ALBANIA

ROMA CHILDREN ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

unicef

Qendra për Mbrojtjen e të Drejtave të Fëmijëve në Shqipëri
CRCA

YWCA of Albania

df Observatory for Children's Rights

May 2015

© UNICEF & CRCA Albania, Tirana 2014.

Reproduction of parts of this document is authorised, except for commercial purposes, provided that the source is acknowledged.

This document has been prepared for UNICEF, CRCA, YWCA and OCR; however, it reflects the views only of the authors, and the organisations and donors cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

More information on the Initiative "Every Roma Child in Kindergarten" is available on the Internet (http://www.crca.al/every-roma-child-kindergarten).

Authors:

Altin Hazizaj

Pranvera Elezi

Mersila Ballo

Reference: Hazizaj A., Elezi P., Ballo M., Access of Roma Children to Early Childhood Services in Albania, UNICEF / CRCA Albania/ YWCA / Observatory, Tirana 2014.

This assessment is part of the "Every Roma child in kindergarten project", supported technically and financially by UNICEF and with the financial support of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC):

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Austrian Development Cooperation

unicef

ISBN: 978-9928-4247-1-6

Photo (cover): © CRCA Albania

Printed in Tirana / Albania

ROMA CHILDREN

ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES IN ALBANIA

THE STUDY TEAM IN ALBANIA

The Team of the Study in Albania was comprised of the following experts:

CRCA ALBANIA

Mersila Ballo
Mirgit Vataj
Marinela Isuf
Klaudio Pulaha
Elvis Gjata
Majlinda Shabani

OBS

Mina Mata
Rezana Shehu
Majlinda Hoxha
Ervis Azizi
Shkelqim Muça
Eridjona Kica

YWCA

Eva Bajaj
Majlinda Xhamo
Serida Cara
Fatmira Dajlani
Edison Kipti
Vjollca Krymi

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 6

CONTENTS

List of Tables 11
List of Graphs 12
List of Acronyms 13

Chapter 1: INTRODUCTION 14

Section 1.1: Introduction 14
Section 1.2: "Every Roma Child in Kindergarten" Initiative 16
Section 1.3: General overview of Roma Children in Albania 17

Chapter 2: METHODOLOGY 25

Section 2.1: Organisation of Study in Albania 25
Section 2.2: Time-frame of the study 26
Section 2.3: Preparation of the Instruments of the Study 28
Section 2.4: Study team and training 30
Section 2.5: Difficulties encountered during the study 30

Chapter 3: RESULTS OF THE STUDY 31

Section 3.1: Crèches 31
Section 3.2: Kindergartens 38
Section 3.3: Schools 54
Section 3.4: Health Services 67

Chapter 4: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 74

Section 4.1: Findings and Conclusions 75
Section 2.2: Recommendations 79

BIBLIOGRAPHY: 82

ANNEXES: 85

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Roma children for a long time have been the focus of studies, data-gathering and reports of many national and international organisations and government institutions. Discrimination, social exclusion, lack of opportunities and access to rights are often mentioned as the prime causes of their status in Albania and across most of Eastern and Western Europe. Governments and non-governmental organisations have worked together to improve policies and legislation that could eliminate many of the barriers that Roma children face to access and enjoy their rights, while mechanisms and services to support Roma children have gained strength across the country where Roma communities live. However many obstacles to fully respect Roma children's rights remain, particularly in terms of their inclusion in early childhood education and mandatory basic education, access to social and child protection services, health and welfare.

In 2011 UNICEF supported a nation-wide exercise known as Roma Mapping, where social scientists visited almost every known Roma settlement in Albania and the public institutions serving to them. A report and a website (www.sidalbania.org) provide a good platform for information in relation to Roma population in each area and their access to all public services. Based upon that data,in 2014UNICEF thanks also to the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) in partnership with three major Albanian CSO's started the implementation of "Every Roma Child in Kindergarten", a national initiative that aims to enroll Roma children in early childhood education and consequently basic education. More detailed information on the initiative is provided further down in this Report.

The preparation of the Report "Access of Roma Children in Early childhood services" it's a serious attempt to gather information on Roma children in relation to their education and health from the collected data of the public services across Albania. The report contains data and information on early childhood education and early childhood services (crèches and kindergartens, basic education, vaccinations and health issues in general). It looks into identifying issues of concern in each aspect of the early childhood services that need to be addressed at the policy level by the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health or Municipalities across Albania. As the country its reforming its administrative system the Report could well serve to identify and plan new areas for policy and services at national, regional and local level.

We would like to acknowledge the efforts that the authors, interviewers and all the participants of the study had to undertake to make this study possible. Special thanks to Altin Hazizaj, Vera Elezi and Mersila Ballo that co-authored this report, which provides us with a good knowledge on the issues and concerns that we need to take into consideration when working for Roma children. We would like also to acknowledge the contribution of the staff and experts of education and health authorities, CRCA, OBS and YWCA teams respectively for making it possible the collection of available data. We hope that this report serves also to the CSO's across Albania and beyond, working for Roma children, in terms of detailed volume of data and information and the needs that Roma children have for early childhood services.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The study "Access of Roma Children to Early Childhood Services in Albania", aimed to bring light into the situation of Roma children across the country by assessing the information already available at public institutions responsible for the provisions of early childhood education, basic education and health across Albania. The studytook place within the framework of the Programme "Every Roma Child in Kindergarten[1]", a joint action of UNICEF Albania in cooperation with CRCA Albania, YWCA and OCR, funded respectively by Swiss Cooperation and Austrian Office for Cooperation and Development.

The Roma population counts for one of the youngest population within the groups that make up Albanian society. The latest data shows that the average age of the Roma population in Albania is 27 years, compared to 35 years for the non-Roma[2]. The same study shows that 38% of the Roma population is made up of children up to 18 years old numbering to 6779 children.

Data from the Ministry of Education shows that an ever larger number of Roma children are attending basic education, pointing out that although children are attending primary and secondary education at a higher rate, yet the attitudes of the society and education staff may hinder their advancement in achieving quality education. Meanwhile the health situation of Roma children has been often overlooked by most researches for Roma population in Albania.

Data collection commencedby March 2014 to finish in July. Data collection was set as joint-work of the institutional partners in every municipality and commune across Albania. In total 23 trained team leaders and facilitators conducted interviews and mapping of the situation of Roma children. A specific Protocol was prepared and made available to all the experts' part of for the Study. In total 256 public officials from the staff of Educational and Health services in 12 Regions of Albania were part of this massive exercise of mapping Roma children in Albania. Almost 400 questionnaires were distributed to the directors of crèches, kindergartens, schools and health centres, Educational authorities, Economic Departments at Municipalities, while 381 filled questionnaires were received from the study teams.

The Study collected data approximately on 5,100 children or 75.2% of the Roma children population recorded by Roma Census 2014, or respectively for 46 children in crèches;665 children in kindergartens;2625 children in basic education; and 2475 children in health centres. It has to be said that theydon't represent the overall number of Roma children living in Albania.The Study uses quantitative methods to gather data on areas of early childhood education, basic education and health services across Albania in areas where Roma children and families live or reside. Most of the questions used in the questionnaires are open ended ones, thus giving an opportunity to the public officials to express their opinions and suggestions on specific aspects on Roma children and family welfare.

Implementing such a study in the magnitude and depth that is required one has to acknowledge that the process is never exhaustive and it has its limitations. The researchers are confident that most of the questions that are raised when it comes to education of Roma children and their access to health services will find an answer in this study. Nonetheless, as in every research, there are always many questions that future research will need to address. Below we have listed the main findings of the study.

[1] The action is translated in Romani Language as *"Sarkon Romale Maksemenge to Kopshti".*
[2] Roma Census 2014, Study of Albanian Communities, Open Society Foundation in Albania (Soros), Tirana 2014.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

FOR CRECHES

- During the last 3 years the number of Roma children attending crèches has almost doubled. Yet the number of children attending crèches is extremely low. Despite the fact that there is lack of data on how many crèches are established and functioning across Albania, the low attendance shows that Roma parentshave the least opportunities to register their children in crèches.

- It is highly concerning that 1 in 3 Roma children attending crèches are reported as being intermittently sick. This high level of unhealthy children raises questions in relation to their upbringing conditions such as access to proper housing, food, heating, clothing, vaccination etc. Although Albania scores high in terms of Roma children who have been vaccinated yet there are many children that have not.

FOR KINDERGARTENS

- There is a large discrepancy between available kindergartens in urban areas (316) compared to rural ones (1457) that serve respectively to 51% and 48.9% of children with a ratio of 123.4 children per kindergarten in urban areas and only 25.6% children in rural ones. Most Roma families live in urban areas, thus the access of Roma children into kindergartens becomes further difficult because of the lack of available places in kindergartens in urban areas.

- From 2011 to 2014 the numbers of Roma children attending kindergartens increased by 2/3 or otherwise 282 more children are attendingkindergartens across Albania. Data from the Roma households in 2011 showed that there were 383[3] Roma children attending kindergarten, while in 2014 there were 665 children. This increase could well be attributed to the Programme “Every Roma Child in Kindergarten”, including child friendly policies and programmes supporting Roma integration in early childhood and basic education from the Ministry of Education and other social partners in Albania.

- Roma girls are attending kindergartens at similar rates as the boys. Out of 665 children that are attending kindergartens, 329 are girls or 49.5% of all the children attending kindergartens. In some areas of Albania girls are attending at a higher rate than boys like Lushnja or Fier.

- Almost 50% of Roma children population between 3-6 years of age is attending kindergartens. Thiscould represent the highest level of kindergarten attendance for Roma children in post-communist Albania and a 20% increase when compared with household data of 2011[4]. In overall we can state that 69% of Roma children attend regularly kindergartens, while almost 29% of children don’t. Boys seem to make the majority of children that don’t attend kindergartens. Out of 139 children that are reported as non-regular attendees almost 62% are boys.

[3] Gedeshi I., Jorgoni E., “Mapping Roma Children in Albania”, page 39, UNICEF and CESS, Tirana 2011.
[4] Brüggemann, C. (2012). Roma Education in Comparative Perspective.Analysis of the UNDP/World Bank/EC Regional Roma Survey 2011.

- At national level, only 1.3% of Roma children have access to a meal while attending kindergartens when compared with non-Roma children.The meal provision is a strong contributing factor to kindergarten attendance from Roma Children. While only 18% of Roma children who attend kindergarten with a meal do not attend regularly, the percentage jumps to almost 40% for non-regular attendance of children who follow kindergartens without meal.

- 1 in 2 boys are perceived by the teachers as living in a dire socio-economic situation, while for the girls the ratio increases to almost 60%. Kindergarten teachers believe that Roma girls are worst well-off then boys in almost 20% of cases. The situation becomes worst when meal provisions are taken into consideration, where educators state that almost 61% of children who don't have access to meal provisions live in a bad socio-economic situation.

- The study found that at least 15% of non-Roma parents have often expressed negative attitudes towards Roma children and their families, with another 8% expressing them only once. Some 13.8% of teachers did not provide an answer to our question. Negative and discriminatory attitudes against Roma children seem to influence equally boys and girls with slight differences when there is a meal provision or when children attend 2nd level of kindergarten. In total we can say that almost 23% of Roma children are affected by nnegative attitudes by non-Roma parents, while attending kindergartens.

FOR SCHOOLS

- Only 61.4% of Roma children are attending basic education or 1 in 4 Roma children is not attending any form of education, despite the legal obligation to attend school. Although we didn't have all household data on Roma children per-age group related to their attendance of basic education the study could confirm that there are at least 2311 Roma children aged 6 up to 15 years old, attending all levels of basic education in Albania.

- A higher percentage of boys attend basic education compared to girls. Despite the fact that there are similar rates between boys and girls who enrol on the 1stgrade, respectively 48% versus 41%, in the last year of school attendance (9th grade) the ratio increases by 8% in favour of boys. The difference in school attendance between boys and girls who graduate basic education is almost 22% in favour of the boys. This major difference could be explained by the factor that is often mentioned to hinder Roma girls' education such as early marriages.

- School attendance for Roma girls drops progressively from the end of the 1st grade of primary school by reaching its peaks when Roma girls start 2nd and 6th grade. Roma boys also progressively drop school attendance from the start of the 2nd grade but yet not as early as the girls.

- The study found that 61% of Roma children live in proximity of the schools they attend, 16% live within 2 km ratio, while 5% of children live further than 2km from the school. To put this in perspective, 5% of Roma children need to walk at least 1 hour a day to get to school and come back. This percentage is quite considerable since it is a Government policy to provide free of charge transportation for children and teachers living 2km or further from the school. The majority of children live within a walking distance from their school, but there is a considerable number of children living far from schools and they could be the ones that dropout of school because of the distance. There are no reportsavailable on how many children get free transport in a year.

- A considerable number of Roma children drop out of school or become occasionally or persistently truant, despite the fact that a higher percentage of Roma children are attending basic education in Albania. Only 41.3% of Roma children attend regularly the basic education while the rest of the children are missing temporary or constantly at school. The study found that 36.2% of children are occasionally missing classes; 2.3% of children are occasionally truant while 1.3% of children are persistently truant. Data from our questionnaires shows that schools do not have enough information on the status of drop-outs for 18.8% of children, which is a very high rate to be neglected. Shkodra has the largest percentage of dropouts with 64.7% of children who have started school are reported to have dropped out followed by Durres with almost 15% followed by Tirana with almost 10%.

- Almost 1 in 2 Roma children seem to perform well in education with only 2.7% of children classified as performing below average. When we look into children'sachievements in their school attainment based on their location, the study found out that children in Korça achieve an excellent rate of education attainment (84%) compared to all the other districts of Albania. Roma children in Tirana, Fier and Lezha perform also above the average in their schools, with 81.6%, 42.2% and 47.7% respectively. The district of Fier has the largest number of missing data on child basic education.

- Only 3 out of 4 Roma children graduate the class they started at the end of the academic year, regardless of the fact that only 41.3% of children attended school regularly. Data shows that only 5.4% of Roma children failed their grade, while only 1.4% of those that attended school were children who were repeating the same grade.

FOR THE HEALTH SYSTEM

- Almost 36% of Roma children have visited up to 10 times a health centre during 2014, 6,5% of children between 11-20 times in a year and only 0.5% of children visited a health centre 20 times or more. Health professionals did not have records of the age of the child on 11% of the occasions; meanwhile on 46.6% of children they had no records on how many times the child has visited the health centre. This would mean that for 1 in 2 children the health professionals don't know how many times children visit the health centres.

- Almost 11% of Roma children have not received any vaccines at all. Some 61.7% of Roma children have received all the required vaccines while 10.5% of children have been partially vaccinated;for 17% of children the health staff didn't have any records. Boys receive a higher degree of vaccination compared to Roma girls. Almost 64% of Roma boys have received all the vaccines that are required compared to 60% of the Roma girls. The trend shows a slight increase in favour of girls when we look into the question "Yes, but not all the vaccines", while there is no data fluctuations between boys and girls when it comes to not having received any vaccines at all or when the information is unknown. The vaccination rate of 61.7% seems to be lower than 89% that was reported in 2011 from the households, which shows that vaccines are not received from most of the children or that the institutions report less percentage of vaccinations compared to what Roma parents state.

FACTS ON ROMA CHILDREN IN ALBANIA			
Total number of children (0-6 years old): 2772[5]			
Boys 0-3	742	**Girls 0-3**	784
Boys 3-6	649	**Girls 3-6**	597
Total number of children attending crèches (0-2 yearsold): 46			
Boys	25	**Girls**	21
Total number of children attending kindergartens: 665			
Boys	336	**Girls**	329
Regular attendance	462	**Irregular attendance**	139
Attending kindergarten with meal	247	**Attending kindergarten without meal**	418
Healthy	298	**Intermittently sick**	288
Total number of children attending basic education: 2625			
Boys	1279	**Girls**	1015
Regular attendance	1084	**Irregular attendance**	1047
Excellent	309	**Above average**	1221
Average	586	**Below average**	70
School dropouts: 173			
Boys	85	**Girls**	88
Graduation rate			
Pass	2041	**Fail**	142
Re-attendthe same class	37	**Unknown**	264
Child vaccinations			
Boys	1262	**Girls**	1202
Yes all the vaccines	1526	**Some of them**	261
None	265	**Unknown**	423
Child Health situation			
Healthy	1526	**Unhealthy**	135
Unknown	636		

[5] The information on the number of Roma children and their gender is taken from the Roma Census 2014. All theother data and information was collected across Albania from the teams of this study.

LIST OF TABLES

ROMA CHILDREN IN CRECHES
Table 3.1.1 Number of Crèches attended by Roma children
Table 3.1.2 Roma Children Crèches ATTENDANCE
Table 3.1.3 Roma children versus non-Roma children in crèches
Table 3.1.4 Distance of Crèches from Roma settlement
Table 3.1.5 Health situation of Roma children attending Crèches
Table 3.1.6 Attitudes of Crèches staff towards Roma families in relation to parenting, family planning, hygiene and feeding
Table 3.1.7 Status of civil registration of Roma children in crèches
Table 3.1.8 Attitudes of non-Roma parents towards Roma children

ROMA CHILDREN IN KINDERGARTENS
Table 3.2.1 Number of Kindergartens attended by Roma children in Regions, Municipalities and Communes
Table 3.2.2 Roma children attending kindergartens per region AND district
Table 3.2.3 Kindergartens' attendance status by sex, type of kindergarten and grade
Table 3.2.4 Kindergartens' attendance status by region AND MEAL PROVISION
Table 3.2.5 Number of Roma children per Kindergarten compared to non-Roma children
Table 3.2.6 Distance of kindergartens from Roma settlements
Table 3.2.7 Kindergartens' collection of children and parents data
Table 3.2.8 Health situation of Roma children in kindergartens
Table 3.2.9 Attitudes of kindergartens staff towards Roma CHILDREN
Table 3.2.10 Roma children and their socio-economic situation
Table 3.2.11 Attitudes towards Roma families in relation to their socio-economic Status per region
Table 3.2.12 Status of civil registration of Roma children
Table 3.2.13 Attitudes of non-Roma parents towards Roma children
Table 3.2.14 Funding of the kindergartens to support Roma children

ROMA CHILDREN IN BASIC EDUCATION
Table 3.3.1 Number of Schools IN REGIONS attended by Roma children
Table 3.3.2 Number of Roma children attending Schools per district
Table 3.3.3 School attendance of Roma children per class and gender
Table 3.3.4 National School attendance per classroom and gender versus Roma children
Table 3.3.5 Distance of Schools from Roma settlement/s
Table 3.3.6 Collection of children and parental personal data
Table 3.3.7 School attendance among Roma children in basic education per class
Table 3.3.8 School attendance among Roma children per region
Table 3.3.9 Roma children and school attainment per class and region
Table 3.3.10 Graduation rate of Roma Children per classroom and Region
Table 3.3.11 Dropouts of Roma Children per classroom and Gender

HEALTH SERVICES FOR ROMA CHILDREN

Table 3.4.1 Number of Health Centres accessed by Roma children in regions
Table 3.4.2 Distance of Health Centres according to regions
Table 3.4.3 Number of Roma children visiting Health Centres per region

Table 3.4.4 Age of children and number of visits in Health Centres
Table 3.4.5 Vaccination of Roma Children PER Region
Table 3.4.6 Vaccination of Roma Children per region and gender
Table 3.4.7 Health situation Roma Children across Regions
Table 3.4.8 Infant mortality, Meningitis, Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS among Roma Children
Table 3.4.9 Major health issues affecting Roma children
Table 3.4.10 Attitudes of Health staff in relation to hygiene

LIST OF GRAPHS

Graph 1: Number of Roma children living in Albania per age (Roma Census 2014)
Graph 2: Pyramid of Roma children population (2011 versus 2014)
Graph 3: Distance of Crèches from Roma Settlement
Graph 4: Health Situation of Roma Children Attending Crèches
Graph 5: Roma children attending kindergartens per region
Graph 6: Roma children attending kindergartens per district of Albania
Graph 7: Distance of kindergartens from Roma settlements
Graph 8: State of health of Roma children in kindergartens
Graph 9: Attitudes of kindergartens staff towards Roma Children
Graph 10: Roma children and their socio-economic situation
Graph 11: Attitudes towards Roma families in relation to their socio-economic Status per region
Graph 12: Attitudes of non-Roma parents towards Roma children
Graph 13: Number of Schools in Regions attended by Roma children
Graph 14: School attendance of Roma children per classroom and gender
Graph 15: Roma Girls' education versus boys per class attended
Graph 16: Girls attending schools at national level in Albania (in %)
Graph 17: Roma Girl's attending schools at national level in Albania (in %)
Graph 18: School attendance of Roma boys and girls per region in Albania
Graph 19: % of regular pupils among Roma children
Graph 20: Roma children missing classes (in hours)
Graph 21: Dropout rate among Roma pupils per region
Graph 22: Dropout rate among Roma pupils (boys versus girls)
Graph 23: Distance of health center according to regions
Graph 24: Number of Roma children registered of visited health centers per each region
Graph 25: Vaccination of Roma children per region of Albania
Graph 26: Roma children vaccination based on gender
Graph 27: Attitudes of health staff in relation to children's hygiene

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CRCA	Children's Human Rights Centre of Albania
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DAR	Regional Education Directorate
INSTAT	National Institute of Statistics
MES	Ministry of Education and Sports
MSWY	Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth
OBS	Observatory for Children's Rights
OSFA	Open Society Foundation in Albania
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VKM	Decision of the Council of the Ministers
YWCA	Young Women Christian Organisation

CHAPTER 1:

Introduction and background

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The study"Access of Roma Children in Education and Health Services in Albania" aimed to capture the situation of Roma children across the country by gatheringand reviewing data and information already collected by the public institutions responsible for the provisions of early childhood services across Albania. The study is an attempt to identify jointly with authorities in Albania major issues that influence and hinder the development of Roma children.

The study took place within the framework of the Programme "Every Roma Child in Kindergarten[6]", a joint action of UNICEF Albania in cooperation with CRCA Albania, YWCA and OCR, funded respectively by Swiss Cooperation and Austrian Office for Cooperation and Development. The initiative's goal is to "…facilitate the establishment of institutional and civil society networks to increase Roma children access to early childhood development programmes in kindergartens throughout Albania, through identification of gaps, challenges, lessons learned and achievements by the child care and protection system."

The research is dedicatedto the issues of early childhood education and health services, based upon data and arguments rising from a pool of research at European and country level. First of all, Roma population counts for one of the youngest population within the groups that make up Albanian society. The latest data shows that the average age of Roma population in Albania is 27 years, compared to 35 years of the non-Roma population[7]. The same study shows that 38% of the Roma population is made up of children up to 18 years old.

Statistical data by the Ministry of Education shows that an ever larger number of Roma children are attending basic education with a positive progression every year, pointing out that although it is an achievement that children are attending primary and secondary education at a higher rate, yet the attitudes of the society and education staff may hinder their advancement in achieving a higher education.

The analysis of the health situation of Roma children has often been overlooked. Most of the research has focused into negative societal expressions such as exploitation, living in the street and trafficking of Roma children, while fewer have looked into their access into health services and their state of health. Our Studylooked into identifying any particular areas of interest within the health situation of Roma children that influence the health and upbringing of Roma children in Albania.

[6] The action is translated in Romani Language as *"Sarkon Romale Maksemenge to Kopshti".*
[7] Roma Census 2014, Study of Albanian Communities, Open Society Foundation in Albania (Soros), Tirana 2014.

The process of data collection for the Study started in March 2014 to finish by July of the same year. The data and information collection was set as joint-work of the institutional partners in every municipality and commune responsible for providing services for 108known Roma settlements across Albania. In total, 23 trained team leaders and facilitators from three organisations,conducted interviews and mapping of the situation of Roma children. Team leaders and their facilitators were trained in three consecutive training courses in relation to the application of the instruments, data collection, data entry and data processing. A specific Protocol was prepared and made available to all the teams that were part of for the Study.

Separate instruments for the assessment and interviews were prepared for each of the institutions (crèches, kindergartens, schools and health centres), using an updated version of the questionnaires used by the "Mapping Roma Children in Albania-2011"[8]. The Study team in consultation with the partners of the "Every Roma child in kindergarten" decided to use the same instruments, in order to compare how the situation of Roma children in Albania had progressed or regressed during the 3-year period and what new trends and changes would be observed during the period of the study.

The Study team distributed 399 questionnaires to the directors of crèches, kindergartens, schools and health centresthat provide services to Roma children and families living in 108 Roma settlements across 12 regions of Albania. A total of 390questionnaires were filled, while 9 questionnaires were not, citing lack of time or data. The questioners that were not filled correspond respectively to: 2 questionnaires from Health Centres, 1 educational authority, 5 schools and 1 kindergarten in Albania.

In total 256 public officials from the staff of Educational and Health services in 12 Regions of Albania joined this data collection exercise. Team leaders and facilitators conducted visits to the premises of the institutions part of the study process in order to assess how the process took place, while facilitate the communication among public officials and Roma communities across Albania, where the initiative has been working for almost a year now. *The Study did not collect information from Roma households in the identified settlements mainly because household data on Roma children and families was gathered by Roma Census 2014. The researchers agreed to use the data gathered from the Open Society Foundation in Albania Census on Roma children in relation to ages, communities and areas where they live, any available data on their level of poverty, housing, access to services etc. The use of these data has been well referenced throughout this report.*

The number of respondents varies from region to region depending largely on the number of institutions and number of Roma settlements present in the area. Data on each institution and Roma settlement were identified by the Study staff in late 2013 during a mapping of institutions and communities that took place as part of the initiative "Every Roma Child in Kindergarten". The number of institutions that did not respond was extremely low as the process was a joint exercise of public institutions in cooperation with three civil society organisations and it did receive strong support from both the Ministry of Education and Sciences and the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth in Albania.

The study was able to retrieve and review information on Roma children collected and provided by the public authorities in cooperation with peer research teams in 12 regions of Albania for the following services:

- 46 children in crèches;
- 665 children in kindergartens;
- 2625 children in basic education; and,

[8]Gedeshi I., Jorgoni E., "Mapping Roma Children in Albania", UNICEF and CESS, Tirana 2011.

