed that after the approval of the law 10 347, trainings regarding the health of the mother and child have increased on the training agenda. A positive fakt that has to be mentioned is the attention towards the organization of frequent trainings in schools from health teams regarding the problematic of HIV/AIDS and ways of family planning.

Poverty is considered to be the deprivation of a child's wellbeing that shows the inability of the family of children under 18 years old to fulfil the basic needs of the child because of income insufficiency and acces to basic services insufficiency. The law "On help and social services" has appointed the help and social services for individuals and groups in need, who cannot fulfil their basic living needs, capacity development and personal opportunities and preserving their integrity because of limited economic, physical and social capacities and opportunities. Regarding the economic level of the families in the District of Berat the presented situation is somewhat difficult. The number of families that receive economic aid on a district level for the year 2011 is 3.684 22 families, in the meantime by districts, Berat has 1.98123 families that receive economic aid, the district of Kuçovë has 561 families and the district of Çorovodë has 1.14224 families that receive economic aid. Analyzing the situation of families that receive economic aid with children aged 0-18 years old and women as head of the family on a region level Berat has 369 families, the district of Berat 211, the district of Kuçovë 83 families and the district of Skrapar 7525 families.

The analysis of the data presented from the District of Skrapar shows a higher percentage of families that receive economic aid with children aged 0-18 years old comparing it to the number of population. This situation is created because of the poor infrastructure and the difficult mountain terrain; these families live a difficult life in these areas. Below is presented the number of children aged 6-15 years old that continue the obligatory educational system and live in families that receive economic aid. State Social Service highlights that commune administrators do not have a good coordination regarding their knowledge on the situation of children's rights.

Table 6: Number of children aged 6-15 years old whose families receive EA **Source**: State Social Service (July 2012)

²² State Social Service Berat, July 2012

²³ State Social Service Berat, July 2012

²⁴ State Social Service Berat, July 2012

²⁵ State Social Service Berat, July 2012

Municipality/Commune	Number of families
Municipality of Berat	429
Commune Lumas	302
Commune Otllak	231
CommunE Sinjë	352
Commune Vërtop	441
Municipality of Kucovë	384
Commune Cepan	111
Municipality of Corovodë	180

Referring to the above table and the general number of children aged 6-15 years old that live in families that receive economic aid, the highest number of poor children is in the commune of Cepan with 79,85 % of children, the commune of Sinjë with 48.21 % of children, the commune of Lumas with 31,23% of children. Comparing these numbers the commune of Cepan is a commune of the district of Skrapar placed on a difficult mountain terrain. The mountain terrain gives these families the opportunity to use farming as their only way of living. Those who are affected by the difficult economic conditions of these families are children. Children of these mountain communes work on farms by helping their families and leaving behind school and entertainment. Children had to walk kilometres to arrive to the nearest school, and during the winter time it was impossible for them to attend school because of the extreme cold.

From the meetings organized by the Observatory in April 2012 in the commune Vendreshë, many children were forced to work in the afternoon with their parents at the farm, in order to assure their living. Based on competencies and responsibilities appointed by the law nr. 9355, date 10.03.2005 "On help and social services", governmental local units identify needs and in accordance with these needs will build new types of social services. Meanwhile some of the local units, although they have a legal obligation to build the Children's Rights Unit, did not engage themselves to build one. Children's Rights Units are built in these local units (in November 2012): Commune Vërtop, Commune Leshnje, Commune Cukalat, Commune Roshnik, Commune Potom, Municipality of Urë Vajgurore, Commune Kozare, Commune Poshnje, Municipality of Corovodë, Commune Otllak, Commune Perondi, Municipality of Polican, where the role of children's rights specialist is played by the social administrator. This shows that the issue of children's rights is very important for the communes too²⁶.

In the district of Berat there are several types of social services supported by NGO-s. The children that receive services are mainly from the Roma community, Egyptian and disabled. The right of children to be protected from exploitation and labour purposes is guaranteed by the Albanian Constitution. "National strategy for children" and "National action plan", and also

²⁶ Children's Rights Unit in the District Council Berat, Mrs M.M unit specialist

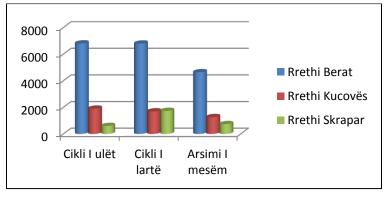
"National strategy against children trafficking and protection of children victims of trafficking" predict the protection of children from exploitation.

Measuring and monitoring child labour is important because it negatively affects helath, physical development and education.

