

POLICIES TO SUPPORT MINORITY GROUPS (ROMA) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KOZLODUY

An Action Plan is being implemented in the municipality of Kozloduy with a main objective the inclusion of the Bulgarian Roma citizens and other citizens in vulnerable social position living in similar conditions to those of the Roma minority.



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The main objective of the Plan is to improve the quality of life of vulnerable groups in Bulgarian society and create conditions for their full integration.

For the implementation of the activities in the plan the municipality works in the following directions:

Education ●

Health ●

Residential conditions ●

Employment ●

Culture ●



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The municipality runs seven kindergartens, where about 820 children up to the age of 7 are nurtured. In six municipal and one public school, about 2,200 students are educated.



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The right to equal access to quality education is guaranteed in all schools and kindergartens. The educational system in the municipality of Kozloduy operates according to the principles of equality and respect for the rights and dignity of every child, without any discrimination on ethnic, sexual, social, religious and cultural grounds.



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The municipality participates as a responsible institution in the Mechanism for joint work of institutions to cover and include children and pupils at compulsory pre-school and school age in the education system, which aims at the access of all children to school and overcoming the widespread illiteracy. The main task is to bring all children to the relevant educational institutions for continuous participation in the process of education and socialisation.



Kozloduy Municipality provides free transport for students from remote areas and the Roma district..



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Three educational mediators work on our territory. Their main task is to mediate between families, local communities, children, students, kindergarten and school. They are here with us and will share some of their work experience.



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There are educational mediators in the schools. Students from vulnerable groups are covered in a full-day organisation of the learning process and in groups for further training. They are provided with free lunch, textbooks and assistants. There are groups for overcoming learning difficulties.



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VARIOUS FORMS AND PROGRAMS ARE APPLIED FOR CHILDREN WITH DIFFICULTIES OR DEFICITS AND DROPOUTS IN ORDER TO REINTEGRATE THEM.





Working with parents and psychological support is very important in this process. New forms of inclusion of the parent community in kindergarten and school life are constantly being sought.



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Health care

Conducting immunisation campaigns for carrying out examinations and scope of compulsory immunisations of children with gaps in the immunisation calendar of the Republic of Bulgaria; health talks on various topics. These are part of the activities of health mediators.



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EMPLOYMENT

Insufficient education and lack of qualifications are the main reason why a large part of the working-age Roma population is unemployed. Usually, the financial support of families is from the state aid they receive, and the funds are never enough.



For this reason, the Roma population migrates abroad or works during the summer months without the requirements of labour law being met. Some of them abandon their children, which are raised by grandparents, aunts, uncles, which often creates difficulty in the educational process.



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CULTURE AND SPORT

At municipal level, a year-round cultural cycle has been developed to promote national values through celebrating national and public holidays, preserving Bulgarian traditions and customs, elevating the sense of national dignity by honouring historical memory.



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THE INFRASTRUCTURE

Each year, the budget of Kozloduy municipality grants EUR 120 000, which is invested in the construction of new playgrounds. They are located in settlements and Roma quarters. Around EUR 250 000 is invested in the repair and construction of existing facilities & infrastructure.



All playgrounds in use are equipped with new lighting fixtures for street lighting, there are over 250 CCTV cameras and tents. All these are measures that do not affect the communities directly, but play a role for improving living conditions.



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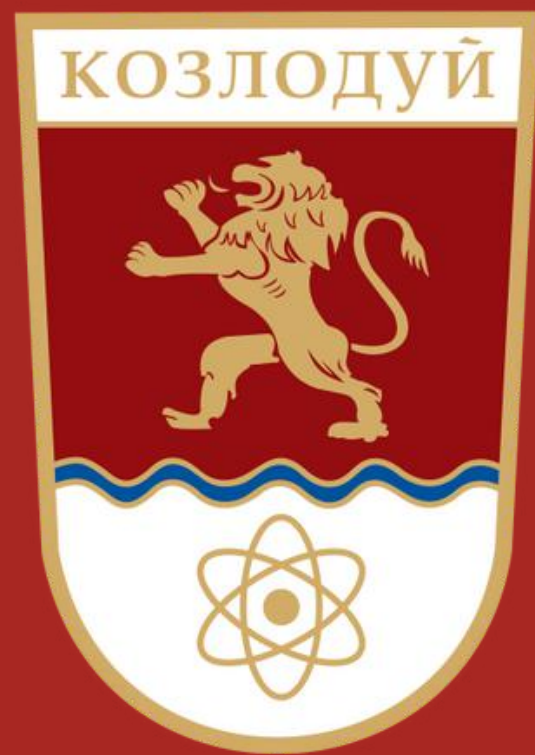


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THE MUNICIPALITY WON A NEW NEARLY EUR 500,000 PROJECT

This year the Municipality of Kozloduy signed a funding contract under the project “We play, learn and grow together”. The project aims to provide support to children from vulnerable groups, including Roma communities in early childhood, and their families. We hope that with the implementation of the activities we will be able to improve the access to health care, development of parenting skills, to enhance family environment, increase the school readiness for the education system.





THE MUNICIPALITY WON A NEW NEARLY EUR 500,000 PROJECT

Several centres of functionally linked services (hub*) for education and care at an early age will be set up. New sports and playgrounds will be built, working directly with parents and from Roma communities Kozloduy Municipality works in partnership with the neighbouring municipality of Mizia, Bulgarian NGOs and the Public Benefit Foundation “O.M.A.H.A.A.A.I.” — Iceland..

The joint activities of Kozloduy Municipality, schools, kindergartens and other educational institutions overcome the problems related to the educational integration of children and reduce the risk of their dropping out of the system



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