- 2475 children in health centers.

*The study collected data for 5,776 Roma children. One has to be aware that these numbers do not represent the overall number of Roma children living in Albania, but the number of children that the respective services have come in contact with and that their data have been recorded in databases or registers of public institutions.*The number of children recorded by Health Centres it correspond with the number of children that have visited centres or required health services from the start of the year 2014 till early June of the same year mostly for new- borns up to 7 years old. The above numbers represent individual children that have accessed early childhood services respectively.Further analysis and information is provided in Chapter 3 of this Study.

The study uses quantitative methods to gather quantitative data on areas of early childhood education, basic education and health services across Albania in areas where Roma children and families habit. It doesn't study areas outside major Roma settlements identified by Roma Mapping 2011 and Roma Census 2014[9], where probably a smaller number of Roma live. Most of the questions used in the questionnaires are open ended ones, thus giving an opportunity to the public officials to express their opinions and suggestions on specific aspects on Roma children and family welfare.

Upon the completion of the interviewing process a senior team of researchers analysed the data from the quantitative questions and open-ended ones in order to present the data and the results of the study. Implementing such a study in the magnitude and depth that is required one has to acknowledge that the process is never exhaustive and it has its limitations.

The researchers are confident that many of the questions that are raised when it comes to education of Roma children and their access to health services will find an answer in this study. Nonetheless, as in every research, there are always many questions that will rise and that other future research will need to address and answer. The researchers strongly advocate for further research into social upbringing and care of Roma children and how current social and child protection services accomplish their responsibilities towards them.

[9] Roma Census 2014, Study of Albanian Communities, Open Society Foundation in Albania (Soros), Tirana 2014.

1.2 "EVERY ROMA CHILD IN KINDERGARTEN" INITIATIVE

"Ensuring that Roma children have equal access and opportunities for an equal start in life is the main goal of the initiative."

This joint UNICEF initiative implemented by CRCA Albania, Young Women Christian Association-YWCA, and the Observatory of the Rights of Child, aims to build and support local networks in early childhood issues and the integration of Roma children in the pre-educational system. The initiative started its implementation in October 2013 and is on-going.

It aims to give special attention and assistance in facilitating the integration and attendance of 3 to 6 year old children that belong to the Roma community. Moreover, the initiative aims at bridging the interaction and close cooperation of the civil society with Social Services, Social Workers, Municipalities, Communes, Regional Education Directorates, Health Centres and other institutions that provide care and protection for children.

It is intended to strengthen the partnership between the civil society organizations and state decision makers (central and local) with a special focus on making the pre-school educational system a friendly environment for children including those belonging to the Roma community.

This initiative shall introduce successful models of integration of children belonging from marginalized and excluded groups in the educational system and society in general. To this regard, the initiative will serve as an example for all other social groups which live in similar conditions with those of the Roma community.

The initiative seeks to:

- Facilitate and promote a sustainable cooperation with local authorities and Roma groups for the integration of children in pre-schools;
- Collect data / evidence / best practices and difficulties in the implementation of policies regarding the integration of Roma children (based on a unified protocol for collecting data and evidence);
- Prepare periodic reports regarding the registration of children, as well as advocate for the support and inclusion of Roma children in pre-school and compulsory education;

The Action is supported by UNICEF, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Austrian Cooperation for Development. The partners have committed to implement the initiative by monitoring and developing good practices for the integration of Roma children in all kindergartens near the settlements where they live, covering 12 regions of Albania. The three organizations coordinate their work to build up focal points and contact persons in order to coordinate responsibilities and duties of stakeholders like state institutions and civil society partners.

1.3 ROMA CHILDREN IN ALBANIA: A GENERAL OVERVIEW

Roma children make up 38% of the Roma population living in Albania[10]. Yet their access to individual and collective rights is hindered by a wide number of societal and institutional factors that greatly affects their upbringing and opportunities to become fully independent adults. Their contribution to society, whether political, economic, culture or social, often is neglected.

Albania doesn't have enough evidence based studies when it comes to Roma children. A general overview of reports and studies into Roma children reveals that early ones focused primarily in describing difficult living conditionsin post-Eastern Europe revolutions, while in later years studies have been looking to identify the main causes of Roma exclusion and how that has affected their rights and access to basic public services.

The study looked into how the most recent studies have reported issues of concern of Roma children development and in particular into areas of interest for our research. The researchers studied several bodies of evidence from a wide body of public and private institutions, which over the years, have studied general population of Roma people living in Albania and the factors that undermine their integration and full participation in society. The study looked also into current institutional framework responsible for the implementation of legislative norms and public policies in support of Roma people and particularly of children.

1.3.1 Population of Roma children in Albania

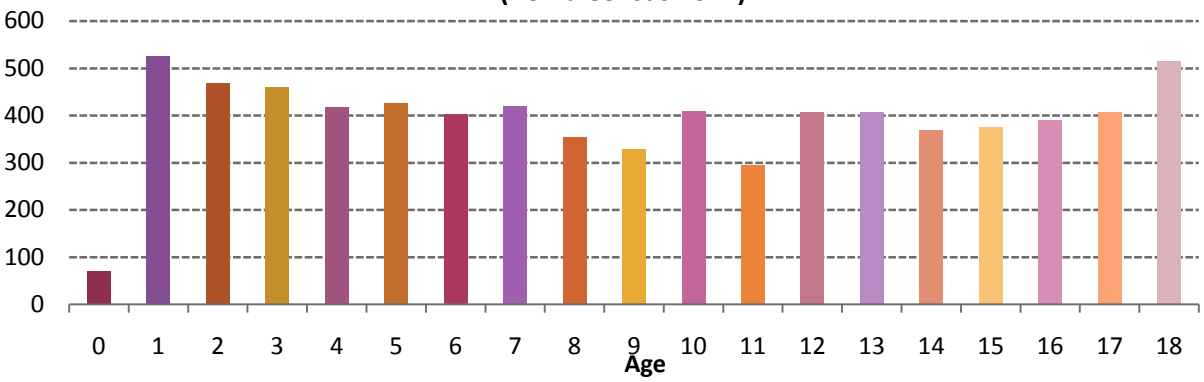
A highly contentious issue, the number of Roma population living in Albania and consequently of children, always raises heated discussions among Roma organisations and public institutions. Although there have been a Census and a mapping of Roma population taking place, still many studies maintain that the number of Roma people living in Albania is higher than the one reported[11]. Several reports on Roma demographics state that Roma population is higher than the one reported. Internal and external migration, lack of civil registration,are some of the main factors that constantly influence Roma population, which is seen as the most mobile among the Albanian society.

The Census 2011 of the National Institute of Statistics in Albania puts the number of resident Roma population living in the country at 8,301 or 0.3% of the population living in Albania[12]. However, almost 391,000 people (14%) of population in Albania preferred not to answer to the question on their ethnicity and/or cultural affiliation.In the same year UNICEF funded the process of mapping of Roma Children in Albania, the first kind of study looking in depth into issues concerning Roma children wellbeing and their families[13]. Thestudyreported that 14,564 Roma were living in Albania at the time, including 6,304 children up to 18 years old. In 2013, OSFA funded Roma Population and Housing Census, to collect extensive information on Roma population living in Albania. Data from the Census was made public by mid-2014 and among other issues it reported that 18,276 Roma people were living in Albania, including 6,779 children below 17 years old. The diagram below shows the distribution of children per age.

[10] Roma Census 2014, Study of Albanian Communities, Open Society Foundation in Albania (Soros), Tirana 2014.
[11] Civil Society Monitoring Report on the Implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategy and Decade Action Plan in 2012 in Albania, Roma Active Albania &the Decade of Roma Inclusion Secretariat Foundation, 2013.
[12] Population and housing Census 2011, Albanian National Institute of Statistics, Tirana 2012.
[13] Gedeshi I., Jorgoni E., "Mapping Roma Children in Albania", UNICEF and CESS, Tirana 2011.

Comparing the Roma Mapping with the Census 2014, we observed an expected progression of the number of Roma children living in Albania. From 2011 to 2014 the Roma children population increased by 475 or 7.5% more children in 3 years[14].

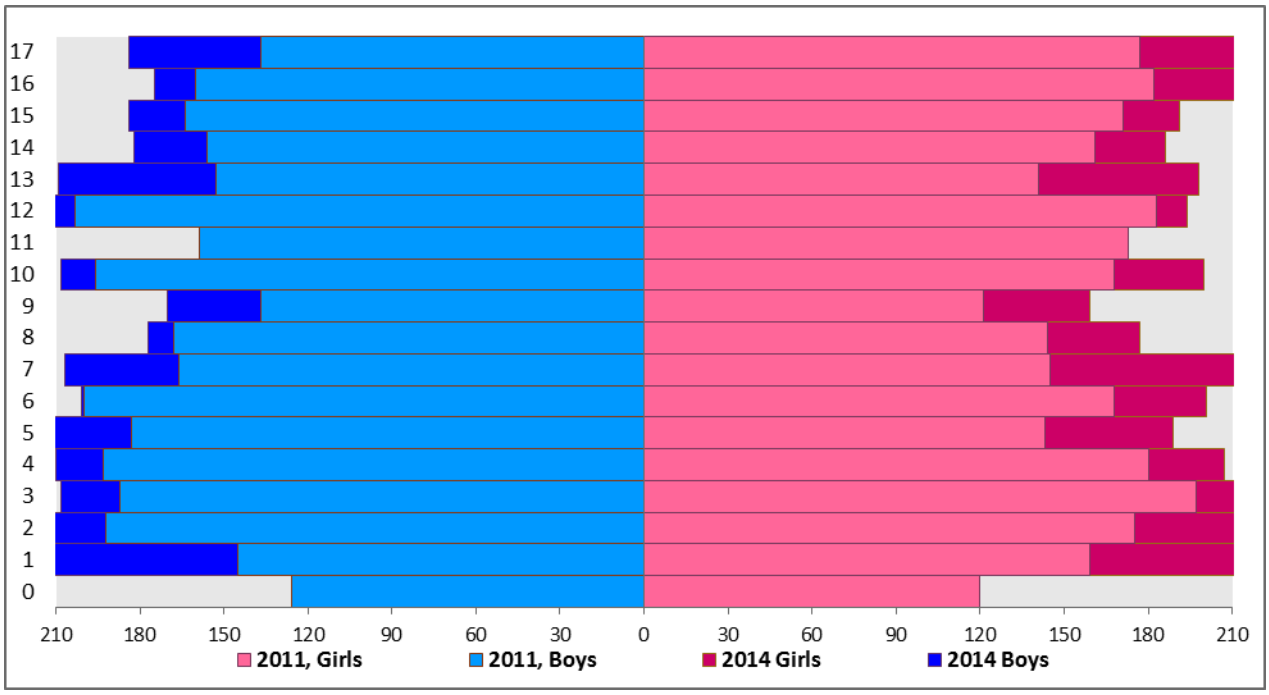
Graphic 1: Number of Roma children living in Albania per age (Roma Census 2014)



When it comes to gender disaggregated data on children gets blurry. The 2011 Census reportedfew age-based data's among Roma children. Meanwhile Roma Mapping reported that children in overall represented 43.3% of the Roma population, but few references were placed on the gender. Roma Census 2014 reported that children represent 37% of the Roma population, while when it came to gender 50.4% of Roma population were males and 49.6 were female. Based on the data of 2011 and 2014 we builda pyramidof Roma children population comparing data from 2011 and 2014 that show how the Roma children population has progressed during the last 3 years.

1.3.2 Geographical distribution of Roma people

Graph 2: Pyramid of Roma children population (2011 versus 2014)



[14] Roma Census 2014, Study of Albanian Communities, Open Society Foundation in Albania (Soros), Tirana 2014.

Roma people live mainly in homogenous settlements across 12 regions of Albania. The majority of the families are living besideor in the largest urban centres across western and central parts of Albania, with Korca being the second city in Albania with the largest number of Roma families after Tirana[15], while Elbasan and Fier regions are 3rd and 4th in raking per number of Roma families. Roma inhabit urban areas at a higher rate compared to non-Roma populations. At least 68% of Roma people live in urban areas compared to53.5 of the general population.

1.3.3 Poverty among Roma people

Although it is assumed that by living in urban areas people have higher chances to access public services, employment, goods and services, data shows that most of the Roma people do not benefit equally as the non-Roma people. At least 69% of Roma families live on 15,000 Lek monthly income (approx. 4.5 USD a day), while 23% of them live on 166 lek a day (approx. 1.5 USD a day). Roma Census 2014 also found that 80% of Roma families don't have access to warm water, while 16% of them don't have access at all in water and 11% don't have access to electricity[16]. When it comes to employment 74% of Roma people declare themselves as unemployed compared to 15% that is the national unemployment rate in Albania.

1.3.4 Pre-school attendance of Roma children

There are very few studies that have observed depth the issue of early childhood education among Roma children in Albania. Roma Mapping 2011 is among the few studies that explored the issue of early childhood education I crèches (0-3 years old) and kindergartens (3-6 years old). There is a wide body of research that supports the positive impact that early childhood education has on children[17][18][19][20]. Other researchers have been considering the relation between race and ethnicity of children in kindergartens, only to find a close link between early childhood education and improved school performance of minority children[21].

Data confirms that only 26.4 percent of Roma children aged from 3 to 6 years attended preschool facilities in 2011. The percentage was higher in the districts like Delvina, Pogradec, Lezha, Vlore and Korce, while in others like Kukes, Peshkopia, Shkodra preschool education for Roma children is almost inexistent[22].In 2011 there were 383 children attending kindergartens across the country, while a year later the Ministry of Education 559 children were attending representing 42% of identified children by the Educational Authorities[23]. Roma Census 2014 did not collect information on children 0-6 years old (apart from general information), as the information on kindergarten attendance would collected by this Study.

[15] Roma Census 2014, Study of Albanian Communities, Open Society Foundation in Albania (Soros), Tirana 2014.
[16] idem
[17] Campbell, F.A. and Pungello, E.P. (1999).The Carolina Abecedarian project.Website presentation on long-term benefits of intensive early education for impoverished children.
[18] The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study to Age 40, 2005.Lawrence J. Schweinhart.High/Scope.
Available online at: http://www.highscope.org/file/Research/PerryProject/specialsummary_rev2011_02_2.pdf
[19] Heckman, J. (2000). Policies to foster human capital, *Research in Economics, 54*.
[20] Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, Do you believe in Magic? What we can expect from early childhood intervention programmes. Social Policy Report, Volume XVII, Number 1, 2003.
[21] Magnuson, K. A., & Waldfogel, J. (2005). Early childhood care and education: Effects on ethnic and racial gaps in school readiness. Future of Children, 15(1).
[22] Gedeshi I., Jorgoni E., "Mapping Roma Children in Albania", UNICEF and CESS, Tirana 2011.
[23] Ministry of Education conference paper: Achievements and challenges in education of Roma and Egyptian Children in Albania. Tirana 2014.

Several comparative European studies have demonstrated that the level of pre-school attendance of Roma children is very low compared to non-Roma[24]. A UNDP comparative study found that "…according to national averages in most countries, the Roma are less likely to attend pre-school education facilities than non-Roma living in close proximity to Roma households.[25]" and that "… attendance rates of Roma children increased with higher age as one would expect, the attendance rates for 5 year old children are higher than for 4 year old children, and attendance rates of 4 year old children are higher than for 3 year old children." The same study stated that 61% of Roma children in Albania aged 6 were not attending any kind of institutional education, while only 26% of Roma children of 3-6 were attending kindergarten compared to 66% of non-Roma children of the same age living in proximity.

1.3.5 Roma children in basic education

Historically the Roma in Albania, as in other European countries, are characterized by a low level of education[26].The Roma mapping 2011 reported that the level of illiteracy among Roma was 40.3 per cent, while only 16 per cent had graduated high school. In 2012, UNDP in a comparative analysis reported that at least 22% of Roma children between 10-18 years old had never been to school. The same research stated that only 52% of Roma children 7-9 year's old attend school, with a slight increase at 59% for children 10-12 year's old, compared to 93% of non-Roma children living in the proximity[27]. At least 18% of Roma children attend the school irregularly compared to only 3% of their peers in proximity.

The 2014 Roma Census concluded that the lesser the level of education of Roma families the less well-off were the families, with 49% of Roma people above 6 years old not being able to read or write. Only 12.2% of Roma people where at school when Census took place[28]. The Ministry of Education in Albania reported optimistically that the Education[29] year 2012-2013 was attended by 3433 Roma children or 87% of identified children, while "second chance" classes were attended by 625 Roma and Egyptian children (data not disaggregated) with 176 Roma children attending secondary education[30].

1.3.6 Health situation of Roma Children

Data on health situation of Roma children is limited and often doesn't provide a detailed view of what factors or diseases affect their health. In 2005 a study conducted with Roma families showed that "almost 6 per cent of children did not enjoy good health, with 5 per cent of children having suffered serious illnesses while 5.6 per cent from chronic diseases[31]. In 2012 a UNDP study into Roma and Egyptians in Albania found out that 70% of Roma do not take their children to family clinics for regular checks[32], while the main factors siting as contributing to poor health of children were malnutrition and difficult living conditions. However

[24]Brüggemann, C. (2012). Roma Education in Comparative Perspective.Analysis of the UNDP/World Bank/EC Regional Roma Survey 2011.
[25] idem
[26]Gedeshi I., Jorgoni E., "Mapping Roma Children in Albania", UNICEF and CESS, Tirana 2011.
[27]Brüggemann, C. (2012). Roma Education in Comparative Perspective.Analysis of the UNDP/World Bank/EC Regional Roma Survey 2011.
[28] Roma Census 2014, Study of Albanian Communities, Open Society Foundation in Albania (Soros), Tirana 2014.
[29] Education year for mandatory education in Albania starts on 15 September and ends between 1-15 June of the next year (Authors note).
[30]Conference paper by the Ministry of Education: Achievements and challenges in education of Roma and Egyptian Children in Albania, Tirana, 2014.
[31]De Soto at al. Roma and Egyptians in Albania: From social exclusion to social inclusion. The World Bank, Washington DC., 2005.
[32] A needs assessment study on Roma and Egyptian communities in Albania, Center for Economic and Social Studies, UNDP Albania, 2012.

research suggests that Roma families vaccinate children at quite a considerable rate in Albania, compared to other countries in Western Balkans[33].

1.3.7 Roma children and child exploitation

The Roma Census 2014 found that only 4% of children 6-17 years old were employed, compared to 7% that is the annual average. However the report did not study children up to 6 years old, where it is expected that many young children are exploited for child labour, including begging. A Save the Children/CRCA Albania study few years earlier stated that "… we have to accept that the majority of children in street situation are come from the Roma community, taking into consideration that part of this group of endangered children, are also children from other groups of society.[34]"

A research into street children in Albania found that 74.3% of all the street children where from Roma and gypsy communities, with Roma children constituting the major group among the two. Within the group of Roma Children, girls count for the largest share of street children, whereas in the non-Roma group, boys were in majority. In total 2527 children across Albania were counted as living in the streets[35].

1.3.8 Violence against Roma children

Researches into violence against Roma children remain limited. Most of the studies so far have focused on the prevalence and incidence of abuse and neglect among the general population overlooking the issue of ethnicity or language. Balkan Epidemiologic Study on Child Abuse and Neglect (2013) reported that 59% of children were victims of physical violence, 11% of sexual harassment, 5% sexual violence and 26% of children reported feeling of neglect[36]. Anecdotal evidence and observations of Roma communities make us assume that neglect and physical violence against children are rife. Serious research is required to look into how does violence influences the wellbeing and mental health of Roma children in Albania.

1.3.9 Child marriages

One area where research has been able to look into was early marriages of Roma girls. Although legislation prohibits early marriages yet this is prevalent among Roma[37]. A UNFPA Paper on Child Marriages found out that "Poverty, the lack of value placed on girls' education, geographical isolation, social exclusion, trafficking, and emigration are all factors that are driving child marriage in Albania today, in addition to attitudes towards women's sexuality and role in society. At the same time, child marriage within certain communities in itself is helping to perpetuate these trends as well." The same paper stated that "Roma girls tend to marry at a much younger age and become mothers earlier than other ethnic groups. A study in

[33] Mihailov, Dotcho (2012). The Health situation of Roma communities: Analysis of the data from the UNDP/World Bank/EC Regional Roma Survey 2011.

[34] Hazizaj A., Haxhiymeri E., Legislation and public services for street children in Albania. Save the Children / CRCA Albania, Tirana, October 2011.

[35] National Study on Children in Street Situation in Albania, UNICEF, Save the Children and Arsis, Tirana April 2014.

[36] Cenko E., Hazizaj A., Haxhiymeri E., Çoku B., Violence against Children in Albania. Balkan Epidemiologic Research on Child Abuse and Neglect (B.E.C.A.N), CRCA Albania, Tirana 2013.

[37] The Family Code of the Republic of Albania (2004) (An English translation of the Code can be accessed electronically in this address: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/65148/89474/F1958881334/ALB65148%20(English).pdf). Under the Family Code, the legal minimum age for marriage in Albania is 18. However, the same article of the Family Code states that a local Court may approve marriage at an earlier age "for matters of importance" (for instance when a girl under 18 years of age is pregnant, or the future husband is an emigrant who would like to contract a marriage with a person under 18 years of age). In such case, no minimum age is defined. All marriages must be based on the free consent of both future spouses, and must be registered at an official register office.

2002-2003 showed that the average age of marriage for Roma girls was 15.5 years, while the average age of Roma mothers at the birth of their first child was 16.9 years. In 2011, 31 per cent of 13-17-year-old Roma girls were married or in union.[38]"

1.3.9 Legal and institutional framework

Post-communist Albania has developed quite an extensive legislation when it comes to children and protection from discrimination and is a state party to the Convention on the Rights of the Child of United Nations (since March 1992). The Albanian Constitution provides special protection to children (Art. 54) and the principal of non-discrimination (Art. 18) is embedded in the highest law of the country[39]. Criminal Law, in line with the Constitution, provides protection from racial and hate crimes, abuse and exploitation etc.

In February 2010 the Parliament approved a Law for the Protection from Discrimination, whose provisions provide strong protection for persons or groups based on their colour, language etc.[40]. An office of Anti-discrimination Commissioner was established in the same year and several decisionsand recommendations have been given in support of Roma children's rights[41].

A Child Rights Law to guarantee the application of the UN CRC was approved by the Albanian Parliament in November 2010[42], which was followed by the establishment of the National Agency for Children's Rights (Art. 36) and six by-laws relating to the application of different aspects of the law by public institutions across the country. The Law is built upon the principal of equality and non-discrimination (Art. 5/2), the Right to Adequate Living Standards (Art. 18), social protection and protection from violence (Art. 20-21) etc. Provisions of the law required that a National Council for Children's Rights (Art. 33) and a National Agency for Children's Right be established respectively (Art. 36). While the National Council aim is to coordinate, assess and propose new policies on the area of child rights and child protection, the Agency role is to oversee the application of the law by all the structures and institutions in Albania.

The Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth (MSWY) is the main national public institution that implements social policies of Albania. In early 2013 the re-organisation of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth split up a modest Roma Secretariat that was established by the National Roma Strategy (2005-2010)among various departments of the General Directorate of Social Social Policies of the MSWY.

Part of the organisational structure is the General Administration of Social Services in Albania (GASS), whose duty it is to implement the social policies setup by the MSWY in relation to economic aid and social services. GASS in mandated by the law to plan and monitor the use of public funds for economic aid, disability payments and services of social care; preparation of new standards of social services in Albania and setup the documentation needed for the applicants and beneficiaries social services[43].

[38] Republic of Albania: Child Marriages, October 2012, Version 1, UNFPA.

[39] Albanian Constitution was aapproved by referendum on 22 November 1998, promulgated on 28 November 1998, amended in January 2007. Source: http://www.osce.org/albania/41888 (accessed on 10.12.2014)

[40] The law can be accessed in the link: http://kmd.al/skedaret/1306833181-Anti-discrimination%20law%20En_FZ.pdf(accessed on 10.12.2014)

[41] Copies of Commissioner's' Decisions are available in Albanian at the following link: http://www.kmd.al/?fq=brenda&emri=Baza%20Ligjore&gj=gj1&kid=83&kidd=86(accessed on 10.12.2014)

[42] Law No. 10347, 4 November 2010, For the Protection of the Rights of the Child in Albania.

[43] Article 26 of the Law No. 9355 of 10.03.1995 "For Economical Aid and Social Services in the Republic of Albania"

The new Law on pre-university education in Albania[44] extended the protections provided by the Constitution and the Law on Measures against Discrimination related to race and language (Art. 5, Right to Education). However the law does not guarantee the right to education in Roma language, a right given only to national minorities (Art. 10). Article 19 of the Law guarantees the right to special care by the state to children from vulnerable groups of society, while article 21 provides the bases of early childhood educationthrough kindergartens and prep-schools. By-laws require that Roma children are provided free of charge text-books in order to encourage their participation and school attendance. Other laws such as the law on Social Assistance and Services, the law on Civil Registration and the law on health etc.deliver wide legal opportunities for the identity, social and health protection of Roma children.

The development of national policies towards Roma went hand in hand with the progress of legislation. A ten-year National Strategy for Roma[45] provided an opportunity for national institutions to look further closely to the improvement of Roma communities'life and conditions in Albania. The strategy although not budgeted, itacquiredinitially a positive reception across the spectrum of NGO's and public authorities. In 2010 a five year Action Plan of Roma Decade of Inclusion entered into force, as part of the efforts taken by Albania to implement the goals for Roma inclusion set by European Roma Decade, which Albania had joined in 2008. However a monitoring report found that "The lack of funding sources and insufficient coordination of the institutions in charge at local and centrallevel are considered as two of the mainreasons for failure to implement thestrategy, the measures included in theRoma Decade National Action Plan.[46]"

In November 2013, the Albanian Parliament approved a resolution "For the Protection and the Respect for Children's Rights in Albania" that set a list of priorities for the Albanian Government, including special attention and care to children belonging to minorities. The Resolution sets the obligation of the Parliament to setup a parliamentary body to oversee the application of the Resolution, which was setup later that year under the name Sub-Parliamentary Commission for Children and Youth.