Child labour has a negative effect and is a consequence of social-economic inequality. Children under 18 years old are considered to perform a job that is harmful for their health and security, when they carry/lift or transport heavy loads, handle dangerous substances, work longer hours than they are supposed to, or work night shifts. Although there are several legal penalties, child labour phenomenon is much diffused in Albania. According to the campain of the Albanian coalition "Together against child trafficking" in 2007 "Against Child Begging", in Albania there are 6700 employed children. In October 2011 in the city of Berat in several shoe factories, a 16 year old boy had an accident leaving work and passed away. Like this boy, there are many others that work and risk their life every day. This tragic case of a child that lost his life at work served to identify the labour of 16 year old children.

Education has an important role in children's life, because it enables the development of personality, talent, mental and physical capacity to achieve their potential. Acces to preuniversity eduation is presented to be at a low level comparing to countries of OECD. Currently, in Albania the average of school attendance is 11,9 years (countries of OECD: 14 years), what explaines the low level of high school attendance.²⁷ From the meetings with students of the high school B.D.K in the city of Berat was identified that many peers of the children were involved in labour. The main reasons were the economic difficulties of the family, but also to take care of their own expenses. Below we will present the number of children that attend the mandatory education divided by primary, secondary and tertiary education. We can notice that in the district of Berat there are 6.805²⁸ students that attend primary education, tertiary education 6.796 students and secondary education 4.638 ²⁹ students

Figure 4: Graphic of the number of children that attend mandatory education Source: Regional Educational Department Berat, Regional Education Office Kuçovë and dhe Corovodë, June 2012



MES, (July 2009) National Strategy for Pre-University Eduation 2009-2013

²⁸ Regional Educational Department Berat, June 2012

²⁹Regional Educational Department Berat, Regional educational Offices Kucovë and Corovodë, June 2012

In the district of Kuçovë, the primary education is attended by $\underline{1.698 \ students}$ and secondary education by $\underline{1.268 \ students}$. The District of Skrapar is presented by the numbers, where the primary education is attended by $\underline{1.734 \ students}$ and the secondary education by $\underline{739^{30} \ students}$. If we analyse the number of students per classroom in the primary education and the number of students per classroom in the tertiary education we can present the following tables.

Table 7: Number of students per classroom in the tertiary education **Source**: Regional Educational Department Berat, Regional Educational Office Kuçovë and Çorovodë, June 2012

Municipality/Commune	Number of Students		
Municipality of Berat	23,10		
Commune Otllak	24,36		
Municipality of corovodë	26.01		
Municipality of Ura	21,69		
Vajgurore			
Municipality of Kucovë	26.07		
Municipality of Polican	20,64		

Above there are presented the number of students per classroom in the tertiary education in some local units. Comparing the values of the table nr. 7, the Municipality of Kuçovë has the highest number of students in the classroom, followed by the Municipality of Çorovodë with 26,01.

Table 8: Number of students per classroom in the primary education of the mandatory system **Source**: Regional Educational Department Berat, Regional Educational Office Kuçovë and Çorovodë, June 2012

Municipality/Commune	Number of Students		
Municipality of Berat	21,38		
Municipality of Ura	19.48		
Vajgurore			
Commune Kutalli	18,11		
Commune Velabisht	17,61		
Commune Otllak	17.30		
Municipality of Cotovodë	16.67		

Regarding the registration of children 6-15 years old in mandatory education, towards the total number of children on a district level, is 63,39%. If we compare the number of the districts, the

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³⁰ Regional Educational Department Berat, Regional educational Office Berat, June 2012

district of Berat is $\underline{68\%}$, followed by the district of Çorovodë $\underline{with\ 69,31\%^{31}}$ and the district of Kuçovë $\underline{with\ 57,88\%}$. Meanwhile, regarding students' attendance in mandatory education, it is reflected on the ratio of students per teacher in the primary and tertiary education. If we take a look at the numbers we can see that in primary education the highest ratio of students per teacher is in the Municipality of Kuçovë with $\underline{24,3}$ followed by the municipality of Berat with $\underline{21}$ and the municipality of Poliçan with $\underline{20,83}$. In the tertiary education the highest ratio of students per teacher is in the municipality of Çorovodë with $\underline{15,48^{32}}$ followed by the Commune Otllak $\underline{14,50}$ and Municipality of Berat with $\underline{13,70}$ students per teacher.

