

TIME RECEIVED
August 3, 2015 4:07:23 PM GMT+02:00

REMOTE CSID

DURATION
103

PAGES
3

STATUS
Received



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA**

No. SUI-ONU//334.5.1/531

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Procedures Branch and has the honour to transmit herewith the response of the Government of the Republic of Moldova to the Joint Communication no. *UA MDA 3/2015* dated 28 May 2015, of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights and the Special Rapporteur on minority issues.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Procedures Branch, the assurances of its highest consideration. *et.*



Encl.: 2 pages

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH
COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
SPECIAL PROCEDURES BRANCH**

Geneva

The protection of minorities against discrimination is guaranteed by specific provisions in the Constitution, and in criminal, civil and administrative laws. Minorities' rights are further strengthened following the adoption of anti-discrimination legislation. The integration of Roma represents one of the national priority according to the Government Activity Program and National Action Plan for the implementation of the Republic of Moldova - European Union Association Agreement approved by the Government Decision on 7 October 2014.

Currently, the Moldovan Government is implementing the Action Plan to support Roma population for 2011 – 2015. In parallel for the IV semester of 2015 is envisaged the drafting process of the next framework document for Roma population under Inter-ministerial technical group to which experts from the competent institutions, NGOs and development partners are members.

The main objectives of the Action Plan refer to the key seven priority areas: 1) promoting services social-community mediators, 2) education, 3) employment and economic welfare, 4) health and social security; 5) culture and media; 6) public administration, public order and documentation; 7) housing.

On 24 October 2013 under the framework of the joint UN Programme "Strengthening the national statistical system", with the assistance of UNDP, UN Women, UNICEF and the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) and the financial support of the Government of Sweden, there was launched the *Report on Roma situation in communities with high concentration of Roma population in the Republic of Moldova*.

On 21 March 2014 a *Study on the Situation of Romani women and girls in the Republic of Moldova* was presented by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Its purpose has been to provide empirical documentation of the overall situation of Romani women and girls in the Republic of Moldova and to identify opportunities for their empowerment.

The data of the Report in fields such as education, health, migration, employment and living standards will be used for the elaboration, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes which aim at improving the situation of Roma population, integration and inclusion of this ethnic group, elimination of existing discrimination, and also for reporting on the commitments of the Government of the Republic of Moldova in the field of human rights.

One of the main achievements of the Action Plan implementation represents the institutionalization from January 2013 of *Roma community mediators*. Their role is to facilitate communication between Roma communities and public local authorities, to ensure a better access to available public services in the area of health, education, labour and social assistance. According to the provisions of the Action Plan, for 2013 financial resources were allocated from the state budget to the budget of territorial-administrative units for the employment of 15 community mediators – 462,6 thousand MDL lei. For 2014, for the employment of the next 33 community mediators in 30 communities densely populated by Roma people, within the state budget was allocated 1619,8 thousand MDL lei.

Between of January 2013-January 2014 the Government allocated 2.082.400 MDL lei for the institutionalization of Roma community mediators.

Community mediator is employed on the basis of contest on an individual employment agreement with the 1st level LPA in accordance with the Labour Code, and calculation of community mediator's salary is carried out in line with the GD No. 381 of 13 April 2006 on terms of labour remuneration for public sector employees. As for June 2015, 19 Roma community mediators are employed at the country level.

On 1 January 2015 the *Law on local public finances* has entered in to force and the financial resources for Roma community mediators has been decentralized to the local level. In this context, there was identified practical challenges and the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family (MLSPF) in May 2015 has brought this issue to the attention of the Government in order to find appropriate solutions and to ensure the service durability.

At the same time, the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family have proposed to restore direct central funding for Roma community mediators presenting the costs for CBTM for 2016-2018. These proposals are examined within joint ad-hoc working group with the parliamentarians' participation.

Moldovan authorities express their willingness to provide Roma community mediators with a robust program of training and education in order to strengthen their capacity-building and to ensure their professional qualification in order for them to better relate with the other civil servants and public officials. Starting from July 2011, training within the joint programme of the Council of Europe-European Union "Intercultural mediation for Roma communities" (ROMED Programme) was already ensured.

In 2014 MLSPF, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education in cooperation with "Tarna Rom" NGO and with the Council of Europe assistance worked out a draft *Methodological guide on activity of community mediator*. The draft Methodological guide contains the following chapters: Community Health Promotion; Preventive health activities; Reproductive health. Simultaneously, the Guide reflects a number of normative acts to familiarize the Roma population with the public health legislation. The draft Methodological guide are to be finalized and applied by the state authorities.

Furthermore, support was provided in professional training and arranging of workplaces for all community mediators aiming at successful launching of the system of Roma community mediators.

A new concept of delivering services at the local level was introduced within a program "Women's Economic Empowerment through increasing Employability in the Republic of Moldova" launched by UN Women, jointly implemented by MLSPF and the Ministry of Economy (hereinafter referred as to ME) and supported financially by the Government of Sweden, Swedish International Development Agency (Sida). The concept implied an approach based on a „single information source” realized through establishment of a Joint Information and Services Bureau. Alongside with the services provided weekly by the Bureau, it makes visits to the countryside using mobile teams comprising of the representatives of all structures in charge of employment services in order to provide respective services to the residents of rural communities, including Roma people. So far, such Bureaus were opened and have been functional in 19 districts of the country, but it is planned to spread this experience all over the country.

Within the Swedish project „Strengthening Migration Management in Moldova” implemented within the Mobility Partnership National Employment Agency (hereinafter referred as to NEA) initiated development of a Model of profiled services for unemployed and methodology for its applying.

To support the labor market integration of the Roma community NEA and its territorial offices organized a number of seminars and roundtables promoting services provided by NEA as well as the labor market integration opportunities. Thus, on February 25, 2013 at the invitation of the National Roma Centre NEA participated in the Debate Club dedicated to the problem of Roma unemployment. This Debate Club is a part of a project „Reducing discrimination through political and social policies” financially supported by the Dutch Embassy in Kiev. The project is implemented by the National Roma Centre within the Human Rights Fund Program and covers the period of September 2012-September 2013.

In 2014 territorial employment agencies registered and provided information and vocational training to 528 unemployed Roma people, including 235 Roma women.

In 2013 has been launched the *second phase of the Social Housing Project in Moldova co-financed by the Council of Europe Development Bank*. According to the data from 27 territorial administrative units, circa 70 Roma persons are living in social housing.

The Republic of Moldova joined the *Decade of Roma Inclusion* as an observer member from 2014.