[44]Law No. 69/2012 "On pre-University Education in the Republic of Albania".
[45]National Strategy for the improvement of living conditions of Roma minority in Albania 2003-2013, approved by the Council of Ministers Decision No. 633, date 18.09.2003.
[46]Roma Decade and the situation of Roma communities in Albania, Open Society Foundation, Tirana 2013.

CHAPTER 2:

Methodology of the study

2.1 ORGANIZATION OF STUDY IN ALBANIA

The preparation phase for the study consisted of five core actions: a) setting up of local contacts and presentation of the study at the regional workshops with public institutions; b) finalise agreements, permissions or MoU's for the implementation of the studyin cooperation with the public institutions; c) development of the Protocol and four questionnaires, and d) training for coordinators by the lead organization.

During the second phase of the initiative (February-May 2014) 12 regional workshops were organized in each Qark by the three implementing organizations and under the auspices of UNICEF Albania. Apart from the presentation of the initiative and the overall objectives of the project, the workshops were used as a platform to introduce to the local officials and stakeholders the importance of coordinating efforts and goodwill in the data collection component of the project. The regional workshops introduced the instrument and raised questions and issues on the importance of updating the 2011 Roma Mapping conducted by UNICEF Albania.

Tiranë, 21 Maj 2014

PROTOKOLL PUNE PËR PLOTËSIMIN E PYETËSORËVE

Me synimin, e përbashkët mbledhjen e të dhënave pranë çdo Qendre Shëndetësore, Institucioni Arsimor Rajonal dhe Qendror, si dhe pranë çerdheve, kopshteve, dhe shkollave 9-vjeçare ku janë identifikuar komunitet rom për periudhën 25 Maj – 25 Qershor.

Me objektiv, implementimin e një ndër komponentëve të projektit "**Çdo fëmijë Rom në kopsht**" (Tetor 2013-Tetor 2014), si dhe analizimin e detajuar, bazuar në studimin e UNICEF 2011, të pyetësorëve që do të merren nga Qendrat Shëndetësore, Institucionet Arsimore Rajonale dhe Qendrore, Çerdheve, Kopshteve dhe Shkollave 9-vjeçare ku jetojnë dhe janë identifikuar komunitet rom,

Me angazhimin për të asistuar njëri – tjetërin mbi parimin e bashkëpunimit të ndërsjellte, dhe me bindjen se bashkëveprimi është në ndihmën dhe interesin më të lartë të projektit.

Palët ,
Bien dakort si më poshtë vijon:

Neni 1

Objekti I Protokollit të Punës

- **Dorëzimin në institucionin përkatës dhe mbledhjen bashkarisht me institucionet e të dhënave;**
- **Verifikimin e të dhënave për gabime ose mangësi;**
- **Hedhjen e tyre në Excel;**
- **Dorëzimin e tyre tek personi përgjegjës;**
- **Respektimin e afateve të caktuar.**

Neni 3

Komunikimi i Palëve

3.1 Palët komunikojnë në mënyrë të vazhdueshme ndërmjet tyre dhe shkëmbejnë çdo informacion të nevojshëm për përmbushjen e detyravetë tyre. Komunikimi do të kryhet në formë elektronike, telefonike ose shkresore.

3.2. Palët shkëmbejnë çdo paqartësi që palët hasin gjatë punës në terren. Këto i komunikohen menaxherëve të organizatës zbatuese dhe më pas veprohet sipas udhëzimeve të tyre.

3.3. Palët do të caktojnë një person kontakti që do të jetë përgjegjës për shkëmbimin e dokumentacionit në fund të periudhës së caktuar për kryerjen e pyetësorëve.

Neni 4

Dispozita të Fundit

4.1 Palët në këtë Protokoll Pune do të bëjnë të gjitha përpjekjet për përmbushjen me sa më efektivitet të të gjitha detyrimeve të marra përsipër prej tyre.

The leading organization in cooperation with UNICEF agreed and whenever was possible obtained memorandums of understanding (MOU) and permissions from the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Municipalities and Communes for accessing Crèches, Kindergartens. Schools and Health Centre's across the country. In addition, the local coordinators obtained permission and approval at local level to conduct the study with the local officials and local actors. The experts based on the draft-questionnaire from the 2011 Roma Mapping, developed 4 questionnaires one for each institution where the study would be conducted. A special protocol was developed in the framework of a coordinated and unified study implementation.

The local coordinators were key persons to the distribution and collection of questionnaires across the country. Frequently in contact with the responsible government departments at central and local level, they have been facilitators for uncoordinated service providers. All team leaders and facilitators selected for the process in 12 regions were trained. It must be stressed that local stakeholders and service providers validated the process by co-participating in the study.

From May to July 399 questionnaires were distributed across the country to Crèches, Kindergartens, Primary schools, Health Centres, Regional Education Directorates, Regional Health Directorates, and Municipal departments (Economic Aid for Development and Children's Education). From these 390 were completed and delivered for processing whereas 9 institutions refused to fill them.

2.2 TIME-FRAME OF THE STUDY

A strict timeline was prepared and followed by the teams of the Study. The research team initiated work in March with the preparatory phase of the instrument and implemented the collection of data in late May, while continuing to work on the collection of information and cases throughout June and July.

The study team was comprised of 19 people (5 of YWCA, 7 of OBS, 7 of CRCA). During all the phases of the Study, from data collection to data entry the team had the assistance of two senior researchers. The team worked together throughout the period 25 May- 25 July upon the finalization of this report.

Every coordinator distributed paper and electronic versions of the questionnaires that every institution had to fill. The majority of the institutions refused to fill in the electronic versions, which forced all regions to print and hand out questionnaires for every institution. Institutions were left a one week period to return the filled questionnaire. Detailed records, according to the protocol, were kept of all the region, municipality, commune, institution, responsible persons filling in the form, date of delivery, date of return and challenges encountered.

All the necessary formal procedures were followed to collect information regarding the access of Roma children in the educational and health system. In the majority of cases the team had to interview the responsible local authorities in a face-to-face fill in of the questionnaire. This was due to a multiple of conditions and difficulties. It is important to state that due to the end of the academic year, the time at the disposal and the availability of the responsible service providers collecting information in a paper based form accelerated the process of data collection.

In the first phase of the project October-January the team of Local Coordinators of each Region drafted a list of institutions and organizations that played a key role in the Roma community and Roma children's integration in kindergartens. The list was prepared upon face-to-face meetings with heads of communes/municipalities/DAR/regional social services/Roma families/health regional services and local ones. A database of local partners (institutional and NGOs) working on Roma inclusion was drafted.

In the second phase regional workshops in each of the 12 Regions of Albania were organized in order to present the initiative and explain the goals and objectives of the Study. The initiative was introduced to every interested party (Crèches, Kindergartens, Schools or Health Centres).

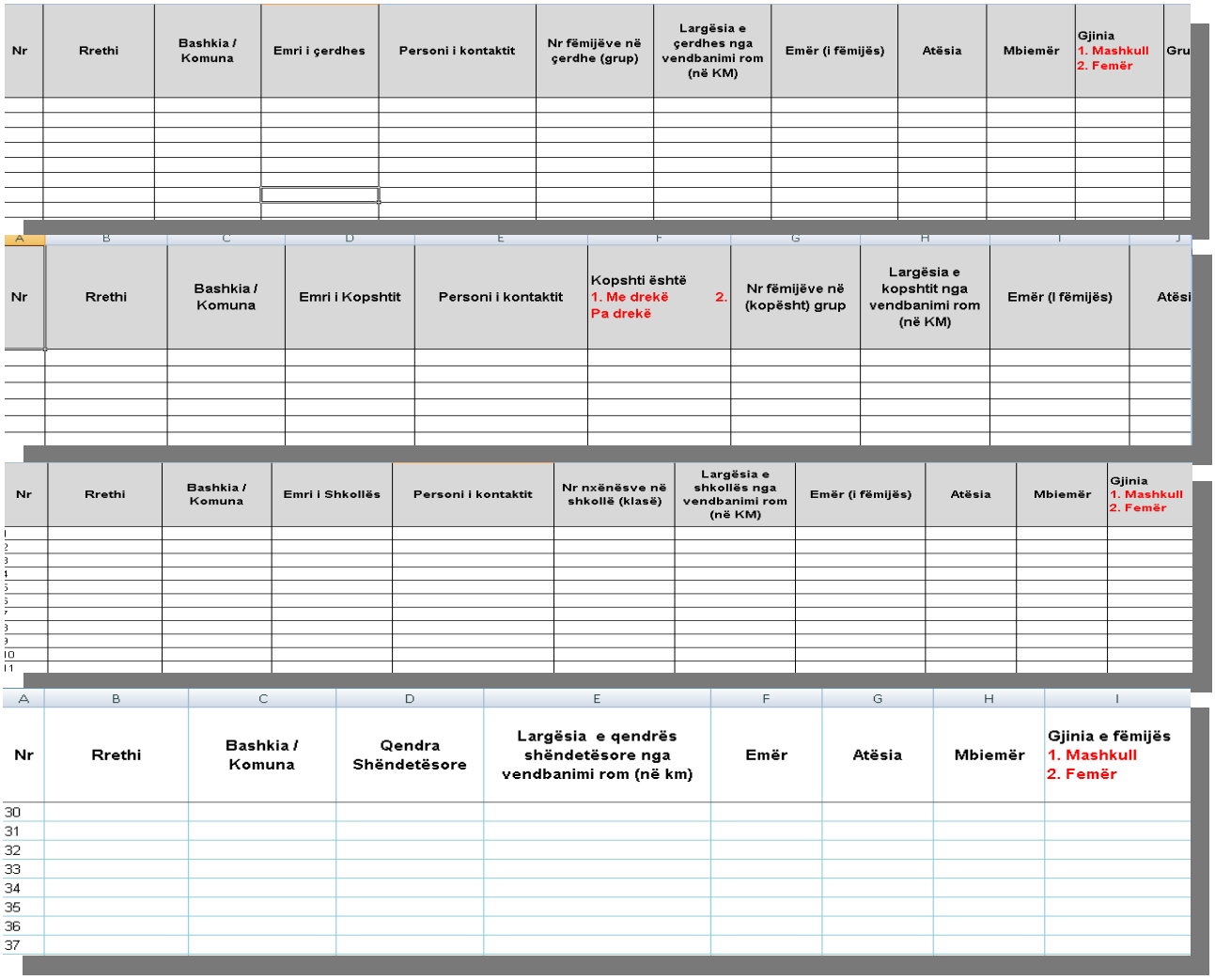
The Study approached every public institution identified by the Regions' teams. The institutions were based and serving to 108 Roma communities / settlements across Albania. The teams used the same Roma settlements as the ones identified by Roma Mapping 2011, since it was the only one at the time providing the most appropriate information on Roma in Albania. The new settlements found during the implementation and field visits were also included in the Study. The table below provides information on institutions and their location across Albania.

Roma Mapping 2014: Institutions

No.	Name of institution	Location (Qarks)	Organization
	Crèches	Tiranë (municipalities 5-11), Korca, Elbasan, Gjirokastra.	CRCA Albania
	Kindergartens	Tiranë (municipalities 5-11), Korca, Elbasan, Gjirokastra.	CRCA Albania
	Schools	Tiranë (municipalities 5-11), Korca, Elbasan, Gjirokastra.	CRCA Albania
	Health Centres	Tiranë (municipalities 5-11), Korca, Elbasan, Gjirokastra.	CRCA Albania
	Economic Aid Centre	Tiranë	CRCA Albania
	Regional Education Directorate	Tiranë (municipalities 5-11), Korca, Elbasan, Gjirokastra.	CRCA Albania
	Crèches	Tiranë (municipalities 1-4, suburb), Fier, Kukës, Vlorë, Dibër.	OBS
	Kindergartens	Tiranë (municipalities 1-4, suburb), Fier, Kukës, Vlorë, Dibër.	OBS
	Schools	Tiranë (municipalities 1-4, suburb), Fier, Kukës, Vlorë, Dibër.	OBS
	Health Centres	Tiranë (municipalities 1-4, suburb), Fier, Kukës, Vlorë, Dibër.	OBS
	Economic Aid Centre	Tiranë (municipalities 1-4, suburb), Fier, Kukës, Vlorë, Dibër.	OBS
	Regional Education Directorate	Tiranë (municipalities 1-4, suburb), Fier, Kukës, Vlorë, Dibër.	OBS
	Crèches	Durres, Berat, Shkodër, Lezhë	YWCA
	Kindergartens	Durres, Berat, Shkodër, Lezhë	YWCA
	Schools	Durres, Berat, Shkodër, Lezhë	YWCA
	Health Centres	Durres, Berat, Shkodër, Lezhë	YWCA
	Economic Aid Centre	Durres, Berat, Shkodër, Lezhë	YWCA
	Regional Education Directorate	Durres, Berat, Shkodër, Lezhë	YWCA

2.3 PREPARATION OF THE INSTRUMENTS OF THE STUDY

The Studywas conducted in collaboration with main social partners, local and national NGO, Roma NGO's and the relevant service providers took place during March-July 2014. The aim of the Study was to analyse the access rate of Roma children in the early childhood educational (crèches, kindergarten and primary) and health services. Data were collected using four (4) questionnaires printed or soft copy respectively one questionnaire for each institution: Crèches, Kindergartens, Schools and Health Centres.



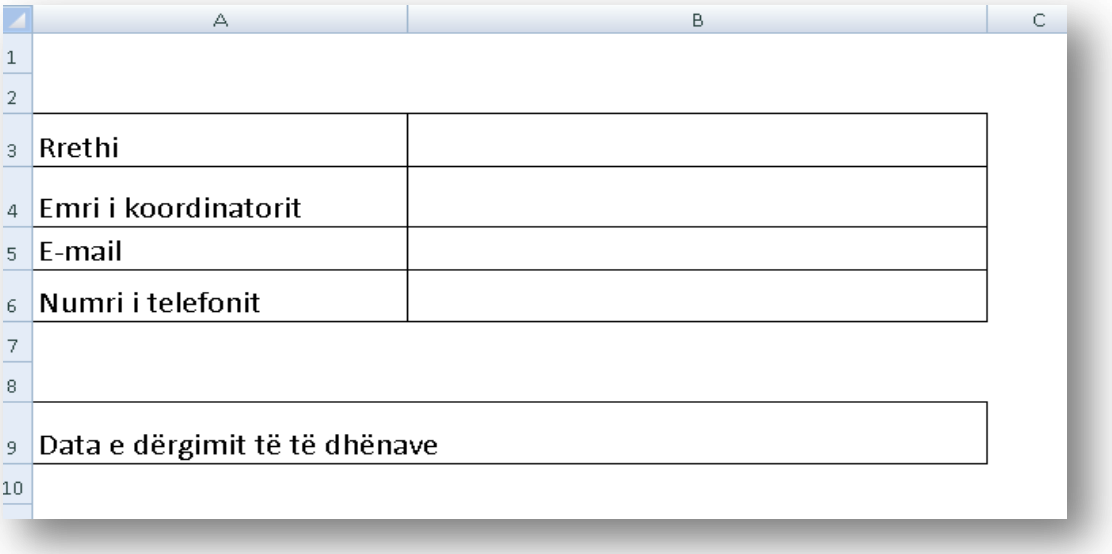
Nr	Rrethi	Bashkia / Komuna	Emri i çerdhes	Personi i kontaktit	Nr fëmijëve në çerdhe (grup)	Largësia e çerdhes nga vendbanimi rom (në KM)	Emër (i fëmijës)	Atësia	Mbiemër	Gjinia 1. Mashkull 2. Femër	Gru

Nr	Rrethi	Bashkia / Komuna	Emri i Kopshtit	Personi i kontaktit	Kopshti është 1. Me drekë 2. Pa drekë	Nr fëmijëve në (kopësht) grup	Largësia e kopshtit nga vendbanimi rom (në KM)	Emër (I fëmijës)	Atësi

Nr	Rrethi	Bashkia / Komuna	Emri i Shkollës	Personi i kontaktit	Nr nxënësve në shkollë (klasë)	Largësia e shkollës nga vendbanimi rom (në KM)	Emër (i fëmijës)	Atësia	Mbiemër	Gjinia 1. Mashkull 2. Femër

Nr	Rrethi	Bashkia / Komuna	Qendra Shëndetësore	Largësia e qendrës shëndetësore nga vendbanimi rom (në km)	Emër	Atësia	Mbiemër	Gjinia e fëmijës 1. Mashkull 2. Femër

The preparation of the instruments of the study initiated with the selection of the research tools by the statistician and more specifically the questionnaires of the 2011 Roma Mapping were modified and adapted for use into 4 questionnaires with each two sheets. The first sheet based on the unified Protocol, present in every questionnaire, contained information regarding the service provider and coordinator (Questionnaire number, Region, name of the Coordinator, Service provider, phone number and date of delivery).



	A	B	C
1			
2			
3	Rrethi		
4	Emri i koordinatorit		
5	E-mail		
6	Numri i telefonit		
7			
8			
9	Data e dërgimit të të dhënave		
10			

The questionnaires consisted of 25 questions and provided quantity information on location, information on access to services (health centres, crèches, kindergartens, schools) and their distance from the community. Filling one questionnaire took on average approximately 40 minutes.

In consultation with the research senior Team leaders, word versions of the questionnaires were printed for every region in order to make it easier for service providers to give the relevant data. Each local coordinator had to deliver to the project managers a coded extraction form as agreed. Every detail of the process and data collection was explained in detail in the "Work Protocol for the completion of questionnaires".

A list of all the identified service providers part of the study was shared with the lead organization of the research. This facilitated the coding process because by knowing the exact number of local service providersand institutions involved in the data collection, an accurate timeframe was left for every institution.

A weekly update provided information to the lead researchers in order to adjust probable difficulties encountered during the filling of the questionnaire. The preparatory phase (March-May), coding, data collection from institutions, data entry in the system and reporting (May-July) under supervision and consultation among coordinators and project managers.

All the quantitative data were entered in the SPSS programme, were checked and then processed.

2.4STUDY TEAM AND TRAINING

For the purposes of the data collection a team of regional team leaders and facilitators was formed for the purpose of the research. The lead organization responsible for the implementation of this component trained the regional team leaders and facilitators on all the components of the Study. Overall, 19 professionals (5 of YWCA, 7 of OBS, 7 of CRCA) were coordinated and supervised by a team of two senior researchers in collaboration with the lead organization (CRCA Albania). The composition of study teams coincides with the regional coordinators engaged in the "Every Roma in Kindergarten" project.

The first initial training aimed at familiarizing the coordinators with the process to be followed for data collection as well as with the instruments. The trainings were primarily focused on the instrument and Protocol for the filling of the Questionnaires. Questionnaires were analysed in detail in hard and soft copy, focusing on possible challenges and questions that would cause a standstill on the implementation. Furthermore, two additional trainings for the local coordinators of different regions were conducted in following weeks. All forms were discussed in detail through a process of reviewing every individual variable. Apart from familiarizing the coordinators with the questionnaires, difficulties and issues were raised during these trainings.

2.5 DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED DURING THE STUDY

The process encountered several difficulties inimplementation. Below we have listed some of the major challenges.

- **Lack of unified statistical records:** In several cases the absence of an electronic records system that not only facilitates the exchange at a vertical level but also makes data accessible at horizontal level. The case of the Regional Education Directorates is a clear example of the need of collection, storage, access and analyses of the challenges of Roma children in the education sector. The statistics records system should also be designed to identify children's problems and needs. Thus, the lack of such a database makes the provision of data for public information difficult to retrieve. Educational Directorates lack adequate IT tools for data collection regarding the access to education of Roma children.
- **Lack of IT competences:** Questionnaires sent electronically to service providers in the 12 regions by email prevalently were not responded to, so the team leaders provided hard copies in order to retrieve information requested for the study;
- **Incorrect information:** Partial data and vague answers were prevalent in a large number of school and health questionnaires;
- **Lack of data:** Difficulties have been encountered by public officials in distinguishing Roma from Egyptian communities, making the data completion rather difficult in some health centre's;
- **Non-friendly service providers:** Due to the big number of Roma children in certain regions, some service providers showed resistance to filling in the questionnaires;
- **Staff turnover:** Changes in the administration of various institutions slowed the process of data collection in a number of cases;

CHAPTER 3:

Results of the Study

3.1 CRECHES AND ROMA CHILDREN IN ALBANIA

The access to quality education from early in life is a major contributing factor to the development of the child[47], while it nurtures the relationship between the parents on one side and the children on the other, while it creates space for parents to be actively employed and create wealth for the family. Albania doesn't have any in-depth research or assessment of the system of crèches. Thus our analysis of the access to crèches of Roma children in Albania is sheds a modest light into an area where much research is needed.

An UNICEF funded assessment into crèches in Albania found that: "The present services are not able not only to fulfil the necessary standards but even the present needs of the population for this service, especially the needs of the vulnerable groups. The distance the institutions keep from the private services or alternative service initiatives, which can provide care and education for children 0-3 years old, reflects an administrative function of the institutions in general and not what we should expect from them: focus on the beneficiaries (children and family), make need assessments, provide coordination, advocating, and address the need for developmental services for children 0-3 years old.[48]"

Municipalities and communes are responsible for running of the crèches in Albania[49], while the country lacks a central public authority that provides policy and practical guidance. Crèches are accessible to children from 0-3 years old. "There are no further responsibilities of any governmental agency, only the Ministry of Health who provides the nutritional guidelines implemented by the nurseries. Nurseries only exist in the main cities and towns, leaving the rural population with no access to this service. There is no official information on the number of children that attend nurseries in Albania.[50]"

TABLE 3.1.1 NUMBER OF CRÈCHES ATTENDED BY ROMA CHILDREN

[47] Shonkoff JP, Phillips DA, eds. From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development. Washington, DC: National Academies Press; 2000

[48] Haxhiymeri E., Ndrio M., Hallkja E., Boci A., Assessment of the capacities of healthcare institutions, residential care institutions and crèches to support and encourage early childhood development in Albania, Shelter for Battered Women and Girls in Albania / UNICEF, Tirana, November 2013.

[49] Decision No. 323, of the Council of Ministers, date 14.06.1993 "On the administration of crèches".

[50] Ana María Rodríguez, The impact of Early Childhood Care and Development services on Women's empowerment in Albania, UNICEF Albania, October 2013.

District	Municipality / Commune	Crèches	Number or Roma children
Total		**9**	**46**
Berat	Berat	1	2
Korçë	Korçë	1	1
Kukës	Kukës	1	1
Lezhë	Lezhë	1	12
Pogradec	Pogradec	1	2
Sarandë	Sarandë	1	5
Tiranë	Njesia nr.6	3	23

Table 3.1.1 shows that only a small fraction of Roma children attend crèches. Although Roma Census 2014 identified 112 Roma settlements, our research shows that only 9 areas have children registered in crèches. In total only 46 children attend crèches out of 1066 Roma children of the age 0-2 years old that have the right to access this service. This means that only 4.3 % of Roma children attend crèches in Albaniawhile 95.7% of children don't.

Compared to the household data of the Roma Mapping 2011 it appears that the number of children attending crèches in the last 3 years has doubled. In 2011 26 children attended creches nationally, representing only 3.5% of the Roma children population below 3 years old[51]. Meanhwile in 2014 there is an increase of 57% in Roma child crèches attendance. However one has to note that the number of Roma children attending early childhood education it's still extremely low.

Although we don't know the reasons of such low attendance we can assume that the extremely limited number of places and the fact that crèches attendance it's not mandatory are among the major contributing causes. NGO professionals often complain that the information on crèches registration and attendance it's missing and it is not widely available for the families to access.

Lack of employment among Roma communities and especially of Roma mothers is another argument that can make us understand the issue. One of the negative aspects of having so many children out of crèches is that it raises considerably the chance for being used in begging or trafficking of children, while the system it doesn't give an opportunity to the children to start an early care and education.

TABLE 3.1.2 CRÈCHES ATTENDANCE BY ROMA CHILDREN IN ALBANIA

[51]Gedeshi I., Jorgoni E., "Mapping Roma Children in Albania", UNICEF and CESS, Tirana 2011.

	Total	Boys	Girls
Total	**46**	**25**	**21**
Attend regularly	27	14	13
Does not attend regularly	8	7	1
Unknown	11	4	7

The study looked into gender differences in crèches attendance across Albania. As it can be observed there are no differences among boys and girls in attending crèches. The only difference is between non-regular attendances, where we see that 28% of boys, out of a total of 25 do not attend regularly the crèches compared to only almost 5% for girls. The majority of children are reported by the institutions to regularly attend the crèches, although the numbers in overall are very low. One area of concern is that crèches staff reports almost 25% lack of data on attendance rate of Roma children, which could indicate lack of continuous monitoring and care from the staff towards Roma children.

TABLE 3.1.3 ROMA CHILDREN VERSUS NON-ROMA CHILDREN IN CRECHES

	No of Roma children per each crèche	Total number of children per each crèche
Crèche nr 7	2	7
Lulet e Jetes	1	29
Çerdhja Nr.1	1	22
Besëlidhja	12	80
Çerdhja Pogradec	2	25
Cicërimat	5	24
Çerdhja nr. 4	14	120
Çerdhja nr.47	2	na
Xixellonja	7	64

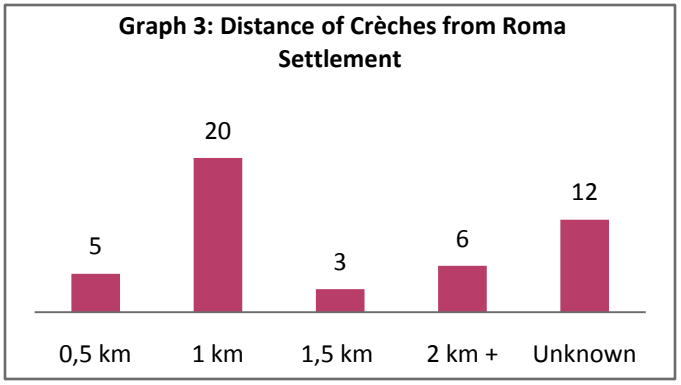
As it has been stated at the beginning of this section of the report there are no data when it comes to crèches in Albania and consequently the overall number of children, their gender or ethnic origins are not known. However, in order to look for major discrepancies among the attendance related to ethnicity of the child, the study collected data only in crèches that are visited by Roma children.