Also we must emphasize that positive models initiated by the MES, such as: projects "Second Chance" and "Sectret Abandon" have shown a possible way for success. The program "Secret Abandon", implemented by MES by treating all the deficiencies of educational practices in classrooms, is an exemple of positive models of abandonment reduction. Child participation is a priority of the law on the protection of children's rights (law 10 347 date 4.11.2010), National Strategy for Children. Article 11 of the law 10 347, date 4.11.2010:

The right to expres one-self is predicted as it follows below:

- 1) The child has the right to express freely, individually and collectively his point of view and his opinion, regarding every issue that concernes him, by evaluating them in accordance with his age and maturity.
- 2) The child has the right to ask and be given information and ideas of every type, in every forme or by every mean chosen by him, except for the case when the public interest is violated or someone else's rights.
- 3) The child has the right to be heard during every juridical or administrative procedure, that concerns him, directly, or on behalf of his legal representative and in the mandatory presence of the psychologist, in accordance with the legislation in vigor.

According to article 37 of the normative provisions of the pre-university system, is predicted the principle of child participation in the school society as an individual and as an organized decision making entity, through the creation of the student government. What was highlighted from the meetings with students and teachers is that currently the situation of children's rights has changed and has changed for better. Today, children raise their voices, but this happens mainly in high school and in urban areas. What is a continuous problematic in the education system is the non presence of the psychologist every day of the week³³.

³¹ Regional Educational Department Berat, prepared by Observatory Office Berat, September 2012

³² Regional Educational Department Berat, prepared by Observatory Office Berat, September 2012

From meetings and questionnaires realised with students of the 9 year cycle school '28 November' Kucovë and high school 'Babë Dudë Karbunara' in the city of Berat.

Every society that has well-feeded children, sheltered, protected, educated, healthy and developed, is a society that protects the present and invests in the future.

Final evaluations

Children's rights in Albania, after the ratification of the United Nations Convention of the Children's Rights, are becoming every day more part of the agenda for the development of national policies, regional and local and legal and institutional frame. Deep changes have happened in the way society percepts children's rights. Responsibilities of institutions, families and communities regarding the protection of children's rights have increased. The above analyses testify of the gradual progress towards the realization of every child's rights in Albania. Although, despite of the many achievements, the report draws attention on issues that affect the realization of children's rights, and as a consequence they must be analized responsively from policy writers.

Law nr. 10347, "Protection of children's rights" was approved from the Albanian parliament on the 4th of November 2010. Based on the implementation of this law, was built the Children's Right Unit which is writing the Regional Children's Strategy for the District of Berat. This achievement shows that the issue of children's rights is the main focus.

Now, the new indicators are unified and the data gathering is important for the creation of a regional system that enables the information analysis in accordance with national evaluation indicators of the realization of children's rights. This is the only way to be able to evaluate social exclusion of children.

Recommendations

- Except the approval of law 10347 date 04.11.2010, there is the need for a continuous work towards further knowledge and implementation of this law from the institutions and local units.
- Institutions' engagement in gathering and monitoring new indicators must increase, because a unified system of children's rights indicators is a facilitation for national and regional policy writers in the field of children's rights protection.
- Coordination and inter-institutional communication and with NGO-s in the field of children's rights protection must increase.
- Local units must be active in the field of children's rights protection.
- In the education field, based on the needs of teachers and students, tyhe presence of the psychologist must be more frequent.
- Regarding child labour, the Regional Labour Office must be more careful in controlling busineses where children work.



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ANNEX 1: Questionnaire directed to institution specialists on a local level in the district of berat, December 2012

- 1. What was the effect of the approval of the law 10 347 and does it function?
- 2. Dis the institutions which you represent undertake initiatives or projects regarding the Protection of Children's Rights?
- 3. If yes, how did they affect the discussed problematic?

- 4. Were you notified regarding the approval of the DCM for gathering and monitoring new indicators for the Protection of Children's Rights?
- 5. How was realized the process of gathering new indicators by your institution?
- 6. What about the coordination of gathering new indicators and reporting from local structures towards NAPCR referring to DCM 267, date 12.04.2012?
- 7. How collaborative are institutions in exchanging indicators of Children's Rights with NGO-s?
- 8. What is the level of school abandonment in your city or surrounding communes?
- 9. Have you undertaken projects or initiatives for the reduction of school abandonment?
- 10. Are there cases of unregistered children and during case management did the appropriate institutions offer their help?
- 11. Is there a need for social centers or residential centers in your city and which is the target group?
- 12. Were there any problems during the child vaccination campaign?
- 13. What is the situation of child labour in your city?

ANNEX 2: Meetings realised with children of different group ages in the district of Berat, December 2012

The meeting with groups of children from different ages was realised with the objective to evaluate how well they knew their Rights, family relationships, teacher-student relationships, student-student. At the end of the meeting students were delivered a questionnaire where they should express their opinion. The questionnaire consisted in these questions:

- -What is the problematic in the field of realizations of your Rights?
- -What needs do you have at school or family regarding the realization of violated rights?