Table 3.1.3 shows that out of 9 crèches in total that are attended by Roma children only in 3 of them we see major variations in the numbers of the attendees. The difference is statistically significant for example at Çerdhja No. 4or crèches “Xixëllonja” in Tirana where only where only 11.6% and 10% of children respectively are Roma.

The study looked particularly into this issue because the data could tell us whether in predominantly non-Roma crèches (or other services) prevalence of discrimination from children’s parents or staff attitudes towards children could be contributing factors that prevent Roma children attendance.

TABLE 3.1.4 DISTANCE OF CRÈCHES FROM ROMA SETTLEMENTS[52]

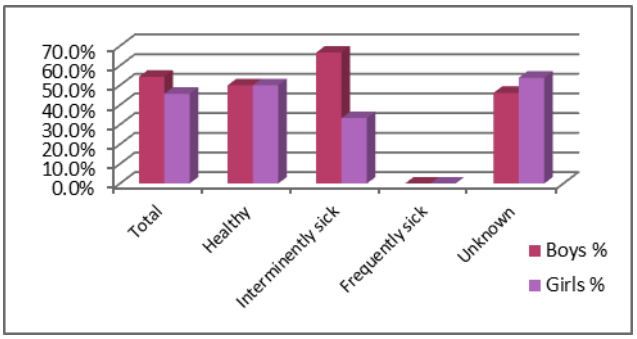
Distance	Total	Boys	Girls
0,5 km	5	3	2
1 km	20	12	8
1,5 km	3	2	1
2 km +	6	4	2
Unknown	12	4	8



Distance of public services from a given inhabited area is one of the reasons on limiting access or attendance to the service. Although staff of crèches lacks data on the distance that Roma children need to commute daily (in 26% of cases and mainly for Roma girls), we can state that almost 61% of children live within a walking distance of 10-15 minutes from the crèches. This is statistically important because it shows that children live in close distances to existing public services. Nonetheless, lack of crèches limits the accessibility of other children into early childhood education or food provisions.

TABLE 3.1.5 HEALTH SITUATION OF ROMA CHILDREN ATTENDING CRÈCHES

	Total	Boys		Girls	
	No.	**No.**	**%**	**No.**	**%**
Total	**46**	**25**	**54.3**	**21**	**45.7**
Healthy	18	9	50.0	9	50.0
Intermittently Sick	15	10	66.7	5	33.3
Unhealthy	0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Unknown	13	6	46.2	7	53.8



Graph 4: Health Situation of Roma Children Attending Crèches

Crèchestaff (nurses and educators) asked from the Study team to evaluate the health situation of Roma children that attend crèches in terms of rating from healthy to unhealthy. It is striking to see from the Table 3.5.1 that the staff of crèches did not have information on the health situation for almost 13 children out of 46 or otherwise for 28% of children. For the majority of the number of children, crèches report that Roma children are in good health in equal terms for boys and girls for 39% of the total number of children, while 33% of Roma children are often sick while attending crèches. There is significant difference among boys and girls when it comes to being intermittently sick were boys reportedly represent double of the rate of the girls. This would indicate that boys in general appear to be less healthy than the female children within the same age group.

[52]The distance from crèches, kindergartens, schools and health centers is self-declared from the representatives of the institutions and it has not been measured from our research team.

TABLE 3.1.6 ATTITUDES OF CRÈCHES STAFF TOWARDS ROMA FAMILIES IN RELATION TO PARENTING, FAMILY PLANNING, HYGIENE AND FEEDING

	Total	Boys	Girls		Total	Boys	Girls
Total	**46**	**25**	**21**		**46**	**25**	**21**
Parenting				**Hygiene**			
Yes	8	4	4	**Yes**	5	4	1
No	20	12	8	**No**	28	15	13
I do not know	5	3	2	**I do not know**	0	0	0
Unknown	13	6	7	**Unknown**	13	6	7
Family planning				**Feeding**			
Yes	5	4	1	**Yes**	6	4	2
No	23	12	11	**No**	27	15	12
I do not know	5	3	2	**I do not know**	0	0	0
Unknown	13	6	7	**Unknown**	13	6	7

One area that the Study looked into is the staff attitudes towards Roma children, as many prejudices and forms of discrimination exist among society towards Roma people and consequently children. These prejudices usually start from societal stereotypes related to family care; feeding, hygieneetc. and could develop into discriminatory approaches towards children. The staff of crèches was asked specific open questions related to several issues related to child upbringing, which could also show their attitudes towards children. Table 3.1.6 shows to us few of these attitudes.

Looking into attitudes it's also important because studies show that "… high quality, intensive early childhood education programs for low-income children confirm lasting positive effects such as greater school success, higher graduation rates, lower juvenile crime, decreased need for special education services later, and lower adolescent pregnancy rates.53". Other studies have also confirmed that "…children who attend high-quality early childhood programs demonstrate better math and language skills, better cognition and social skills, better interpersonal relationships, and better behavioural self-regulation than do children in lower-quality care. Inferior-quality care, at home or outside the home, can have harmful effects on language, social development, and school performance that are more difficult to ameliorate, especially for children in schools with fewer resources.54"

As such taking into consideration the attitudes of staff in early childhood education system are important to overview because they provide us information on the quality of education that is being provided to children, especially to children from minorities or vulnerable groups. As we can see from the responses in

[53]Campbell FA, Ramey CT. Effects of early intervention on intellectual and academic achievement: a follow-up study of children from low-income families. *Child Dev.*1994

[54]Nonmaternal care and family factors in early development: an overview of the NICHD Study of Early Child Care. NICHD Early Child Care Research Network.*J Appl Dev Psychol.*2001;22 :457– 492

relation to parenting the majority of the respondents (43.4%) believe that Roma parents don't need parenting advice or training courses, while only 17.3% of them said yes. As noted above there is quite a considerable number of respondents that answered "don't know", which demonstrates that either the staff of crèches doesn't carry out assessments on parents of children or that this is an issue which is overlooked by them.

When it comes to hygiene it seems that Roma parents perform better in the opinion of the staff with only a small fraction reporting that Roma parents need advice on how to take care for the child's hygiene. The same goes for child feeding and family planning, where we see that the majority of the respondents, 58.7% and 50% respectively, state that Roma parents don't need any training courses or advice on the issues.

TABLE 3.1.7STATUS OF CIVIL REGISTRATION

	Total	Boys	Girls
Total	46	25	21
Yes	33	19	14
No	0	0	0
I do not know	0	0	0
Unknown	13	6	7

As stated in the introductory section of this study, many researchers and practitioners reports that Roma children often are not registered to the National Civil Register, which is a legal requirement for every born child in Albania.

The Study looked into the issue of the civil registration and how much knowledge professionals have. We need to note that rules set by Municipalities require that no child is registered in crèche if it is not registered. As we can see above most of the children (almost 72%) are registered to the Civil Registration Office, while for 28% of children crèches staff doesn't have information of the civil registration of children. This could well be because children have not presented their full documentation to the Crèche or that documentation required is not collected to 13 children attending crèches. The same goes also for level of family of the child information known by crèches staff, where in 28% is reported as "unknown".

TABLE 3.1.8 ATTITUDES OF NON-ROMA PARENTS TOWARDS ROMA CHILDREN

	Total	Boys	Girls
Total	**46**	**25**	**21**
Yes,it happens once	2	2	0
Often	0	0	0
Never	31	17	14
Unknown	13	6	7

One of the attitudes that the study looked to identify was discrimination towards Roma children and parents from the non-Roma ones. Discrimination is a particular societal action that does affect the enjoyment of equal rights among minorities.

By 2014 Albania had a very positive and protective legislation towards minorities, compared to previous years. As such the study had particular interest to see how often the staff of crèches is faced with discrimination of Roma children from the non-Roma ones.

Because of the low number of Roma children attending crèches it appears that the level of discrimination it's reported to very low levels. It could also be that the staff it's not fully aware and trained on the new anti-discrimination legislation thus it lacks the capacities to identify discriminatory behaviour.

In total only two cases of discrimination are reported or only 4.3% of Roma children have been victims of discrimination while in crèche. In 28.2% there is lack of information on the case of discrimination, which is quite substantial compared to the small number of children attending crèches.

3.2 ROMA CHILDREN IN KINDERGARTENS

The purpose of education is to encourage and guide man as a conscious, thinking and perceiving being in such a way that he becomes a pure and perfect representation of that divine inner law through his own personal choice; education must show him the ways and means of attaining that goal.[55]

Early childhood education is very important for the upbringing of the child as it opens opportunities for his/her development in life, while it helps the child to develop from very early his skills and capacities. Friedrich Fröbel was one of the first educationalists to understand that every child has needs and capabilities that need to be developed from early in life and was the first one to coin the term "kindergarten". Kindergartens went on to become the main form of early childhood education, including Albania.

There is uneven distribution of state-funded kindergartens acrossAlbania between urban and rural areas, with the latest enjoying the highest percentage of kindergartens per head of population. For the academic year 2011 was reported that out of 1719 kindergartens across the country, 1417 of them or 82.4% were functioning in rural areas while only 302 in urban areas (17.6%).[56]Kindergartens are typically attended by children between 3-6 years old. Meanwhile for the academic year 2013-2014 the Ministry of Education reported that there were 1773 kindergartens across Albania, 1457 of them in rural areas and 316 in urban areas or 82% and 18% respectively[57].

Meanwhile the number of children attending kindergartens in the same academic year were 39,008 in urban areas (51%) and 37,408 in rural ones. Taking into consideration that data on population from Census 2011 showed that slightly over 50% of population is living in the urban areas it becomes clear the pressure that families have in urban areas to register their children in kindergartens when only 18% of all kindergartens are present in urban areas.

One of the areas that the Study looked into was the number of kindergartens serving to Roma children among other social groups. As the Table 3.2.1 shows there are 86 kindergartens across Albania where Roma children are reported to attend or approximately 4.8% of total number of kindergartens. The table provides information on where are this kindergartens and their distribution among urban and rural areas.

[55] Fröbel, F. 1826. Die Menschenerziehung [On the education of man]. Keilhau; Leipzig, Wienbrack.
(If you would like to read more on Frobel check: http://www.ibe.unesco.org/publications/ThinkersPdf/frobele.PDF accessed on 15.11.2014)

[56] Analysis of Education Indicators, Albanian Parliament (available in Albanian only) (accessed on 15.11.2014 in the following link: http://www.parlament.al/web/pub/aneks_treguesit_arsimore_16988_1.pdf)

[57]Statistical Indicators of Academic Year 2013-2014 for Pre-University Education in Albania, Ministry of Education and Sports, Tirana 2014.

TABLE 3.2.1 NUMBER OF KINDERGARTENS ATTENDED BY ROMA CHILDREN IN REGIONS, MUNICIPALITIES AND COMMUNES IN ALBANIA

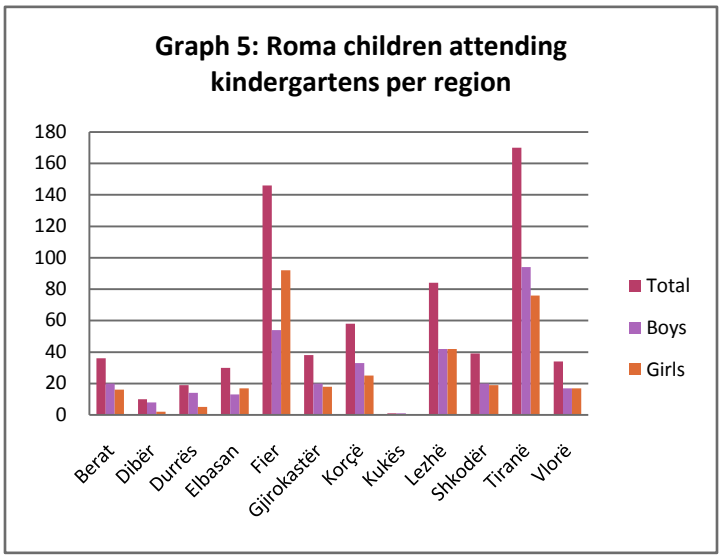
District	Municipality / commune	Number of Kindergartens	District	Municipality / commune	Number of Kindergartens
Total: 86 kindergartens					
Berat	Berat	1	Kurbin	Gurëz	1
Berat	Kuçovë	1	Kurbin	Laç	3
Berat	Otllak	1	Kurbin	Mamurras	2
Berat	Perondi	1	Kurbin	Milot	1
Bulqizë	Bulqizë	1	Lezhë	Lezhë	2
Delvinë	Bashkia Delvinë	4	Lezhë	Rrilë	1
Devoll	Bilisht	1	Lezhë	Shëngjin	1
Dibër	Fushe Cidhen	1	Lushnjë	Dushk	1
Dibër	Peshkopi	1	Lushnjë	Golem	2
Durrës	Durrës	1	Lushnjë	Grabian	1
Durrës	Fushë-Krujë	1	Lushnjë	Lushnjë	1
Durrës	Sukth	1	Lushnjë	Tërbuf	1
Elbasan	Cërrik	1	Pogradec	Pogradec	1
Elbasan	Elbasan	5	Sarandë	Sarandë	1
Elbasan	Peqin	1	Shkodër	Shkodër	2
Fier	Dërmenas	2	Tiranë	Kamëz	1
Fier	Levan	1	Tiranë	Minibashkia nr.1	2
Fier	Mbrostar	1	Tiranë	Minibashkia nr.3	2
Fier	Qendër	3	Tiranë	Minibashkia nr.4	6
Fier	Roskovec	1	Tiranë	Njesia .nr.6	1
Fier	Topojë	1	Tiranë	Njesia nr.10	1
Gjirokastër	Gjirokastër	3	Tiranë	Njesia nr.11	2
Kavajë	Kavajë	1	Tiranë	Njesia nr.5	1
Kavajë	Rrogozhinë	2	Tiranë	Njesia nr.6	1
Kolonjë	Ersekë	1	Tiranë	Njesia nr.8	1
Korçë	Korçë	4	Vlorë	Bashkia Himarë	1
Korçë	Maliq	1	Vlorë	Komuna Novoselë / Fshat	1
Kukës	Kukës	1	Vlorë	Komuna Shushice	1

One aspect to be taken into consideration when looking at Table 3.2.1 is the fact that most of the Roma families live in urban areas, thus the access of Roma children into kindergartens becomes further difficult and altered because of the lack of available places in urban areas. In total there are 86 kindergartens serving to Roma children,which represent only 4.7% of kindergartensacross Albania.

TABLE 3.2.2 ROMA CHILDREN ATTENDING KINDERGARTENS PER REGION AND DISTRICT

PER REGION

	Total	Boys	Girls
Total	**665**	**336**	**329**
Berat	36	20	16
Dibër	10	8	2
Durrës	19	14	5
Elbasan	30	13	17
Fier	146	54	92
Gjirokastër	38	20	18
Korçë	58	33	25
Kukës	1	1	0
Lezhë	84	42	42
Shkodër	39	20	19
Tiranë	170	94	76
Vlorë	34	17	17



PER DISTRICT

	Total	Boys	Girls
Total	**665**	**336**	**329**
Berat	36	20	16
Bulqizë	6	6	0
Delvinë	7	2	5
Devoll	6	4	2
Dibër	4	2	2
Durrës	19	14	5
Elbasan	30	13	17
Fier	114	48	66
Gjirokastër	38	20	18
Kavajë	29	13	16
Kolonjë	3	1	2
Korçë	35	21	14
Kukës	1	1	0
Kurbin	30	13	17
Lezhë	54	29	25
Lushnjë	32	6	26
Pogradec	14	7	7
Sarandë	3	2	1
Shkodër	39	20	19
Tiranë	141	81	60
Vlorë	24	13	11

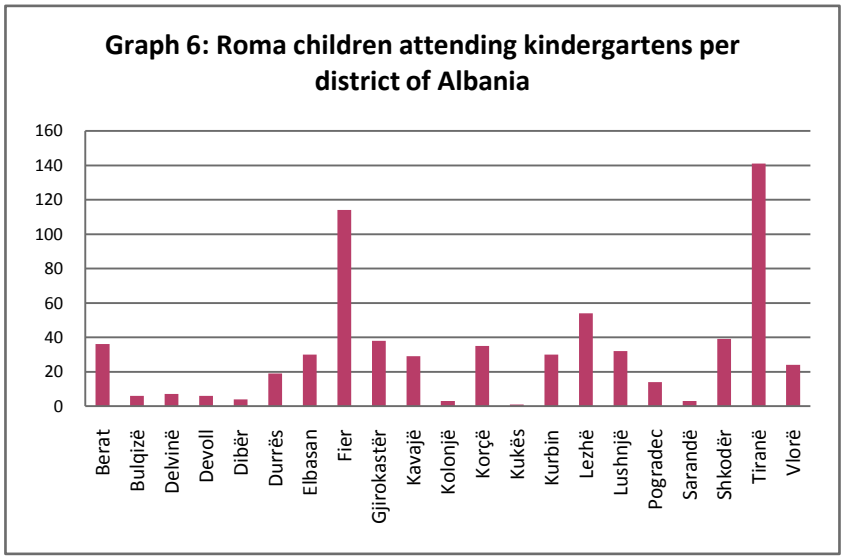


Table 3.2.2 provides detailed data on attendance of kindergarten from Roma children per region and district and gender distribution. In this regard there are some positive developments that have to be identified in this part of the report.

From 2011 to 2014 the numbers of Roma children attending kindergartens increased by 2/3 or otherwise 282 more children are attending kindergartens across Albania. Data from the Roma households in 2011 showed that there were 383[58] Roma children attending kindergarten, while in 2014 there were 665 children. This increase could well be attributed to the Programme "Every Roma Child in Kindergarten", including child friendly policies and programmes supporting Roma integration in early childhood and basic education from the Ministry of Education and other social partners in Albania.

There is almost an equal distribution between boys and girls attending kindergartens, which shows that Roma girls are attending early childhood education equally with boys. Table 3.2.2 demonstrates that out of 665 children that are attending kindergartens, 329 are girls or 49.5% of all the children attending kindergartens. In some areas of Albania girls are attending at a higher rate than boys like Lushnja or Fier for example.

Our data also reveals an interesting aspect in relation to Roma children kindergarten attendance. Almost 50% of Roma children between 3-6 years of age are reported by the institutions in this research as attending the kindergarten, which would represent the highest level of kindergartenattendancefor Roma children in post-communist Albaniaand a 20% increaseif compared with household data of 2011[59]. Roma Census 2014 reported that there were 1304 Roma children of the same age living in 115 Roma communities in Albania.

There is an uneven attendance of kindergardens that changes from region to region and from district to district. One example is the northern region of Shkodra, where the number of children attending kindergarten is only 39, despite the fact that the number of Roma population is comparable to Lezha and where 54 Roma children attend kindergarten. Roma Census 2014 reported that there are 117 families living in Shkodra and 128 Roma families in Lezha respectively. In 2011 household data showed that that there were 6 children attending kindergartens, while in 2014 the number is up by 6.5 times. Duringthe academic year 2011 there were 78 kindergartens and 2963 children attending, which means that only 0.067% of children were Roma in early childhood education system in Shkoder. It seems that the negative trend continues to affect the early childhood education, development and inclusion of Roma children in kindergartens of Shkodra region.

Other aspects that we find of significance at the Table 3.2.2 is that almost all major cities have the largest share of Roma children attending kindergartens. However the same cannot be stated for Elbasan region, where although there is a large number of Roma population living (12.4% of all Roma population resides in Elbasan[60]) yet the number of children in early childhood education is lagging behind.

[58] Gedeshi I., Jorgoni E., "Mapping Roma Children in Albania", page 39, UNICEF and CESS, Tirana 2011.
[59] Brüggemann, C. (2012). Roma Education in Comparative Perspective.Analysis of the UNDP/World Bank/EC Regional Roma Survey 2011.
[60] Roma Census 2014, Study of Albanian Communities, Open Society Foundation in Albania (Soros), Tirana 2014.

TABLE 3.2.3 KINDERGARTENS' ATTENDANCE STATUS BY SEX, TYPE OF KINDERGARTEN, AND GRADE

	Regular attendance	Not regular attendance	Unknown
Albania	**462**	**139**	**64**
By sex			
Boys	217	86	33
Girls	245	53	31
By type of kindergarten			
With meal provisions	195	29	23
Without meal provisions	267	110	41
By the grade attended			
1st Grade	136	19	10
2nd Grade	187	62	19
3rd Grade	135	55	35
Pre-school programme	4	3	0

Table 3.2.3 provides data collected from kindergartens across Albania on attendance, meal provisions and level of kindergarten attended by both boys and girls. When it comes to regular versus non-regular attendance we can observe that girls seem to perform better in attending kindergartenscompared to boys, although kindergartens don't have information on the status of attendance for 43 children.

In overall we can state that 69% of Roma children attend regularly kindergartens, while almost 29% of children don't. Boys seem to make the majority of children that don't attend kindergartens. Out of 139 children that are reported as non-regular attendees almost 62% are boys.

One striking finding of this study is that the meal provision is a strong contributing factor to kindergarten attendance from Roma Children. While only 18% of Roma children who attend kindergarten with a meal provision do not attend regularly, the percentage jumps to almost 40% for non-regular attendance of children who attend kindergartens without a meal provision.

When we look into the level of kindergarten attended by Roma children we observe that the higher the level the higher is the risk that children will not attend regularly the kindergarten. It has to be noted that level 1 is the starting point of kindergarten, while level 3 would be the last one, before the child would move to attend pre-school or school.

As it can be seen from Table 3.2.3 there are only 7 children who attend prep-schools, despite the fact that the policies from the Ministry of Education strongly encourage prep-school attendance.

TABLE 3.2.4 KINDERGARTENS' ATTENDANCE STATUS BY REGION AND MEAL PROVISION

	Type of kindergartens		
	Total	**With meal provisions**	**Without meal provisions**
Total	**665**	**224**	**441**
Berat	36	2	34
Dibër	10	0	10
Durrës	19	0	19
Elbasan	30	6	24
Fier	146	3	143
Gjirokastër	38	36	2
Korçë	58	31	27
Kukës	1	1	0
Lezhë	84	37	47
Shkodër	4	35	4
Tiranë	170	73	97
Vlorë	34	0	34

The study also considered the status of attendance per region of Albania, in order to see any statistically significant differences in kindergarten attendance by Roma children in relation to the meal provision.

As it can be observed in Table 3.2.4 contrary to perceptions, regular attendance of kindergartens by Roma children remains high in almost all the regions of Albania, apart from Elbasan vis a vie the number of Roma families living in the Region.

We also may note that the majority of Roma children attend kindergartens without meal provisions (66%), with region of Fier representing one of the highest numbers of children without access to meal (98%). Despite this, other regions like Diber, Durres, Shkoder and Vlore report that no Roma children attend kindergartens with meal provisions thus constituting a 100% attendance of kindergartens with no meal provision respectively.

There were 16,406 children in Albania that attend a kindergarten with meal provision for the academic year 2013-2014[61], corresponding with the timeframe when this Study collected the data.When we compare this with the data of our research we observe that only 1.3% of Roma children have access to a meal while attending kindergartens.

It has to be noted that Fieralso has one of the highest kindergarten attendance of Roma children, compared toall the other regions of Albania, whereas Gjirokastra represents the highest percentage of children having access to meal provisions (almost 95%) thanks to the support provided from CSOs.

[61]Statistical Indicators of Academic Year 2013-2014 for Pre-University Education in Albania, Ministry of Education and Sports, Tirana 2014.

TABLE 3.2.5 NUMBER OF ROMA CHILDREN PER KINDERGARTEN COMPARED TO NON-ROMA CHILDREN

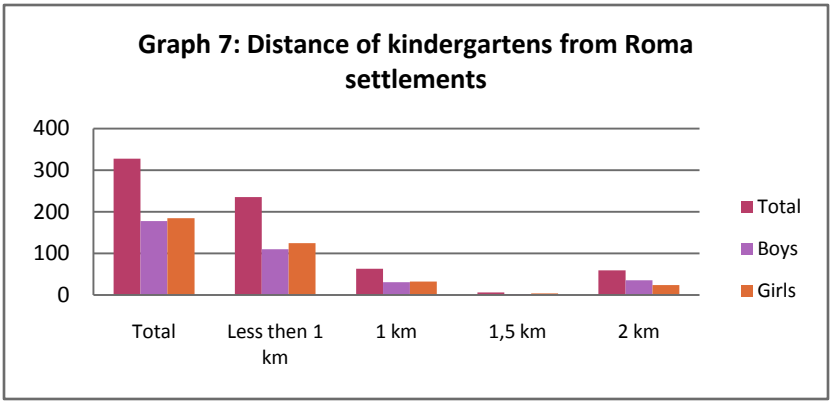
			No. of Roma Children per each kindergarten	No. of non-Roma children
Kurbin	Laç	Kopshti nr. 1 Laç	9	226
Kurbin	Laç	kopshti nr.2 Laç	9	122
Kurbin	Mamurras	Kopshti nr. 2 Mamurras	7	110
Kurbin	Milot	Kopshti Milot	7	104
Lezhë	Lezhë	Beselidhja	37	230
Lezhë	Lezhë	Skenderbeg	37	180
Lezhë	Shëngjin	"At Zef Pllumi"	15	75
Tiranë	Njesia nr.11	Breg Lumi	16	180
Tiranë	Njesia nr.11	Koder Kames	16	150
Tiranë	Njesia nr.5	Kopshti nr. 45	21	287
Tiranë	Njesia nr.6	Kopshti nr. 38	14	136
Tiranë	Njesia nr.8	Kopshti nr. 6	7	190
Kurbin	Laç	Kopshti nr. 3 laç	9	195
Kurbin	Mamurras	Kopshti nr. 1 Mamurras	7	150

One area of particular interest is the ratio between Roma and non-Roma children per kindergarten. However it has to be noted that the study teams found it very difficult to access and collect the data from educational authorities and kindergartens across Albania in relation to this item of the.

As it can be observed in table 3.2.5 the study could collect data only for 14 kindergartens from 86 identified ones. Although it is difficult to form an opinion on the issue the available information demonstrates that in every kindergarten the majority of children attending are from non-Roma communities and that the Roma children represent a minor percentage of children attending kindergartens in Albania.

TABLE 3.2.6 DISTANCE OF KINDERGARTENS FROM ROMA SETTLEMENTS

	Total	Boys	Girls
Total	**363**	**178**	**185**
Less than 1 km	235	110	125
1 km	63	31	32
1,5 km	6	2	4
2 km	59	35	24



Distance from the kindergarten can be a major factor that hinders the access of Roma children into early child hood education. It has to be noted that kindergartens provided information only for 363 children, while for 302 children or 48% of them no information was provided. When we analyse the information that was provided by the kindergartens staff we see that the majority of Roma children and families live in proximity of the kindergarten (as we will see it later, also of most of the other public services). Almost 65% of Roma children live less than 1 km away from kindergartens with another 17.3% of children living within 1 km of distance. At least16% of children live within 2 km of distance from kindergartens, which would require at least 20 minutes of walk for every child to access early childhood education. The 2 km mark is very important because first of all it shows that distance is not a major contributing factor in kindergartens attendance; Secondly, because it represent a policy implication issue for central and local government in issuing orders in support of free of charge transport for children, as it is required for basic education.

TABLE 3.2.7 KINDERGARTENS' COLLECTION OF CHILDREN AND PARENTS DATA

	Total	Boys	Girls
Total	**594**	**302**	**292**
1st Level	148	78	70
2nd Level	244	122	122
3rd Level	195	98	97
Pre-school	7	4	3

As it was observed in the crèches section, kindergartens also collect different set of personal data and information related to Roma children and their parents. This information is important not only for administrative reasons, since every family is required to submit personal documentation on the child and the parents, but it could well serve to see how well-equip are Roma families with personal documents that are given by local authorities across Albania. From the information gathered we can see that out of 665 children attending kindergartens, for 594 children early childhood education institutions have some form of documentation representing almost 90% of children. No reasons were provided from kindergartens on why there is lack of children and parents' data for 10% of children attending kindergartens. In overall there are no major discrepancies among boys and girls and the level of collection of data.

TABLE 3.2.8 HEALTH SITUATION OF ROMA CHILDREN IN KINDERGARTENS

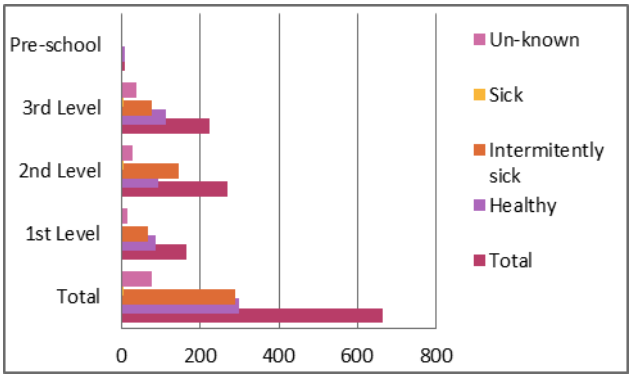
	Total		Healthy		Intermittently sick		Sick		Unknown	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Total	**319**	**311**	**147**	**151**	**148**	**140**	**2**	**1**	**41**	**35**
Berat	20	16	1	0	4	3	0	0	15	13
Dibër	8	2	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Durrës	14	5	7	2	7	3	0	0	0	0
Elbasan	13	17	7	7	6	10	0	0	0	0
Fier	54	92	43	74	11	18	0	0	0	0
Gjirokastër	20	18	0	0	20	18	0	0	0	0
Korçë	33	25	27	23	6	2	0	0	0	0
Kukës	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Lezhë	42	42	5	8	36	33	1	1	0	0
Shkodër	3	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	19	16
Tiranë	94	76	40	28	46	42	1	0	7	6
Vlorë	17	17	9	7	8	10	0	0	0	0

One area the study looked into is the health situation of Roma children attending kindergartens. This is important because health is a considerable important factor for children not to attend kindergartens or not being accepted by the education staff in the kindergartens based on health grounds. It could also give us a general overview to what areas children are more affected and what particular health situations are they suffering from.

Table 3.2.8 shows the information based on 12 regions of Albania, while devidid into gender and their health state. Although the data demonstrates that very few children are reported as being very often sick (only 0.5% of all the children) yet the number of children that are intermittently sick is considerably high at the rate of 43% of all the Roma children, with the remaining 45% of children being reported as healthy. Data is missing for 10% of children, the majority of them residing in Berat, Shkodra and few in Tirana. In overall there are no major differences in the health situation among boys and girls.

Several regions report, although in small numbers, that all the children attending kindergartens are intermittently sick. Gjirokaster district reported that 100% of its children were intermittently sick, which represent almost 6% of all the children attending kindergartens in Albania. Children were also intermittently sick in Kukes and Shkoder. None of the other regions have reported such high rates of sick children as the ones mentioned in this section of the study.

State of health of Roma children in kindergartens					
	Total	Healthy	Intermitently sick	Sick	Un-known
Total	**665**	**298**	**288**	**3**	**76**
1st grade	165	86	66	0	13
2nd grade	268	94	145	2	27
3rd grade	225	111	77	1	36
Pre-school	7	7	0	0	0



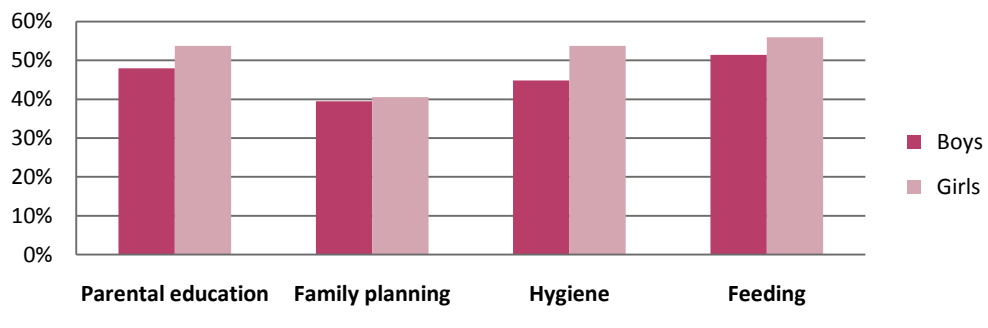
Graph 8: State of health of Roma children in kindergartens

When we look into the state of health of children from the perspective of the grade of kindergarten they attend we witness a significantly higher number of children being intermittently sick between the ages of 4-5 years old, which corresponds with the second level of kindergarten. Kindergartens report that 54% of children of this group are intermittently sick, while in overall almost 43% of children are reported to be in the same health state. The reasons are unknown to why this situation is particularly related to a given group age. Also it shall be noted that for 76 children mainly attending the 2nd and 3rd level of kindergarten there is no information on their health situation.

TABLE 3.2.9 ATTITUDES OF KINDERGARTENS STAFF TOWARDS ROMA CHILDREN

	Yes	No	I do not know	No answer
Parental education	**320**	**246**	**61**	**38**
Boys	153	133	32	20
Girls	167	113	29	18
Family planning	**252**	**263**	**104**	**46**
Boys	126	138	52	22
Girls	126	125	52	24
Hygiene	**310**	**277**	**39**	**39**
Boys	143	152	22	21
Girls	167	125	17	18
Feeding	**338**	**245**	**38**	**39**
Boys	164	133	18	21
Girls	174	112	20	18

Graph 9: Attitudes of kindergartens staff towards Roma Children



Negative attitudes of educators in kindergartens can highly affect their performance and acceptance towards Roma children. Based on this assumption the Study looked into identifying issues or areas of concern based on statements collected from the staff of kindergartens across Albania that are attended by Roma children. The assessment was focused in 4 areas such as parental education, hygiene, family planning and feeding (of children).

In contrast to what we saw inattitudes expressed from crèche staff, when it comes to kindergartens probably because of the larger number of children attending the attitudes change quite considerably. The data collected from the questionnaires tells us that 37% of educators in kindergartens believe that Roma parents don't need further parental education and training, while they have a slightly more positive attitude towards family planning with 40% stating that Roma families don't need information on the issue.

When it comes to hygiene only 42% of educators think that Roma parents don't need further information, while only 37% of them believe that Roma parents need information and education on feeding their children.

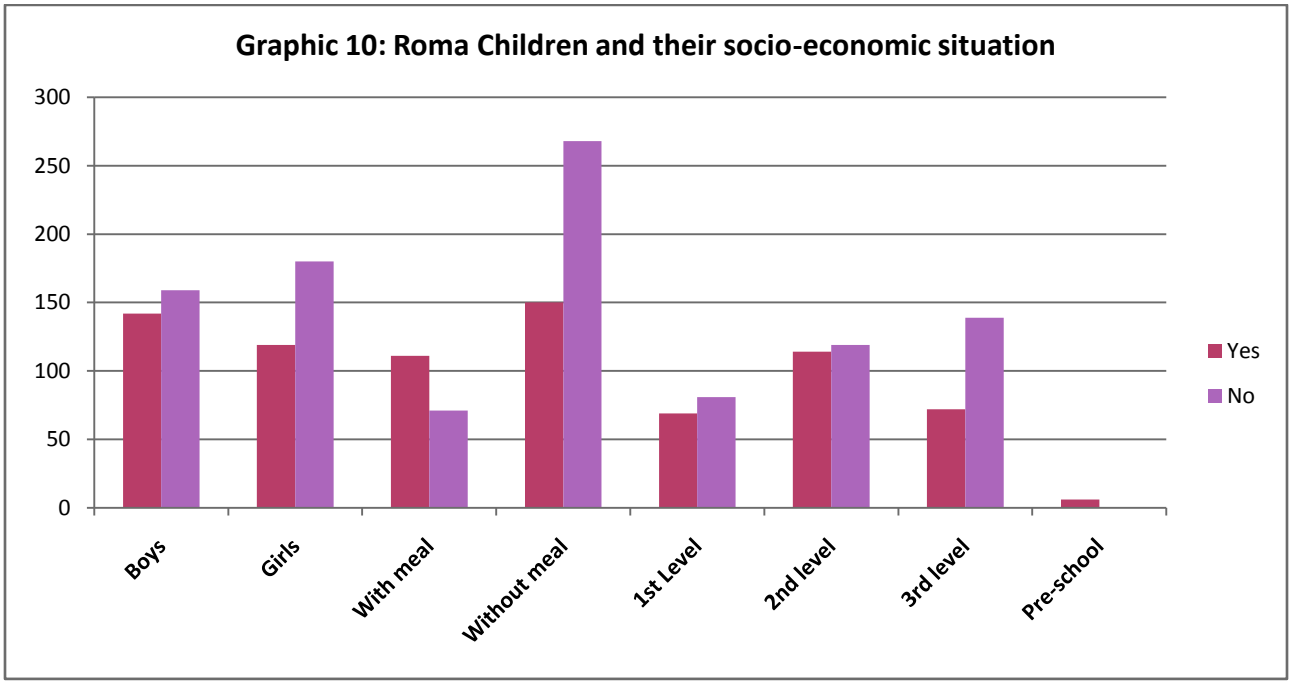
It is difficult to assess how much these attitudes are discriminatory or based upon certain stereotypes towards Roma people and how many of them are based upon a professional evaluation of each child and parent from the kindergarten staff versus non-Roma populations. As the number of Roma educators in kindergartens is very small we have to consider the views with caution since some of them may be influenced from societal and cultural stereotypes on Roma people.

On the other side there is a positive aspect when looking to the attitudessince they can lead us to understand: a) the need for further training of teachers and educators in kindergartens; b) the need for instruments and tools that support teachers work in sharing and raising awareness on issues of health and child care among Roma mothers and fathers.

The study also reveals some discrepancies among the attitudes when they relate to the sex of the child. Educators express the need for further information and education for Roma parents when their child is a girl compared to a boy. This could be another stereotype expressed by the educators, where the expectation of the society from the parents towards girl child is different from that of the boy child. This expression is more obvious when educators are asked about hygiene and less when it comes to family planning.

TABLE 3.2.10ROMA CHILDREN AND THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION

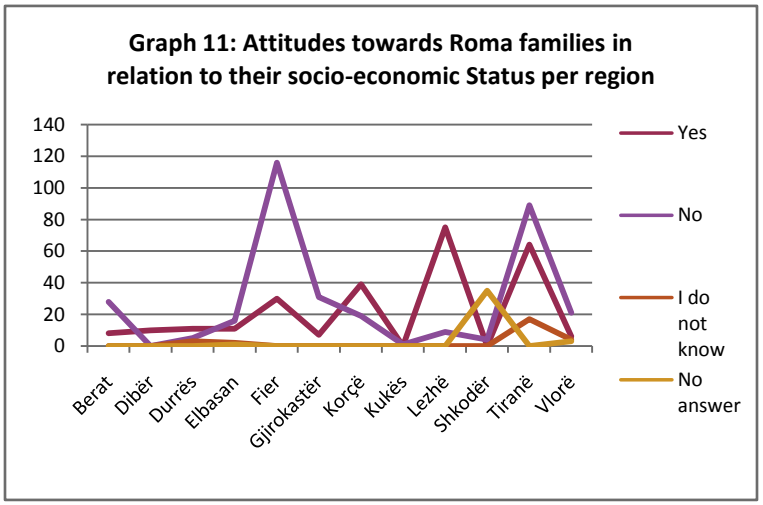
	Yes	No	I do not know	No answer
Albania	**261**	**339**	**61**	**4**
by sex				
Boys	142	159	35	2
Girls	119	180	26	2
by type of kindergarten				
With meal provisions	111	71	42	0
Without meal provisions	150	268	19	4
by level of kindergarten attended				
1st Level	69	81	14	1
2nd level	114	119	35	0
3rd level	72	139	11	3
Pre-school programme	6	0	1	0



The study asked teachers to assess the social and economic situation of Roma children and their families based upon their personal perception of poverty and social exclusion. In overall 1 in 2 boys are perceived by the teachers as living in a dire socio-economic situation, while for the girls the ratio increases to almost 60%. Kindergarten teachers believe that Roma girls are worse off then boys in almost 20% of cases. The situation becomes worst when meal provisions are taken into consideration, where educators state that almost 61% of children who don't have access to meal provisions live in a bad socio-economic situation, while almost 38% of children who have access to meal in kindergartens live in such a state. Children who attend the 3rd and final level of early childhood education seem to be living in worst situation (almost 62%) compared to children from the 2nd or 1st level. Teachers believe that almost 1 in 2 Roma children attending 2nd level of kindergarten live in a bad socio-economic situation.

TABLE 3.2.11 ATTITUDES TOWARDS ROMA FAMILIES IN RELATION TO THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS PER REGION

	Yes	No	I do not know	No answer
Albania	**261**	**339**	**26**	**39**
Berat	8	28	0	0
Dibër	10	0	0	0
Durrës	11	5	3	0
Elbasan	11	16	2	1
Fier	30	116	0	0
Gjirokastër	7	31	0	0
Korçë	39	19	0	0
Kukës	0	1	0	0
Lezhë	75	9	0	0
Shkodër	0	4	0	35
Tiranë	64	89	17	0
Vlorë	6	21	4	3



The study also looked into how the attitudes and opinions of educators in relation to the socio-economic situation of Roma children and parents are represented at the 12 regions of Albania. The region of Fieris statistically significant compared to other regions of Albania when it comes to stating that Roma children live in dire socio-economic situation, while Lezha or Diber are statistically significant to stating the contrary. Other cities like Tirana for example the staff of kindergartens is almost divided in half in their attitudes towards social and economic situation of children.

TABLE 3.2.12STATUS OF CIVIL REGISTRATION OF ROMA CHILDREN

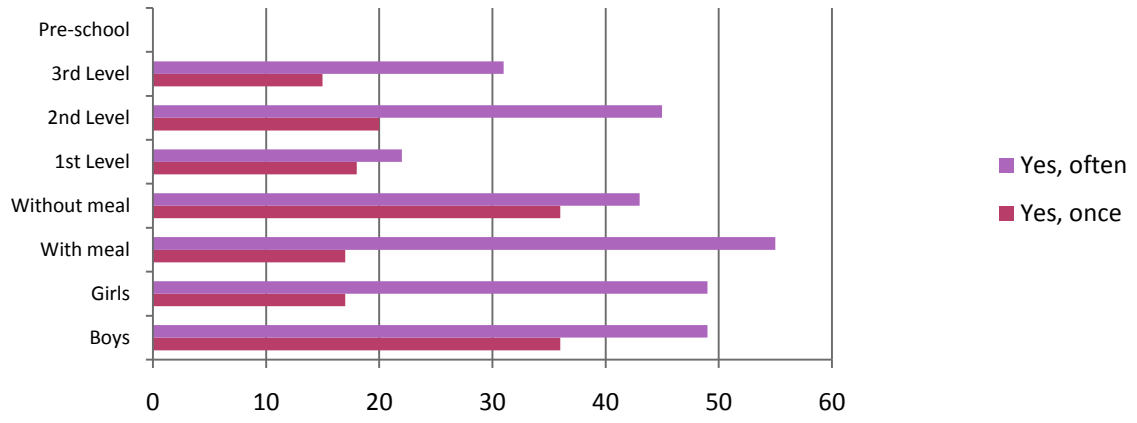
	Yes	No	I do not know	No answer
Total	**601**	**35**	**25**	**4**
By sex				
Boys	301	20	15	2
Girls	300	15	10	2
By type of kindergarten				
With meal provisions	200	16	8	0
Without meal provisions	401	19	17	4
By levelof kindergarten attended				
1st Level	141	17	6	1
2nd Level	245	11	12	0
3rd Level	211	7	4	3
Pre-school programme	4	0	3	0

Civil registration of Roma children has often hindered their access to education and health while threating their well-being. Despite the fact that recently there have been legislative and policy improvements to allow Roma children and their families to be registered based on simplified rules, yet child protection professionals have expressed their continuous concern at the pace of such registration. The kindergartens are required to ask every parent to present a certificate of birth of the child and a family certificate from the Civil Register Office before registering a child in kindergarten. As such it is assumed that every child in kindergarten shall have a file where his/her vaccine, health and birth certificates are held. The study asked teachers and educators to look into the files and confirm that a copy of the birth certificate of the child was held as part of the documentation. In 90% of cases educators confirm the status of civil registration of Roma children, for 5.2% of children the teachers don't have information, for 3.8% of children they don't know and for 0.6% teachers didn't provide an answer.

TABLE 3.2.13 ATTITUDES OF NON-ROMA PARENTS TOWARDS ROMA CHILDREN

	Total	Yes, once	Yes, often	Never	No answer
Albania	**665**	**53**	**98**	**422**	**92**
by sex					
Boys	**338**	36	49	211	42
Girls	**327**	17	49	211	50
by type of kindergarten					
With meal provisions	**224**	17	55	117	35
Without meal provisions	**441**	36	43	305	57
by class attended					
1st Level	**165**	18	22	94	31
2nd Level	**268**	20	45	165	38
3rd Level	**225**	15	31	156	23
Pre-school programme	**7**	0	0	7	0

Graph 12: Attitudes of non-Roma parents towards Roma children



Discriminatory attitudes of none-Roma parents could considerably contribute to conflicts and consequently lack of attendance of kindergartens from Roma children and their parents. The study looked into identifying such negative and discriminatory attitudes and their frequency. The study found that at least 63% of non-Roma parents have not expressed any views against Roma children; while 14.7% of parents have often expressed such negative attitudes with another 8% expressing them only once. Some 13.8% of teachers did not provide an answer to our question.

Negative and discriminatory attitudes against Roma children seem to influence equally boys and girls with slight differences when there is a meal provision or when children attend 2nd level of kindergarten. In total we can say that almost 23% of Roma children are affected by such attitudes in kindergartens.

TABLE 3.2.14 FUNDING OF KINDERGARTENS TO SUPPORT ROMA CHILDREN

	Total	Yes	No	I do not know
Albania	**665**	**36**	**579**	**50**
by sex				
Boys	**338**	19	290	29
Girls	**327**	17	289	21
by type of kindergarten				
With meal provisions	**224**	27	162	35
Without meal provisions	**441**	9	417	15
by level of kindergarten attended				
1st level	**165**	10	137	18
2nd level	**268**	15	227	26
3rd level	**225**	11	208	6
Pre-school	**7**	0	7	0

The last area that the study looked into was the funding issue of kindergartens. All levels of public education in Albania are funded by the local and central Government. But there are cases when kindergartens receive financial and material support from the local Government or CSO's to register Roma children while the needs of the children for food or materials are subsidies. Staff of kindergartens across Albania was asked if any child was subsidised from other sources rather than those of the kindergarten itself.

Teachers and educators state that only 5.4% of children are subsidised by some other public or private body (CSO's) while attendance and services are funded by the government for 87% of children in Albania. Although this looks as a positive step, one has to take into consideration that parents pay a yearly fee to register the child in kindergarten (or crèches); the local government is responsible for the investments made into the buildings while the central government pays for staff of kindergartens. Such division of tasks and lack of funding for most municipalities in urban areas has probably hindered the opening of so many needed kindergartens across urban areas in Albania.

The large discrepancy between available kindergartens in urban areas (316) compared to 1457 rural ones (serving to 51% and 48.9% of children respectively with a ratio of 123.4 children per kindergarten in urban areas and only 25.6 children in rural areas), shows the dire need to establish new kindergartens in municipalities across Albania. Roma children in kindergartens are only one of the disadvantaged groups that need to increase their attendance, while one shall not forget that there are many other social groups that need to have equal access to early childhood education.

3.3 ROMA CHILDREN IN BASIC EDUCATION

Historically the Roma in Albania, as in other European countries, are characterized by a low level of education[62]. The Roma mapping 2011 reported that the level of illiteracy among Roma was 40.3 per cent, while only 16 per cent had graduated high school.

Many studies on Roma children's access to basic education and their level of attainment show that Roma children and their parents have distinctly lower achievements in education compared to their non-Roma peers. "Many Roma have never been to school that speak of a high level of illiteracy among members of the community. In average Roma attend only 3.32 years of school…"[63]

In 2012, UNDP in a comparative analysis reported that at least 22% of Roma children between 10-18 years old had never been to school. The same research stated that only 52% of Roma children 7-9 year's old attend school, with a slight increase at 59% for children 10-12 year's old, compared to 93% of non-Roma children living in the proximity[64]. At least 18% of Roma children attend the school irregularly compared to only 3% of their peers in proximity.

The 2014 Roma Census concluded that the lesser the level of education of Roma families the less well-off were the families, with 1 in 2 Roma people above 6 years old not being able to read or write. Only 12.2% of Roma people where at school when Census took place[65].

In 2012, Albania approved a new law on Pre-university education, which puts a new emphasis on the education of disadvantaged children including Roma.[66] Article 19 of the Law guarantees the provisions care for several categories of pupils with special focus on vulnerable families, disabled or children with learning difficulties. The forms and the criteria shall be determined upon the decision of the Council of Ministers[67].

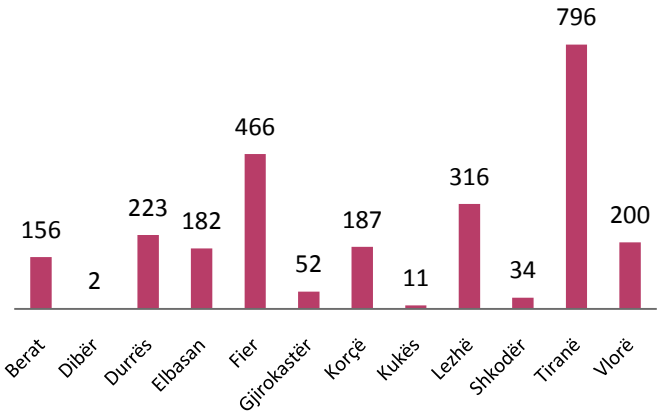
Back in 2011 the Government of Albaniatook the decision[68] to provide all the school textbooks for Roma Children for free of charge in order to support their integration in basic education. A joint-Instruction[69]n between the Ministry of Finances and the Ministry of Education provides the details of how the books are to be purchased to be reimbursed later or given for free. Although by many CSOs the policy is seen as very progressive yet the free distribution of books for Roma children has faced several difficulties in its implementation. At the time of the preparation of this report the Albanian Coalition for Child Education complained that not all Roma children were given free books and that there were shortages of books available once the school had started.

[62]Gedeshi I., Jorgoni E., "Mapping Roma Children in Albania", UNICEF and CESS, Tirana 2011.
[63] Nelaj D., Kaciu E., Dundo J., Dervishi D., Factors that impact Roma Integration in Albania, a comparative Study. Open Society Foundation in Albania, Tirana 2012.
[64]Brüggemann, C. (2012). Roma Education in Comparative Perspective.Analysis of the UNDP/World Bank/EC Regional Roma Survey 2011.
[65] Roma Census 2014, Study of Albanian Communities, Open Society Foundation in Albania (Soros), Tirana 2014.
[66] Law 69/2012 "For Pre-univeristy education system in the Republic of Albania".
[67] Guideline Nr. 38 of 13.08.2013 of the Minister of Education, "For the Education of the individuals of school age attending social welfare institutions".
[68] Decision of Council of Ministers, No. 212 of16.03.2011"For the Publication, Distribution and Sale of School Textbooks in Albania"
[69]Joint Instruction of Ministry of Finances and Ministry of Education and Sports, No. 32, of 04.08.2011.

TABLE 3.3.1 NUMBER OF SCHOOLS IN REGIONS ATTENDED BY ROMA CHILDREN

Region	Number of schools per region	Number of Roma children attending schools
Total	**128**	**2,625**
Berat	13	156
Dibër	1	2
Durrës	7	223
Elbasan	10	182
Fier	17	466
Gjirokastër	3	52
Korçë	8	187
Kukës	2	11
Lezhë	12	316
Shkodër	2	34
Tiranë	42	796
Vlorë	11	200

Graph 13: Number of Schools in Regions attended by Roma children



Data from the tables and graphs at this section of the study has been collected from the questionnaires filled by school directors and educational authorities throughout Albania. Table 3.3.1 provides a general overview of the number of schools attended by Roma children per region and the total number of children attending those schools. There are 128 public 9-year schools being accessed by Roma children with an average of 20.5 children per school. As these children live in Roma settlements usually the numbers of children accessing one single school are occasionally high. Tirana has the largest number of schools serving to Roma children followed by Fier, Elbasan and Lezha. The region with the lowest number of schools is Diber, where the number of children is only 2. Albania has 1340[70] schools of basic education, while Roma children are accessing only almost 10% of the schools across the country.

TABLE 3.3.2 NUMBER OF ROMA CHILDREN ATTENDING SCHOOLS PER DISTRICT

District	No. of children	District	No. of children
Albania			**2,625**
Berat	116	**Kuçovë**	40
Delvinë	56	**Kukës**	11
Devoll	20	**Kurbin**	71
Dibër	2	**Lezhë**	245
Durrës	223	**Lushnjë**	111
Elbasan	182	**Pogradec**	10
Fier	355	**Sarandë**	25
Gjirokastër	52	**Shkodër**	34
Kavajë	13	**Tiranë**	783
Kolonjë	2	**Vlorë**	119
Korçë	155		

[70]Statistical Indicators of Academic Year 2013-2014 for Pre-University Education in Albania, Ministry of Education and Sports, Tirana 2014.

At the district level we see that out of 38 districts in Albania Roma children are attending schools only in 21 of them. Again as observed in Table 3.3.1 Tirana district has the highest number of Roma children attending school followed by Fier, that represent 29.8% and 13.5% of all Roma children in schools across Albania. Statistically significant is also Lezha as region and as district if compared to Elbasan. Although there are only 128 Roma families residing in Lezha and 539 families in Elbasan, the number of children attending schools in Lezha is 245 while in Elbasan only 182, which tells us that many children in Elbasan region are not attending school at all.

TABLE 3.3.3 SCHOOL ATTENDANCE OF ROMA CHILDREN PER CLASS AND GENDER

	Total	Boys	%	Girls	%	Gender / Class unknown
Albania	**2,311**	**1,279**	**55.3**	**1,015**	**44.7**	**17**
Preparatory class	**29**	14	**48.3**	12	**41.4**	3
1st year	**443**	234	**52.9**	207	**46.7**	2
2nd year	**357**	204	**58.4**	152	**41.4**	1
3rd year	**326**	181	**56.5**	143	**42.9**	2
4th year	**279**	162	**58.5**	115	**40.9**	2
5th year	**287**	149	**50.9**	137	**48.8**	1
6th year	**201**	119	**59.2**	80	**39.9**	2
7th year	**159**	83	**53.3**	74	**45.6**	2
8th year	**113**	65	**57.1**	47	**42.1**	1
9th Year	**105**	64	**60.5**	40	**38.7**	1
Missing	**12**	4		8		0

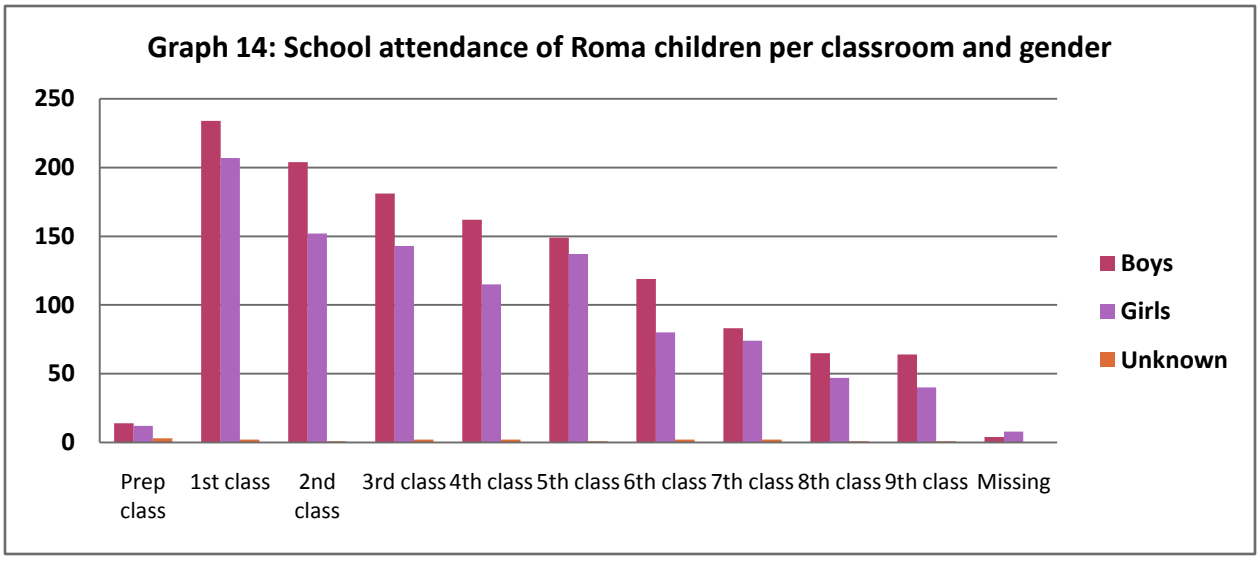


Table 3.3.3 provides detailed information on school attendance from Roma children per class and gender. Basic education in Albania is made of 2 levels, primary (classes from 1-5) and lower secondary (classes from 6-9). A child in order to get a certificate of maturity shall have studied and passed all the 9 levels of primary school. A child would enter into the primary school when it has completed 6 years old but not older than 7. Depending on the month of the birthday of the child, some children enter into primary basic education as

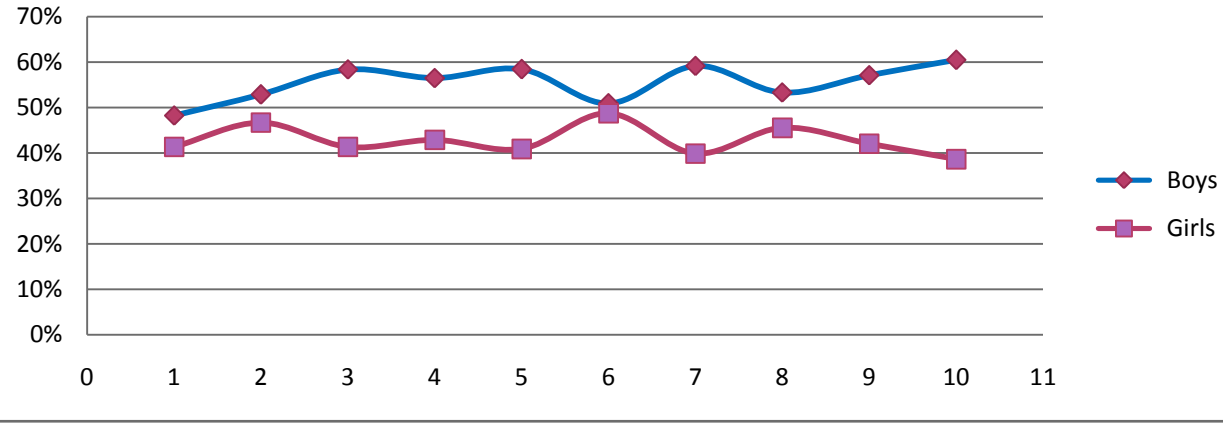
soon as they are 6 years old, while some others, who are not 6 by the month of August-September of the new academic year, would have to wait to start school until the next academic year[71].

The study confirms that the number of Roma children attending any level of education in Albania has increased steadily. The Study found that there are 2311 Roma children attendingbasic education in Albania or otherwise 71% more Roma children are attending schools compared to 2011 houshold data. In 2014 basic education was attended by 53% boys and 44.7% Roma girls. In 2011 the percentage was again in favour of the boys with 56% of all attendees compared to girls with only 44%. There has been a slight increase of 3% in school attendance from Roma boys, compared to girls only with 0.7%. The number of children attending prep-classes remains significantly low and so does the number of children that study in the last year of basic education. By the time a Roma child gets into the 9th class of basic education almost 2/3 of Roma children have dropped out of school.

Although we don't have all the detailed household data for Roma children per-age group related to their attendance of basic education we calculated that out of 3763 Roma children[72] aged 6 up to 15 years old, which corresponds to the ages of children attendingbasic education in Albania, only 61.4% of Roma children are attending a class of basic education or otherwise 1 in 4 Roma children is not attending any form of education, despite the legal obligation to attend school. It has to be noted that data is missing only for 12 children, which is quite a positive rate, compared to the overall number of data on children that this study analysed.

Roma Girls' education versus boys

Graph 15: Roma Girls' education versus boys per class attended



One striking difference but not unexpected is the variance among Roma boys and girls attending schools in the pre-university education in Albania. The data collected from this Study demonstrates that although there is a similar rate between boys and girls who enroll in the first class of the basic education, respectively 48% versus 41%, when we observe the last year of school attendance (9th class) the ratio of following up education increases by almost 8% in favour of boys while for girls that drops to -8%. The difference in school attendance between boys and girls who graduatebasic education is almost 22% in

[71] An academic year in Albania for primary mandatory education would start usually by mid-Septer to finish by mid-July, depending on the class that the child is attending.
[72] Roma Census 2014, Study of Albanian Communities, Open Society Foundation in Albania (Soros), Tirana 2014.

favour of the first. This major difference could be explained probably by the factorsthat are often mentioned to hinder Roma girls' education such as early marriages and personal safety.

Data from the Study also shows that the number of girls attending schools drops progressively from the end of the 1st class by reaching to peaks one when girls start 2nd class and 6th class. Roma boys also progressively drop school attendance from the start of the 2nd class but their progression is without the peaks that accompany Roma girls' education at two major moments of their life, when they are 8 and 11 years old. The number of Roma boys and girls gets almost equalised when children start 5th class of basic education but as mentioned above once the girls get to their 6th class their attendance falls rapidly. Further research is needed to understand those two peaks in girls' education life.

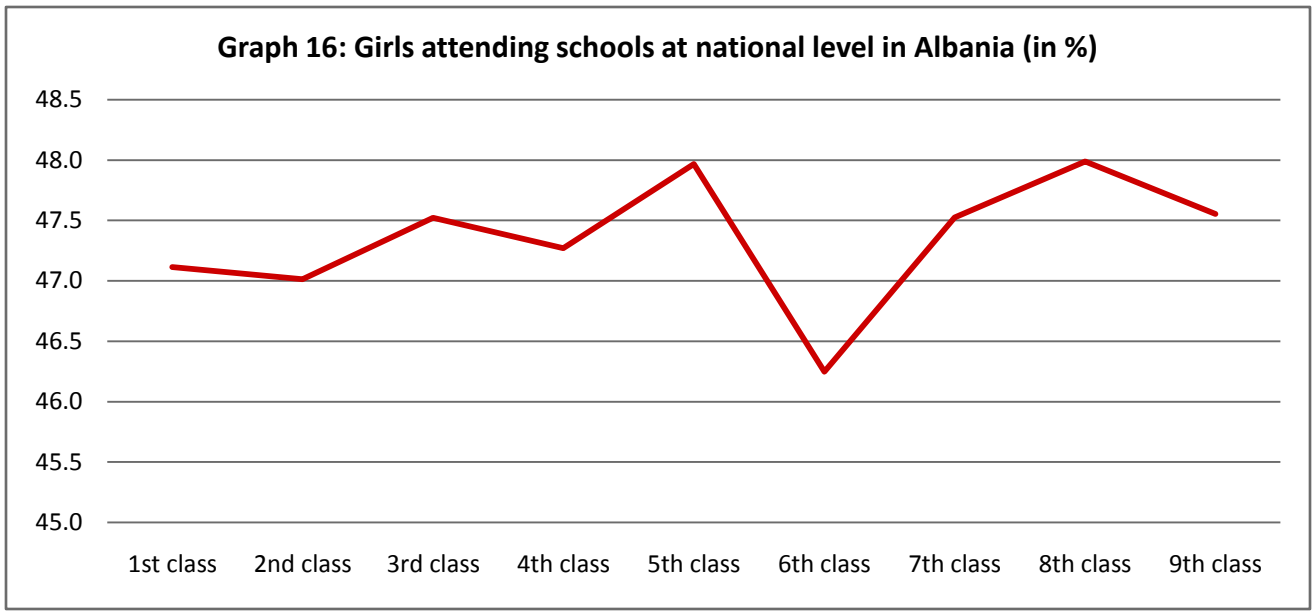
One also has to note that the lack of detailed data on the numbers of Roma children per each age group, gender and status of school attendance is lacking, thus it's impossible to be certain on how many Roma children per age group are not attending school at all, what is their gender and how many of them are attending school. This means that we are able to know only the level of attendance and dropouts only of children who have registered at 2013-2014 academic year.

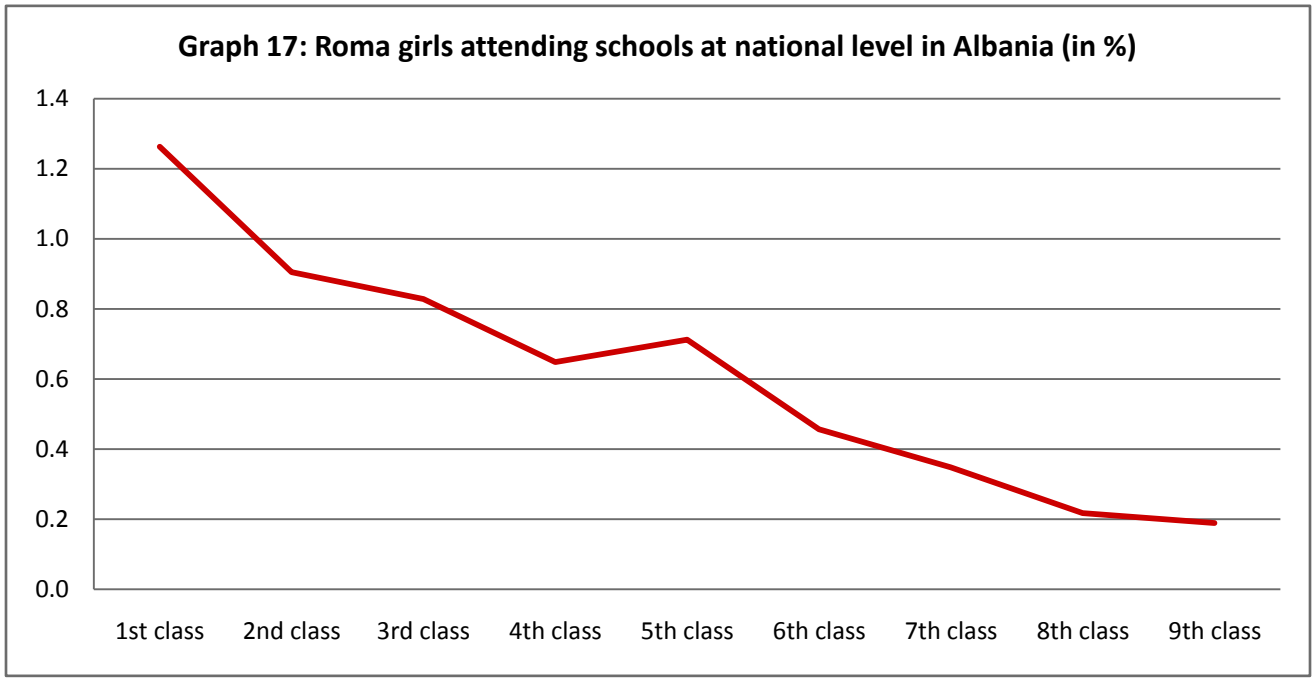
TABLE 3.3.4 NATIONAL SCHOOL ATTENDANCE PER CLASS AND GENDER VERSUS ROMA CHILDREN

Classes	Children registered in schools as of September 2013[73]						
	Total number of children in schools	Number of Roma children attending schools	% of Roma children as opposed to non-Roma	Girl children attending schools	Overall% of girls in schools	Roma girls attending schools	% of Roma girls as opposed to non-Roma
Total	**356347**	**2311**	**0.6**	**168842**	**47.4**	**1,015**	**0.6**
1st class	34789	443	1.3	16390	47.1	207	1.3
2nd class	35735	357	1.0	16800	47.0	152	0.9
3rd class	36328	326	0.9	17263	47.5	143	0.8
4th class	37489	279	0.7	17721	47.3	115	0.6
5th class	40069	287	0.7	19219	48.0	137	0.7
6th class	37849	201	0.5	17504	46.2	80	0.5
7th class	44676	159	0.4	21232	47.5	74	0.3
8th class	44996	113	0.3	21592	48.0	47	0.2
9th class	44416	105	0.2	21121	47.6	40	0.2

The same trend as explained above continues when we compare the school enrolment and differences from class to class between overall number of children in basic education compared to the Roma children and overall number of girls in attending education compared with that of Roma Girls. From the general data we can see that only 0.6% of children in education are Roma. The same percentage is reflected for school attendance of Roma girls, where they represent 0.6% of all girls that attend education in Albania.

[73] Sources: Statistical Indicators of Academic Year 2013-2014 for Pre-University Education in Albania, Ministry of Education and Sports, Tirana 2014 / National Survey 2014: Access of Roma Children in Education and Health in Albania.

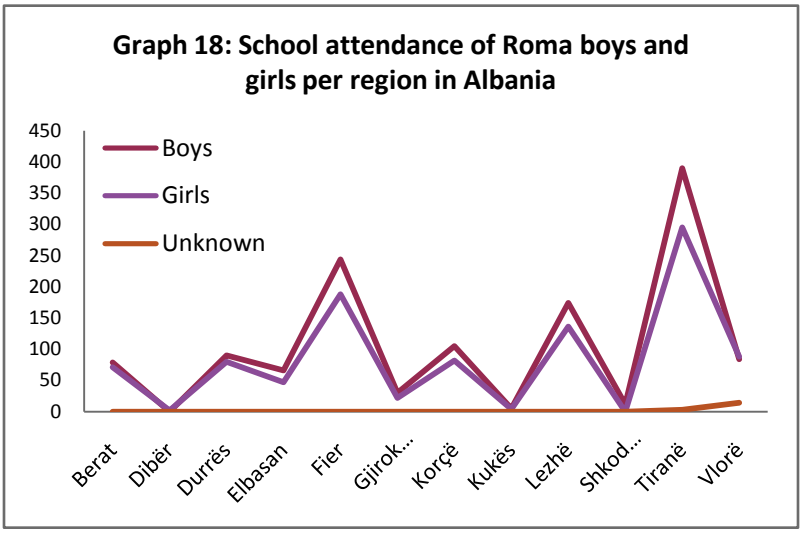




We observe quite a difference between non-Roma and Roma girls in school attendance per classroom.

Data shows that school attendance among non-Roma Girls doesn't vary much from year to year, while still remaining at the level of 47% (of children in schools are girls). However when we look into school attendance amongst Roma girls, we observe a huge decrease from 1.3% during the 1st year of school to 0.2% by the 9th year. The school attendance amongst Roma girls is in free fall with a slight increase during the 5th class ofprimary education. Although we don't know all the factors that influence school attendance and dropouts among Roma girls, several reports mentioned in this study have cited early marriages, traditional values in Roma families towards girls' education and perceived lack of security as the main triggers. We believe that there is a further need for research in this specific area of education.

	Total	Boys	Girls	Un-known
Albania	**2,311**	**1,279**	**1,015**	**17**
Berat	150	79	71	0
Dibër	2	0	2	0
Durrës	170	90	80	0
Elbasan	113	66	47	0
Fier	432	244	188	0
Gjirokastër	52	30	22	0
Korçë	187	105	82	0
Kukës	9	5	4	0
Lezhë	310	174	136	0
Shkodër	12	12	0	0
Tiranë	688	390	295	3
Vlorë	186	84	88	14



The tendency of Roma girls attending at a lower number the basic education compared to boys continues also when we compare the data per region. The level becomes statistically significant especially for Fier, Lezha and Tirana because of the large number of Roma children attending school, while it seems less significant for Diber, Kukes, Elbasan and Shkoder. However one has to note that although the number of children seems insignificant in Shkoder or Elbasan this is because very few children have registered and are attending basic education.

TABLE 3.3.5 DISTANCE OF SCHOOLS FROM ROMA SETTLEMENT/S

	Total	>= 1 km		over 1 km and less or equal to 2 km		over 2 km		Distance unknown	
		No of children	%	No of children	%	No of children	%	No of children	%
Total	**2,625**	**1,609**	**61.2**	**422**	**16.1**	**135**	**5.1**	**463**	**17.6**
Berat	156	78	50.0	64	41.0	0	0.0	14	9.0
Dibër	2	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	100.0	0	0.0
Durrës	223	117	52.5	106	47.5	0	0.0	0	0.0
Elbasan	182	105	57.7	0	0.0	10	5.5	67	36.8
Fier	466	402	86.3	0	0.0	64	13.7	0	0.0
Gjirokastër	52	39	75.0	4	7.7	9	17.3	0	0.0
Korçë	187	151	80.7	32	17.1	4	2.1	0	0.0
Kukës	11	11	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Lezhë	316	261	82.6	29	9.2	26	8.2	0	0.0
Shkodër	34	11	32.4	23	67.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
Tiranë	796	274	34.3	155	19.4	3	0.4	368	46.0
Vlorë	200	160	80.0	9	4.5	17	8.5	14	7.0

Compared with crèches and kindergartens, the distance that children need to traverse appears quite different despite the fact that the number of schools remains almost the same with kindergartens. The study found that 61% of children live in proximity of schools, 16% live within 2 km ratio, while 5% of children live further than 2 km from school. This is quite a considerable percentage since it is a Government

policy on basic education requires Local Education Authorities to provide free of charge transport for children and teachers living 2 or more kilometres far from the school[74].

The data presented in Table 3.3.5 demonstrates that the majority of children live within a walking distance from their school, but there is a considerable number of children living far from schools and they could be the ones that dropout of school because of the distance. To put this in perspective, 5 per cent of Roma children need to walk at least 1 hour a day to go to school and come back. The Ministry of Education doesn't report on how many children they transport every year and what is their background thus it is impossible for us to get a clear picture on how the transport subsidies are used and for what groups of children.

TABLE 3.3.6 COLLECTION OF CHILDREN AND PARENTAL PERSONAL DATA

	Total	Boys		Girls		Unknown	
		No of children	%	No of children	%	No of children	%
Total	**2,625**	**1,450**	**55.2**	**1,136**	**43.3**	**39**	**1.5**
Pre- class	29	14	48.3	12	41.4	3	10.3
1st class	503	266	52.9	235	46.7	2	0.4
2nd class	399	233	58.4	165	41.4	1	0.3
3rd class	361	204	56.5	155	42.9	2	0.6
4th class	325	190	58.5	133	40.9	2	0.6
5th class	326	166	50.9	159	48.8	1	0.3
6th class	218	129	59.2	87	39.9	2	0.9
7th class	180	96	53.3	82	45.6	2	1.1
8th class	126	72	57.1	53	42.1	1	0.8
9th class	119	72	60.5	46	38.7	1	0.8
Missing data	39	8	20.5	9	23.1	22	56.4

As expected schools have a considerable high level of personal data collected on the Roma children and their parents. Schools lack information only on 1.5% of children, while for 1.4 children the information is missing.

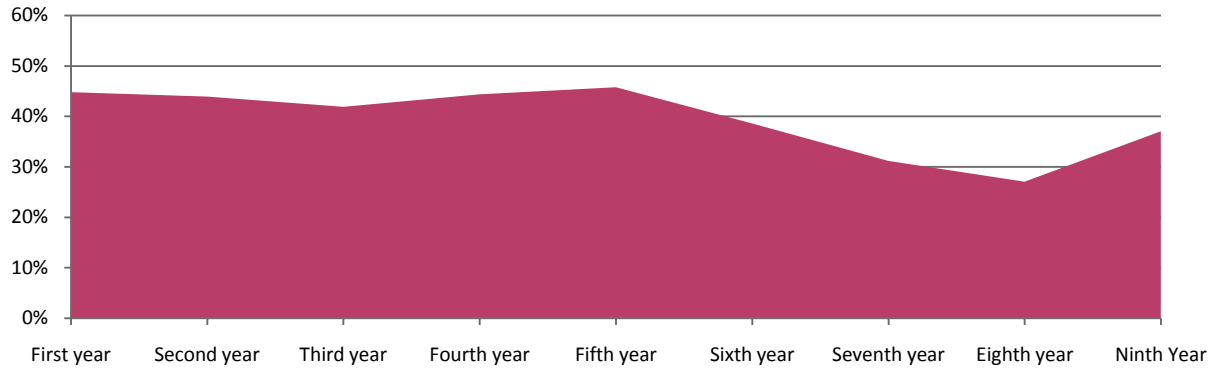
Having such information available it means that schools are able to identify the children based upon their identities and provide them with the necessary support, care and protection needed. Having information on the parents it means that the schools can maintain a good level of communication between them and the parents related to issues of child development, school attendance, education attainment etc.

[74]Council of Ministers Decision No. 709, of 5.10.2011 "For the Use of Public Funds for the transport of teachers and pupils that work and learn outside of their place of residence"

TABLE 3.3.7SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AMOMG ROMA CHILDREN IN BASIC EDUCATION PER CLASS

	Total	Regular pupils (0 missing hours)	1-100 missing hours	101-200 missing hours	More than 200 missing hours	Unknown
Albania	**2,625**	**1,084**	**951**	**62**	**34**	**494**
Preparatory class	29	22	7	0	0	0
1st year	503	225	166	4	7	101
2nd year	399	175	157	5	2	60
3rd year	361	151	137	11	9	53
4th year	325	144	108	6	2	65
5th year	326	149	105	7	1	64
6th year	218	84	81	4	6	43
7th year	180	56	75	10	5	34
8th year	126	34	62	5	1	24
9th year	119	44	46	9	1	19
Missing	39	0	7	1	0	31

Graph 19: % of regular pupils among Roma children

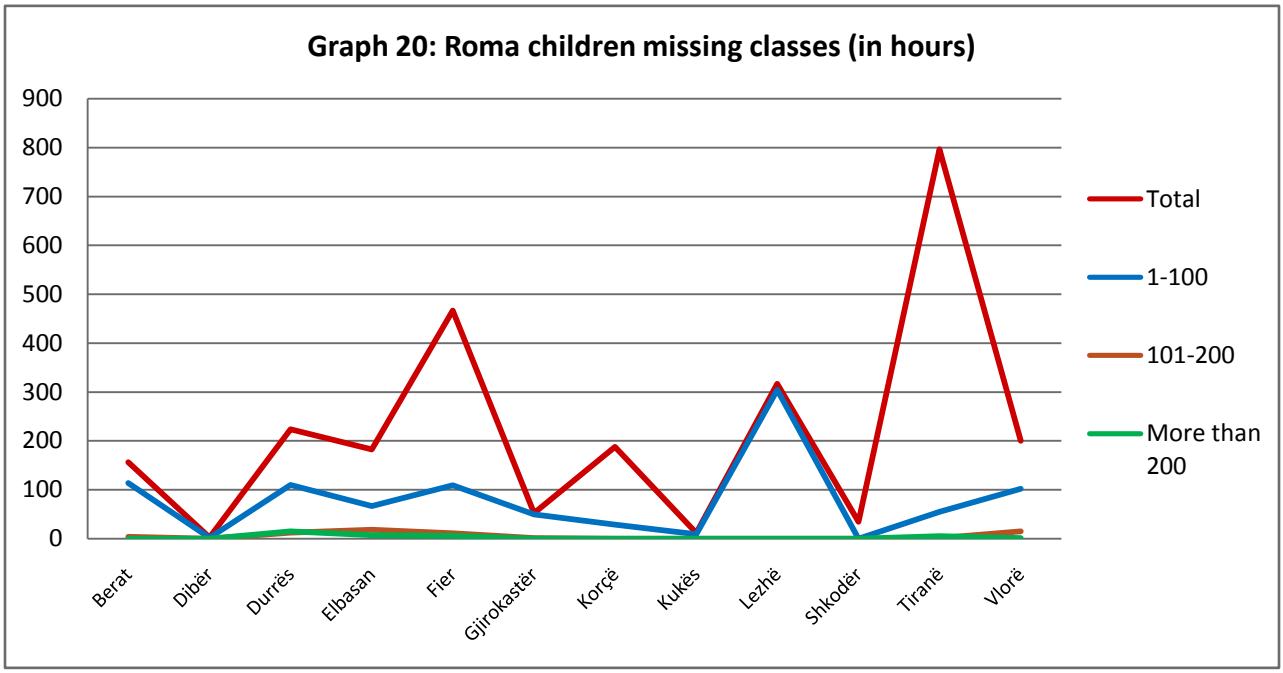


Despite the fact that there are a larger number of Roma children are attending basic education in Albania, compared to previous years, however a considerable number of children who drop out of school or become occasional or regular truant. Table 3.3.7 demonstrates that out of 2625 Roma children attending pre-university education in Albania, only 41.3% of children attend regularly the school while the rest of the children are missing temporary or constantly from school.

What represents an interest to our research is the number of children that do not attend regularly basic education. Some 36.2% of children are occasionally missing classes; 2.3% of children are occasionally truant while 1.3% of children are persistently truant. Data from questionnaires shows that schools do not have enough information on the status of dropouts for 18.8% of children, which is a very high rate to be neglected.

TABLE 3.3.8 SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AMONG ROMA CHILDREN PER REGION

	Total	Regular pupils (0 missing hours)	1-100 missing hours	101-200 missing hours	More than 200 missing hours	Unknown
Albania	**2,625**	**1,084**	**951**	**62**	**34**	**494**
Berat	156	28	114	4	0	10
Dibër	2	0	2	0	0	0
Durrës	223	28	110	12	15	58
Elbasan	182	9	67	18	7	81
Fier	466	177	109	11	6	163
Gjirokastër	52	1	50	1	0	0
Korçë	187	158	29	0	0	0
Kukës	11	0	9	0	0	2
Lezhë	316	6	304	0	0	6
Shkodër	34	12	0	0	0	22
Tiranë	796	598	55	1	5	137
Vlorë	200	67	102	15	1	15



When we break down the data per region and school attendance we see some interesting traits that appear and that are worth mentioning.

The graph shows clearlythat Lezha and Gjirokaster are statistically significant because they report that almost all the children that attend school also occasionally are missing classes. While Dibra, Kukes and Shkodra although having a low number of children attending school they do attend on regular bases. Meanwhile children in Tirana and Korçe represent the highest percentage of children attending school regularly, compared to all the other regions of Albania.

TABLE 3.3.9 ROMA CHILDREN SCHOOL ATTEINMENT PER CLASS AND REGION

	Total	Excellent	Above average	Average	Below average	Dropouts	Missing
Albania	**2,625**	**309**	**1,221**	**586**	**70**	**173**	**266**
Prep class	29	0	29	0	0	0	0
1st year	503	71	211	133	10	35	43
2nd year	399	48	184	111	2	24	30
3rd year	361	43	174	92	6	18	28
4th year	325	50	149	60	13	27	26
5th year	326	31	171	55	20	20	29
6th year	218	28	98	39	5	12	36
7th year	180	18	73	52	6	15	16
8th year	126	9	56	24	3	8	26
9th year	119	11	73	15	5	10	5
Missing data	39	0	3	5	0	4	27

	Total	Excellent	Above average	Average	Below average	Dropouts	Missing
Albania	**2625**	**309**	**1221**	**586**	**70**	**173**	**266**
Berat	156	14	80	47	5	9	1
Dibër	2	0	2	0	0	0	0
Durrës	223	3	91	72	24	33	0
Elbasan	182	5	37	74	0	13	53
Fier	466	15	197	85	12	3	154
Gjirokastër	52	0	3	48	1	0	0
Korçë	187	157	25	5	0	0	0
Kukës	11	2	6	1	0	0	2
Lezhë	316	79	151	84	1	1	0
Shkodër	34	0	12	0	0	22	0
Tiranë	796	13	560	63	26	79	55
Vlorë	200	21	57	107	1	13	1

Table 3.3.9 provides information on school attainment of Roma children in basic education. Almost 1 in 2 Roma children seem to perform well in education; respectively 11.8% and 46.5% of children achieve excellent and above average results; 24% of children achieve average attainment, while only 2.7% of children are classified as below average. The percentage of dropouts is reported at the rate of 6.6%, while data is missing for almost 10% of children.

When we look into the relation between school attainment and children's location, the study found that children in Korça achieve a high rate of attainment in education (84%) compared to all the other districts, while Roma children in Tirana, Fier and Lezha perform above the average in their schools, with 81.6%, 42.2% and 47.7%respectively. Fier has the largest number of missing data on children.

The region with below average attainment is Durres where almost 11% of children perform at a lower rate than any other region of Albania. Shkodra has the largest percentage of dropouts with 64.7% of children who have started school are reported to have dropped out followed by Durres with almost 15% followed by Tirana with almost 10%.

Graph 21: Dropout rate among Roma pupils per region

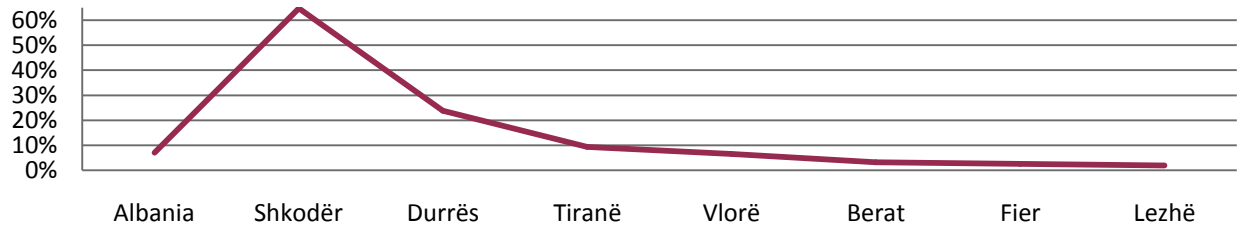


TABLE 3.3.10 GRADUATION RATE OF ROMA CHILDREN PER CLASSROOM AND REGION

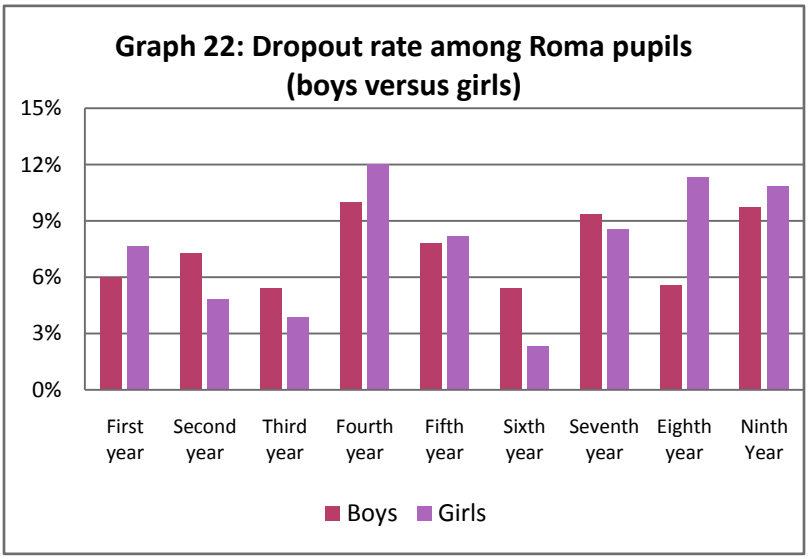
	Total	Pass	Failed	Repeating	Dropouts	Unknown
Total	**2,625**	**2,041**	**142**	**37**	**141**	**264**
Prep class	29	29	0	0	0	0
1st class	503	374	26	23	37	43
2nd class	399	334	5	8	22	30
3rdclass	361	301	9	4	19	28
4thclass	325	256	17	2	24	26
5thclass	326	260	27	0	10	29
6thclass	218	155	21	0	8	34
7thclass	180	136	17	0	11	16
8thclass	126	89	6	0	5	26
9thclass	119	99	10	0	5	5
Missing data	39	8	4	0	0	27

	Total	Pass	Failed	Repeating	Dropouts	Unknown
Albania	**2,625**	**2,041**	**142**	**37**	**141**	**264**
Berat	156	145	5	0	5	1
Dibër	2	2	0	0	0	0
Durrës	223	151	41	0	31	0
Elbasan	182	115	2	0	13	52
Fier	466	256	17	37	3	153
Gjirokastër	52	51	1	0	0	0
Korçë	187	187	0	0	0	0
Kukës	11	9	0	0	0	2
Lezhë	316	297	13	0	6	0
Shkodër	34	12	0	0	22	0
Tiranë	796	641	52	0	48	55
Vlorë	200	175	11	0	13	1

Table 3.3.10 provides an overview on the graduation rate of Roma children that attend education. In overall we can say that above 2/3 of Roma children graduated from the class they started during the academic year 2013-2014, despite the fact that only 41.3% of children attended school regularly. Only 5.4% of Roma children failed their school, while 1.4% of those that attended school were children who were repeating the same school year. There is a discrepancy in the data related to school dropouts, because several schools although they have reported for a small number of children as dropping out yet they have reported them as passed for next academic year. This becomes more apparent in table 3.3.11, where the number of dropouts is higher than the one we have reported above.

TABLE 3.3.11 DROPOUTS OF ROMA CHILDREN PER CLASSROOM AND GENDER

	Total	Dropout rate (%)		
		Total	Boys	Girls
Total	**184**	**7.0**	**7.1**	**7.1**
Prep class	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1st class	34	6.8	6.0	7.7
2nd class	25	6.3	7.3	4.8
3rd class	17	4.7	5.4	3.9
4th class	35	10.8	10.0	12.0
5th class	26	8.0	7.8	8.2
6th class	9	4.1	5.4	2.3
7th class	16	8.9	9.4	8.5
8th class	10	7.9	5.6	11.3
9th class	12	10.1	9.7	10.9
Missing data	0	0.0	0.0	0.0



The level of dropouts among boys and girls in overall is equally at the rate of 7.1%. However when we look at the dropout rates related to the class that the child is attending we can see that in several levels girls perform worst then boys, which means that girls dropout of school at an earlier rate than boys.

Dropouts are concluded by the number of children who have registered at each class of basic education compared to those who have graduated the same class that they started at the beginning of the academic year.

Girls dropout at a faster rate in the beginning, the middle and at the end of their academic life of 9 years; 7.7% of girls drop out at the end of 2nd class, 12% at the end of 4th class, 11.3% at the end of 8th and almost 11% at the end of 9th class. While boys' dropoutof education at a higher rate at the end of their 2nd, 4th, 7th and 9th class. There are several reasons why children dropout of school, while boys and girls are affected often from different grounds and motives. If girls' education at the age of 14-15 is widely believe to be influenced by early marriages, probably for the boys the motive would be their employment at a young age. Low level of education attainment is also a reason why parents would not let their children continue to attend school and consequently drop out of it.

3.4 ACESS TO HEALTH SERVICES FOR ROMA CHILDREN

Healing is a matter of time, but it is sometimes also a matter of opportunity!

Hippocrates

Health influences the life and well-being of a person. It is also a strong contributing factor into child lack of attendance and dropouts from crèches, kindergartens and schools. A bad state of health it can prevent children to achieve their full growth, physical and mental potential, with major consequences in today's and future life of children.

Currently there are few studies to which we can refer to when it comes to Roma children's health in Albania. In 2011 the study of Roma Mapping stated that "…5.9 per cent of children do not enjoy good health. Almost 5 per cent of children have suffered from severe illness and 5.6 per cent suffer from chronic diseases."

A UNDP/World Bank report[75] found that only 32% of Roma people had access to health insurance, compared to 54% of their non-Roma neighbours, whereas 57% of Roma people could not afford to buy medicines.

UNICEF in Albania in one of its most recent reports wrote that "…health services on the development and upbringing of children 0-3 years old are fragmented and limited to children's physical development, overlooking many of the main aspects of motor, psycho-social, emotional, cognitive and communication development. This situation becomes even more complicated because of lack of unified information in relation to child physical and psycho-motor development and because of lack of guidelines or specific manuals in this field."[76]

The studylooked into identifying the general state of health of Roma children in Albania and more specifically diseases that affect Roma children especially for the ages 0-6 years old that relate to the time when most of the vaccines take place. The study distributed questionnaires across all the Health Centres identified by the project and asked health works in the area to fill them according to the data they had collected for children up to 6-7 years old. As we will see below some health centres have also reported on children older than 7 and younger than 18.

[75] Mihailov, Dotcho. (2012). The health situation of Roma communities: Analysis of the data from the UNDP/World Bank/EC Regional Roma Survey 2011.

[76] Haxhiymeri E., Ndrio M., Hallkja E., Boci A., Assessment of the capacities of healthcare institutions, residential care institutions and crèches to support and encourage early childhood development in Albania, Shelter for Battered Women and Girls in Albania / UNICEF, Tirana 2013.

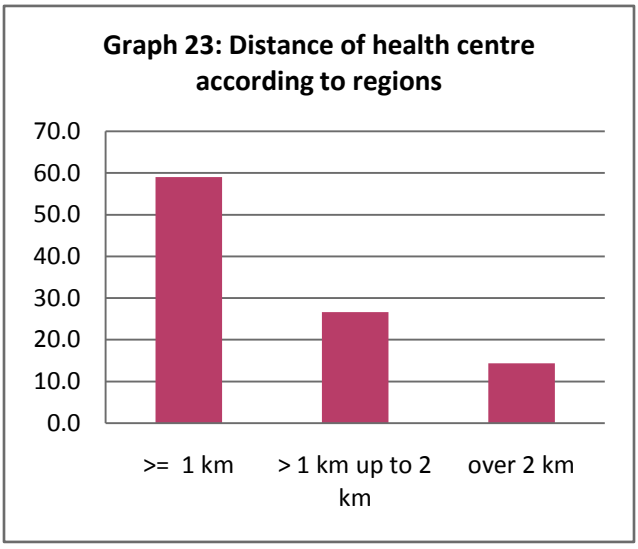
TABLE 3.4.1 NUMBER OF HEALTH CENTRES ACCESSED BY ROMA CHILDREN IN REGIONS

Region	Number of health centres	Number of Roma children
Total	**77**	**2,475**
Berat	7	127
Dibër	0	0
Durrës	5	215
Elbasan	3	101
Fier	14	524
Gjirokastër	3	32
Korçë	6	109
Kukës	0	0
Lezhë	8	183
Shkodër	3	108
Tiranë	19	934
Vlorë	9	142

In total the study reports that there are 77 health centres across Albania being accessed and serving to Roma children and their families. In total the centres have recorded data for 2475 children or in average 32 children per health centre.

TABLE 3.4.2 DISTANCE OF HEALTH CENTERS ACCORDING TO REGIONS

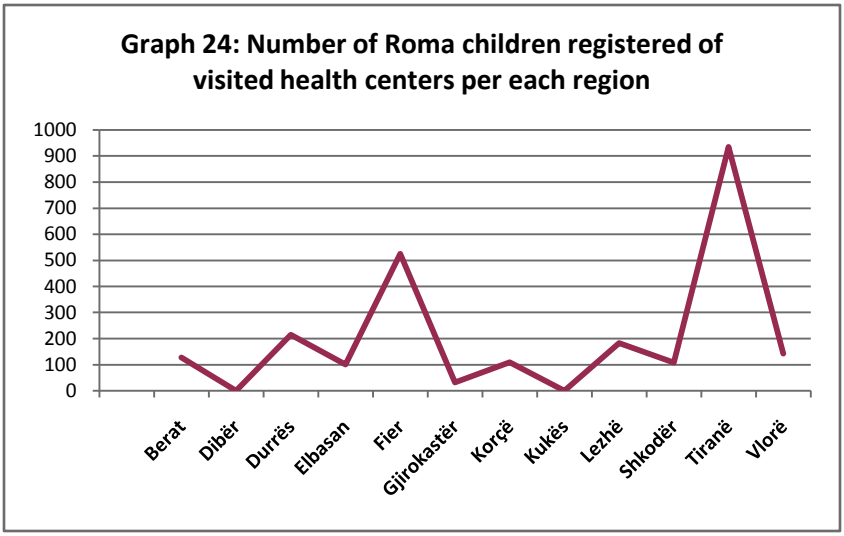
	Total	up to 1 km		1-2 km		over 2 km	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Total	**2,429**	**1,433**	**59.0**	**647**	**26.6**	**349**	**14.4**
Berat	120	105	87.5	13	10.8	2	1.7
Dibër	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Durrës	215	42	19.5	80	37.2	93	43.3
Elbasan	101	77	76.2	24	23.8	0	0.0
Fier	524	524	100.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Gjirokastër	32	31	96.9	0	0.0	1	3.1
Korçë	109	57	52.3	42	38.5	10	9.2
Kukës	0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Lezhë	183	50	27.3	133	72.7	0	0.0
Shkodër	108	60	55.6	48	44.4	0	0.0
Tiranë	895	380	42.5	302	33.7	213	23.8
Vlorë	142	107	75.4	5	3.5	30	21.1



Distance of health centres from Roma settlementscould be a major contributing factor that impedes the access of children and their families to health services. The study found that the majority of health centres are within 1 km from the Roma settlements in 59% of cases, up to 2 km in 26.6% and a considerable 14.4% of health centresare situated over 2 km. The highest percentage of health centres (43.3%) that are 2 km or further away from Roma settlements was reported in Durres, followed by Tirana and Vlora with 23.8% and 21.1% respectively. Meawhile Fier has the highest number of health centres within 1 km.

TABLE 3.4.3 NUMBER OF ROMA CHILDREN VISITING HEALTH CENTRES PER REGION

Region	Number of Roma children per region
Total	**2,475**
Berat	127
Dibër	0
Durrës	215
Elbasan	101
Fier	524
Gjirokastër	32
Korçë	109
Kukës	0
Lezhë	183
Shkodër	108
Tiranë	934
Vlorë	142



Because of variations in the Roma populationfrom various regions, we can see that the numbers of children are higher where Roma populations are residing in higher numbers. Tirana and Fier region have the highest number of health centres serving for Roma children, 33 in total or almost 43% of all the health centres are serving in these 2 regions. Diber and Kukes region although report as having no health centres for Roma children this is because the children in these regions are above 7 years old and the authorities choose not to report the data for older children.

TABLE 3.4.4 AGE OF CHILDREN AND NUMBER OF VISITS IN HEALTH CENTRES

Age	Total	up to 10 visits	11-20 visits	More than 20 visits	Age and number of visits unknown	Number of visits unknown (age is given)
Total	**2,475**	**878**	**160**	**13**	**271**	**1,153**
> 1 year	259	111	16	0	0	132
1 year	235	91	8	1	0	135
2 years	306	126	17	2	0	161
3 years	320	122	34	3	0	161
4 years	288	98	28	3	0	159
5 years	325	114	19	1	0	191
6 years	276	104	29	3	0	140
7 years	15	0	0	0	0	15
8 years	11	0	0	0	0	11
9 years	9	0	0	0	0	9
10 years	5	0	1	0	0	4
11 years	11	0	0	0	0	11
12 years	7	0	1	0	0	6
13 years	8	0	0	0	0	8
14 years	8	0	0	0	0	8
15 years	1	0	0	0	0	1
16 years	1	0	0	0	0	1
Age N/A	390	112	7	0	271	0

Health professionals across Albania were asked to respond to the question on how many times did a child visit the health centre during 2014 and classify them according to age.

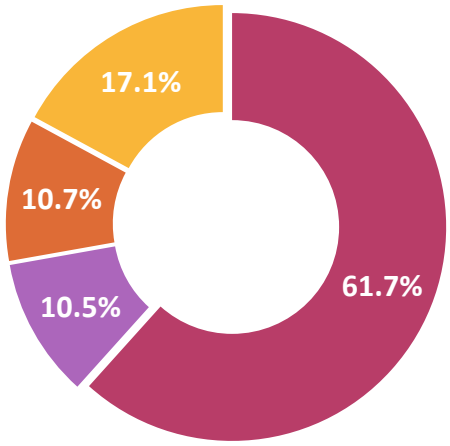
As we can see from the Table 3.4.4 almost 35.5% of children have visited up to 10 times the health centre during the year, 6,5% of children between 11-20 times in a year and only 0.5% of children visited a health centre 20 times or more. The classification would help us to understand the health state of children where up to 10 visits would show the child being occasionally sick, between 10-20 visits often sick and more than 20 visits would show that the child is constantly sick.

It has to be noted that health professionals did not have records of the age of the child on 11% of the occasions; meanwhile on 46.6% of children they had no records on how many times the child has visited the health centre. This would mean that for 1 in 2 children health professionals don't know how many times children visit the health centres during a calendar year.

TABLE 3.4.5 VACCINATION OF ROMA CHILDREN PER REGION

Regions	Total	Yes all	Yes, some	None	Unknown
Albania	**2,475**	**1,526**	**261**	**265**	**423**
Berat	127	68	50	4	5
Dibër	0	0	0	0	0
Durrës	215	120	25	70	0
Elbasan	101	59	0	9	33
Fier	524	241	1	0	282
Gjirokastër	32	5	1	26	0
Korçë	109	102	0	7	0
Kukës	0	0	0	0	0
Lezhë	183	162	8	12	1
Shkodër	108	107	0	1	0
Tiranë	934	565	150	117	102
Vlorë	142	97	26	19	0

Graph 25: Vaccination of Roma children per region of Albania

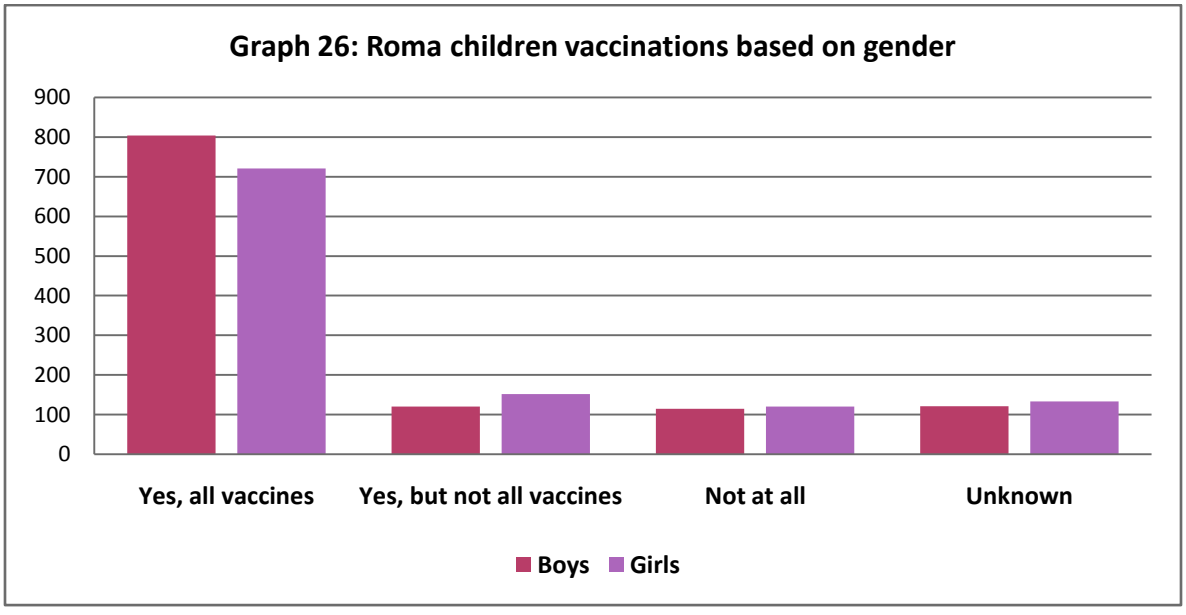


The study found that 61.7% of children have received all the vaccines while 10.5% of children just some of them; almost 10.7% of children have not received any vaccination at all, while for 17.1% of children the health staff doesn't have any records on the vaccination status of children. The vaccination rate of 61.7% seems to be lower than the 89% that was reported in 2011, which raises the question if mandatory vaccines are being provided to most of the children or not.

TABLE 3.4.6 VACCINATION OF ROMA CHILDREN PER REGION AND GENDER

	Total		Yes, all		Yes, some		None		Unknown	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Albania	**1,262**	**1,202**	**804**	**721**	**120**	**152**	**121**	**133**	**217**	**196**
Berat	58	69	35	33	0	4	22	28	1	4
Dibër	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Durrës	112	103	66	54	35	35	11	14	0	0
Elbasan	54	47	31	28	5	4	0	0	18	15
Fier	277	237	134	107	0	0	1	0	142	130
Gjirokastër	16	16	4	1	11	15	1	0	0	0
Korçë	52	57	47	55	5	2	0	0	0	0
Kukës	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lezhë	109	74	99	63	6	6	3	5	1	0
Shkodër	58	50	57	50	1	0	0	0	0	0
Tiranë	467	467	289	276	46	71	77	73	55	47
Vlorë	59	82	42	54	11	15	6	13	0	0

Table 3.4.6 provides information on the ratio of vaccination between boys and girls and regions respectively. It has to be noted that for 11 children there is no information on their sex, while Municipality No.8 in Tirana provided limited information in relation to this question.



As we can see from the Graph boysare vaccinated at a higher rate compared to Roma girls. Almost 64% of Roma boys have received all the vaccines that are required compared to 60% for girls. The trend shows a slight in rise in favour of girls when we look into the option “Yes, but not all the vaccines”, while there is no fluctuation between boys and girls when it comes to not having received any vaccines at all or when the information is unknown.

TABLE 3.4.7 HEALTH SITUATION OF ROMA CHILDREN ACROSS REGIONS

	Total	Healthy	Sick	I do not know
Total	**2475**	**1704**	**135**	**636**
Berat	127	72	0	55
Dibër	0	0	0	0
Durrës	215	207	3	5
Elbasan	101	46	0	55
Fier	524	244	1	279
Gjirokastër	32	32	0	0
Korçë	109	108	1	0
Kukës	0	0	0	0
Lezhë	183	176	6	1
Shkodër	108	3	61	44
Tiranë	934	707	30	197
Vlorë	142	109	33	0

Table 3.4.7 provides information on the state of the health of Roma children as assessed by health professionals in all 77 health centres across Albania. The professionals were asked to describe the general health situation of Roma children by stating that the overall situation of children. In overall we can observe that 68.8% of children are assessed as having in good health, while for 5.4% of children health centers reported as being sick. For quite a considerable percentage of children (14.7%) health professionals don't know what the state of child health is during the reporting year. Data is missing specifically in the two largest regions where most of the Roma populations live, Fier and Tirana, counting jointly for 74.8% of all children. When it comes to the health situation Shkodra reports the highest number of children recorded as being sick counting for almost 57% of all the Roma children living in this region followed by Vlora 23.2%.

TABLE 3.4.8 INFANT MORTALITY, MENINGITIS, TUBERCULOSIS AND HIV/AIDS AMONG ROMA CHILDREN IN REGIONS OF ALBANIA

	Total visited health centres	No of infant deaths	Meningitis	Tuberculosis	HIV/AIDS
Total	**80**	**12**	**11**	**0**	**Na**
Berat	6	0	0	0	Na
Dibër	3	0	0	0	Na
Durrës	5	0	0	0	Na
Elbasan	0	0	0	0	Na
Fier	15	2	0	0	Na
Gjirokastër	4	0	0	0	Na
Korçë	6	6	10	0	Na
Kukës	1	0	0	0	Na
Lezhë	6	1	1	0	Na
Shkodër	2	1	0	0	Na
Tiranë	19	1	0	0	Na
Vlorë	13	1	0	0	Na

Table 3.4.8 delivers information on major diseases that affect child health from a very early age. Health Centres reported 12 Roma infant mortality cases representing 0.5% of all the children recorded in this study. Meanwhile there were 11 recorded cases of meningitis or only 0.4% of children were affected. No cases of tuberculosis where reported, while data on HIV/AIDS were not available because this information is provided only in one or two institutions at national level and health centres would not necessarilyhave information on the HIV status of the child. When it comes to infant mortality deaths the highest number of cases was reported in Korça and so did the meningitis too.

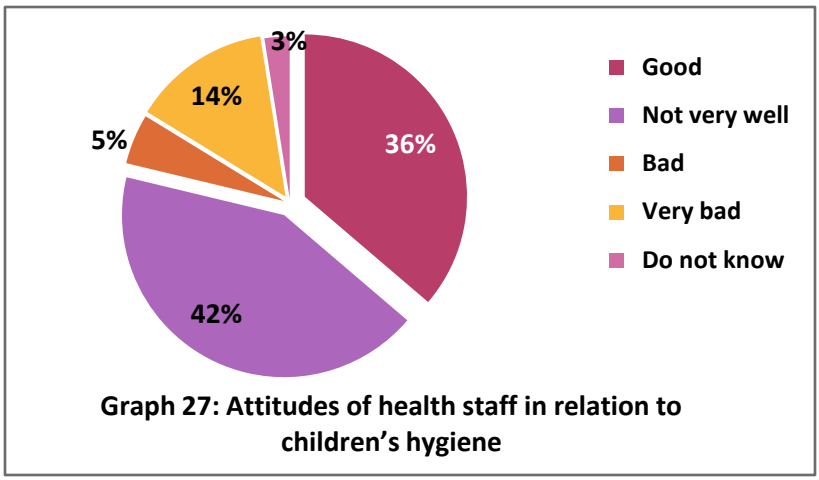
TABLE 3.4.9 MAJOR HEALTH ISSUES AFFECTING ROMA CHILDREN

Respiratory diseases	**15**
Fever and influenza	**26**
Diarrhoea	**5**
Colds and other pulmonary diseases	**7**
Bronchopneumonia/ Pneumonia	**7**

Health professionals were asked to list all the major diseases and syndromes that affect child health continuously during the reporting year. From the Table 3.4.9 we can see that that respiratory diseases affects the health of children according to 19.5% of health centres in Albania, fever and influenza affects the health of Roma children according to 33.8% of health centres, while colds/pulmonary diseases and Bronchopneumonia/ Pneumonia is reported according to 9% equally, with diarrhoea reported in 6.5% of health centers. When it came to child nutrition 66.3% of the health centers repored that they did not have malnurished children visiting their centers, while this was not the case of 33.7% of health centers.

TABLE 3.4.10 ATTITUDES OF HEALTH STAFF IN RELATION TO HYGIENE

	Frequency	%
Good	29	36.25
Not very well	34	42.5
Bad	4	5
Very bad	11	13.75
Don't know	2	2.5
Total	80	100



Graph 27: Attitudes of health staff in relation to children's hygiene

As we can observe from table 3.4.10 health professionals express different views when it comes to their attitudes towards Roma children hygiene. More than 36% of health professionals believe that Roma children have a good hygiene, 42.5% think that the hygiene of the children it is not that good, 5% believe that is bad with another 14% belive that roma children have a very bad hygene.

CHAPTER 4:

Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations

Analysing the factors that hinder the access of Roma children in early childhood services in Albania and consequently the situation of their rights, how they live and what problems they face to become adults, it's not an easy task. The study gathered and analysed a large proportion of data, which makes the analyses easier for the researchers, but yet because of the volume, they have to be often compared and weighted with other studies, in order to understand and get the full picture of how Roma children are being influenced by the development of Albania and whether social exclusion and discrimination are factors that hamper their personal development.

At the end of our analysis we are listing few findings and recommendations with the aim that they can help the Albanian Government to design better policies for Roma children and their families. Further to this, as the Study touches upon the rights of Roma children in education and health, our expectation is that the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health will find enough evidences to understand the importance in investing on Roma children better and easier access to both services, by improving their policies, practices and budgets.

Investing in people and especially their education and health is a perquisite for the development of the country and people. Leaving out one group only reinforces exclusion, discrimination and poverty, while instead of achieving higher productivity taxpayers' funds will be used to maintain the statusquo of marginalisation, as it is the current situation in Albania. This change of mind-set required by the Government and the society at large, it helps to lift a particular group to the attention of development, but contrary to negative beliefs, such focus it only brings the society in terms with the fact that its progress it can be achieved if all the groups don't advance equally.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE STUDY

FOR CRECHES

- During the last 3 years the number of Roma children attending crèches has almost doubled, yet the number of children attending crèches is extremely low. Despite the fact that there is lack of data on how many crèches are established and functioning across Albania, the low attendance shows us that Roma communities have the least opportunities to register their children in crèches.

- It is highly concerning that 1 in 3 Roma children attending crèches are reported as being intermittently sick. This high level of unhealthy children raises questions in relation to their upbringing conditions such as access to proper housing, food, heating, clothing, vaccination etc. Although Albania scores high in terms of Roma children who have been vaccinated yet there are many children that have not.

FOR KINDERGARTENS

- There is a large discrepancy between available kindergartens in urban areas (316) compared to rural ones (1457) that serve respectively to 51% and 48.9% of children with a ratio of 123.4 children per kindergarten in urban areas and only 25.6% children in rural ones. Most Roma families live in urban areas, thus the access of Roma children into kindergartens becomes further difficult because of the lack of available places in kindergartens in urban areas.

- From 2011 to 2014 the number of Roma children attending kindergartens has increased by 2/3 or otherwise 282 more children are attending kindergartens across Albania. Data from the Roma households in 2011 showed that there were 383[77] Roma children attending kindergarten, compared to 665 children in 2014. This increase could well be attributed to the Programme "Every Roma Child in Kindergarten", including child friendly policies and programmes supporting Roma integration in early childhood and basic education from the Ministry of Education and other social partners in Albania.

- Roma girls are attending kindergartens at similar rates as the boys. Out of 665 children that are attending kindergartens, 329 are girls or 49.5% of all the children attending kindergartens. In some areas of Albania girls are attending at a higher rate than boys like Lushnja or Fier.

- There is an uneven attendance of kindergardens from region to region and district to district. One example is the northern region of Shkodra, where the number of children attending kindergarten is only 39, despite the fact that the number of Roma population is comparable to Lezha. Roma Census 2014 reported that there are 117 families living in Shkodra and 128 Roma families in Lezha respectively.

[77] Gedeshi I., Jorgoni E., "Mapping Roma Children in Albania", UNICEF and CESS, Tirana 2011.

- Almost 50% of Roma children between 3-6 years of age are reported to attend kindergartens, which would represent the highest level of kindergarten attendance for Roma children in post-communist Albania and a 20% increase if compared with household data of 2011[78]. In overall we can state that 69% of Roma children attend regularly kindergartens, while almost 29% of children don't. Boys seem to make the majority of children that don't attend kindergartens. Out of 139 children that are reported as non-regular attendees almost 62% of them are boys.

- At national level, only 1.3% of Roma children have access to a meal while attending kindergartens when compared with non-Roma children.In overall 29% of Roma children have access to a meal while in kindergarten compared to the overall number of Roma children in kindergartens. The meal provision is a strong contributing factor to kindergarten attendance from Roma Children. While only 18% of Roma children who attend kindergarten with a meal do not attend regularly, the percentage jumps to almost 40% for non-regular attendance of children who follow kindergartens without meal.

- Although the study demonstrates that very few children are reported as being often sick (only 0.5% of all the children) yet the number of children that are intermittently sick is considerably high at the rate of 43% of all the Roma children, with the remaining 45% of children being reported as healthy.

- 1 in 2 boys are perceived by the teachers as living in a dire socio-economic situation, while for the girls the ratio increases to almost 60%. Kindergarten teachers believe that Roma girls are worst well-off then boys in almost 20% of cases. The situation becomes worst when meal provisions are taken into consideration, where educators state that almost 61% of children who don't have access to meal provisions live in a bad socio-economic situation.

- The study found that at least 15% of non-Roma parents have often expressed negative attitudes towards Roma children and their families, with another 8% expressing them only once. Some 13.8% of teachers did not provide an answer to our question. Negative and discriminatory attitudes against Roma children seem to influence equally boys and girls with slight differences when there is a meal provision or when children attend 2nd level of kindergarten. In total we can say that almost 23% of Roma children are affected by nnegative attitudes by non-Roma parents, while attending kindergartens.

FOR SCHOOLS

- Only 61.4% of Roma children are attending basic education or 1 in 4 Roma children is not attending any form of education, despite the legal obligation to attend school. Although we didn't have all household data on Roma children per-age group related to their attendance of basic education the study could confirm that there are at least 2311 Roma children aged 6 up to 15 years old, attending all levels of basic education in Albania.

- A higher percentage of boys attend basic education compared to girls. Despite the fact that there are similar rates between boys and girls who enrol on the 1stgrade, respectively 48% versus 41%, in

[78]Brüggemann, C. (2012). Roma Education in Comparative Perspective.Analysis of the UNDP/World Bank/EC Regional Roma Survey 2011.

the last year of school attendance (9th grade) the ratio increases 8% in favour of boys. The difference in school attendance between boys and girls who graduate basic education is almost 22% in favour of the first. This major difference could be explained by the factor that is often mentioned to hinder Roma girls' education such as early marriages.

- School attendance for Roma girls drops progressively from the end of the 1st grade of primary school by reaching its peaks when girls start 2nd and 6th grade. Roma boys also progressively drop school attendance from the start of the 2nd grade but yet not as early as the Roma girls.

- The study found that 61% of Roma children live in proximity of the schools they attend, 16% live within 2 km ratio, while 5% of children live further than 2km from the school. To put this in perspective, 5% of Roma children need to walk at least 1 hour a day to get to school and come back. This percentage is quite considerable since it is a Government policy to provide free of charge transportation for children and teachers living 2km or further from the school. The majority of children live within a walking distance from their school, but there is a considerable number of children living far from schools and they could be the ones that dropout of school because of the distance. There are no reportsavailable on how many children get free transport in a year.

- A considerable number of Roma children drop out of school or become occasionally or persistently truant, despite the fact that a higher percentage of Roma children are attending basic education in Albania. Only 41.3% of Roma children attend regularly the basic education while the rest of the children are missing temporary or constantly at school. The study found that 36.2% of children are occasionally missing classes; 2.3% of children are occasionally truant while 1.3% of children are persistently truant. Data from our questionnaires shows that schools do not have enough information on the status of drop-outs for 18.8% of children, which is a very high rate to be neglected. Shkodra has the largest percentage of dropouts with 64.7% of children who have started school are reported to have dropped out followed by Durres with almost 15% followed by Tirana with almost 10%.

- Almost 1 in 2 Roma children seem to perform well in education with only 2.7% of children classified as performing below average. When we look into children'sachievements in their school attainment based on their location, the study found out that children in Korça achieve an excellent rate of education attainment (84%) compared to all the other districts of Albania. Roma children in Tirana, Fier and Lezha perform also above the average in their schools, with 81.6%, 42.2% and 47.7% respectively. The district of Fier has the largest number of missing data on child basic education.

- Only 3 out of 4 Roma children graduate the class they started at the end of the academic year, regardless of the fact that only 41.3% of children attended school regularly. Data shows that only 5.4% of Roma children failed their grade, while only 1.4% of those that attended school were children who were repeating the same grade.

FOR THE HEALTH SYSTEM

- Distance of health centres from Roma settlements is a major factor that could impede the access of children and their families to health services. The study found that 59% of Health centres are within 1 km of distance from the Roma settlements, up to 2 km are 26.6% of them and a considerable

14.4% of health centres is situated over 2 km from the Roma settlements. The highest percentage of health centres (43.3%) that are 2 km or further away from Roma settlements are reported in Durres, followed by Tirana and Vlora with 23.8% and 21.1% respectively. Fier has the highest number of health centres within 1 km of distance with centres reported being 100% near Roma families.

- Almost 36% of Roma children have visited up to 10 times a health centre during 2014, 6,5% of children between 11-20 times in a year and only 0.5% of children visited a health centre 20 times or more. Health professionals did not have records of the age of the child on 11% of the occasions; meanwhile on 46.6% of children they had no records on how many times the child has visited the health centre. This would mean that for 1 in 2 children the health professionals don't know how many times children visit the health centres.

- Almost 11% of Roma children have not received any vaccines at all. Some 61.7% of Roma children have received all the required vaccines while 10.5% of children have been partially vaccinated;for 17% of children the health staff didn't have any records. Boys receive a higher degree of vaccination compared to Roma girls. Almost 64% of Roma boys have received all the vaccines that are required compared to 60% of the Roma girls. The trend shows a slight increase in favour of girls when we look into the question "Yes, but not all the vaccines", while there is no data fluctuations between boys and girls when it comes to not having received any vaccines at all or when the information is unknown. The vaccination rate of 61.7% seems to be lower than 89% that was reported in 2011 from the households, which shows that vaccines are not received from most of the children or that the institutions report less percentage of vaccinations compared to what Roma parents state.

- In overall the study found that 68.8% of children are healthy, while 5.4% of children were reported as being often sick. For a considerable percentage of children (14.7%) the health professionals don't know what the state of child health is during the reporting year. Data is missing specifically in two largest regions where most of the Roma populations live, Fier and Tirana, counting jointly for 74.8% of all children. Shkodra reports the highest number of sick children counting for 56.5% of all the Roma children followed by Vlora with 23.2%.

- Respiratory diseases are reported to influence the health of children according to 19.5% of health centres in Albania, fever and influenza affects mostly the health of Roma children according to 33.8% of health professionals, while colds/pulmonary diseases and Bronchopneumonia/ Pneumonia are reported according to 9% equally, with diarrhoea reported in 6.5% of health centers. Almost 34% of the health professionals report that Roma children across Albania were malnourished.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDY

FOR CRECHES

- Mapping of crèches in Albania is necessary in order to evaluate if the needs for such services are met by Municipalities and to what degree. Small scale studies across few regions of Albania have demonstrated that there is a need to overhaul the service by improving the design, content and teachers' training. Further to this we recommend that the Ministry of Education takes the lead to reform the crèches system to designate new education components that are so important for early childhood education. Roma children access to crèches needs to be increased and the study suggest that setting up quotas for the registration of Roma children it may help the municipalities to implement new policies for crèches management.

- The Ministry of Health and primary health services shall pay particular attention to the health situation of Roma children. Visits in community and ongoing evaluation reports on the living conditions of Roma children and their families shall be used to access the concerns related to their health and upbringing. Such visit-reports shall be shared with child protection and social services in order to follow up the situation and whenever are possible to take measures that can improve their home conditions, access to new council homes or an increase in cash houndouts.

FOR KINDERGARTENS

- Albania has an urgent need to open new kindergartens across all major cities and municipalities. Roma children in kindergartens are only one of the disadvantaged groups that need to increase their access, while there are many other social groups that need to enjoy equal access to early childhood education. Priority should be given to the opening of kindergartens with meal provision since their impact is higher among Roma and/or other vulnerable groups. The cooperation among all the social partners and institutions with the Ministry of Education is needed in order to plan, prepare and introduce new policies on early childhood education. Attention shall be paid to establishing new kindergartens combined this with setting up new and up to date curricula of education that respects and promotes diversity, the respect of children's rights and accountability of teachers and educators.

- The high attendance of kindergartens supported by education policy and CSO's programmes shows that if investment and programmes of action are made available to education system while teachers are promoted to increase vulnerable groups participation in early childhood education, the positive results of education won't take a long time to show. In our opinion the Albanian Government shall see how to combine its social policies with the educational ones, with the prime objective in achieving better funded and coordinated early childhood institutions.

- Cooperation and coordination among the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth shall be strengthened, while the new social inclusion policy shall seek to implement new methods on how to fund and sustain Roma girl's social protection and education. New gender-based support schemes of social services and education that put the emphases into the girl child

would help to get a considerable number of girls out of risk, while promote their personal welfare and development.

- The study suggests that whenever local policies seems to have failed to address the issue of Roma children access in early childhood education (or that of other vulnerable groups) the central government social funding for municipalities shall be assigned to the achievement of a number of indicators related to Roma children and other social groups progress, in order to achieve its purpose. The funding shall be given only if indicators show that the local government is not discriminating or socially excluding those that are most in need of education services.

- Teachers' training it's a very significant aspect of changing attitudes towards Roma people, their language and culture in Albania. We recommend that teachers' training includesmodules on Roma language, history and culture. This will facilitate their increased and better performance with children coming from Roma background and it will lead to better education and attainment of children. Secondly, teachers that already have Roma children in their classrooms (but not only) under guidance from the Educational Authorities could hold days of Roma culture or Roma Festivals for children, parents and communities to promote new and positive attitudes among children and parents alike.

FOR SCHOOLS

- The system of identifying the Roma children that should be attending basic education shall be strengthened, while laws and bylaws shall be enforced towards all the parents that don't allow their children to attend basic education. The enforcement of the law shall be combined with other measures such as financial support for children that come from deprived economic situations, where food and clothing is given free to every child living in such situation.

- Setting up a National Programme of School Support for vulnerable children that could be funded by internal and external resources, would support school attendance and education attainment, especially among the most vulnerable groups that because of their dire situation dropout of school at the very start of it. Such a Programme could also be used to help girl-children to get better performance and results from education, including school attendance.

- Lack of free transport for children could hamper their opportunities to attend school. Although there are policies in place to support free transport for children it's not known how this policy is implemented. We recommend to the Ministry of Education and their Education Authorities to prepare a national reporton who is accessing such free transportation, what percentage of vulnerable groups have access to it etc.

- The study strongly recommends the implementation of a Nation-wide scheme of Scholarships for Roma Children with special attention given to girls' education. Such Scholarship scheme could well be funded in coordination with other private and public institutions, where the most vulnerable children are granted funds that can guarantee their education attendance, attainment and advancement.

FOR THE HEALTH SYSTEM

- The Ministry of Health in its reform for achieving universal health access for all shall give particular attention to Roma children. A larger number of health professionals already employed as family doctors shall be assigned to provide regular and free of charge health checks to Romani children. Medicines shall be free and available to every child. In order to increase the accountability of the public health officials towards the Roma community, we recommend to the Ministry to issue a yearly report into the number of visits and health situation among Roma communities in Albania.

- Albania needs to improve considerably the methods under which data is collected and recorded for each child, since Health Centres across Albania lack info on the state of Roma children's health. Efforts shall be taken by the Institute of Public Health and Health Centres to achieve a higher degree of Roma childrenvaccination, including distribution of information on the benefits of vaccination for children.

- The study recommends to the health authorities to produce and distribute widely information related to nutrition, health and lifestyles for parents and children in Romani language. Such information should also include telephone and addresses of the nearest health centres and clinics; when medicines are given for free and when they are funded partially by the national scheme, in order to facilitate better access to health services for Roma people across Albania.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books, Reports and Publications

Brüggemann, C. (2012). Roma Education in Comparative Perspective.Analysis of the UNDP/World Bank/EC Regional Roma Study 2011.

Roma Census 2014, Study of Albanian Communities, Open Society Foundation in Albania (Soros), Tirana 2014.

Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, Do you believe in Magic? What we can expect from early childhood intervention programmes. Social Policy Report, Volume XVII, Number 1, 2003.

Magnuson, K. A., & Waldfogel, J. (2005). Early childhood care and education: Effects on ethnic and racial gaps in school readiness. Future of Children, 15(1).

Ministry of Education conference paper: Achievements and challenges in education of Roma and Egyptian Children in Albania. Tirana 2014.

De Soto at al. Roma and Egyptians in Albania: From social exclusion to social inclusion. The World Bank, Washington DC., 2005.

Campbell, F.A. and Pungello, E.P. (1999).The Carolina Abecedarian project.Website presentation on long-term benefits of intensive early education for impoverished children.

The High/Scope Perry Preschool Study to Age 40, 2005.Lawrence J. Schweinhart.High/Scope.Available online at: http://www.highscope.org/file/Research/PerryProject/specialsummary_rev2011_02_2.pdf

Heckman, J. (2000). Policies to foster human capital, *Research in Economics, 54*.

A needs assessment study on Roma and Egyptian communities in Albania, Center for Economic and Social Studies, UNDP Albania, 2012.

Mihailov, Dotcho (2012). The Health situation of Roma communities: Analysis of the data from the UNDP/World Bank/EC Regional Roma Study 2011.

Hazizaj A., Haxhiymeri E., Legislation and public services for street children in Albania. Save the Children / CRCA Albania, Tirana, October 2011.

Study on Children in Street Situation in Albania, UNICEF, Save the Children and Arsis, Tirana April 2014.

Cenko E., Hazizaj A., Haxhiymeri E., Çoku B., Violence against Children in Albania. Balkan Epidemiologic Research on Child Abuse and Neglect (B.E.C.A.N), CRCA Albania, Tirana 2013.

Gedeshi I., Jorgoni E., "Mapping Roma Children in Albania", UNICEF and CESS, Tirana 2011.

Civil Society Monitoring Report on the Implementation of the National Roma Integration Strategy and Decade Action Plan in 2012 in Albania, Roma Active Albania &the Decade of Roma Inclusion Secretariat Foundation, 2013.

Roma Decade and the situation of Roma communities in Albania, Open Society Foundation, Tirana 2013.

Population and Housing Census 2011, Albanian National Institute of Statistics, Tirana 2012.

Shonkoff JP, Phillips DA, eds. From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development. Washington, DC: National Academies Press; 2000

Haxhiymeri E., Ndrio M., Hallkja E., Boci A., Assessment of the capacities of healthcare institutions, residential care institutions and crèches to support and encourage early childhood development in Albania, Shelter for Battered Women and Girls in Albania / UNICEF, Tirana, November 2013.

Albania: Child Marriages, October 2012, Version 1, UNFPA.
Ana María Rodríguez, The impact of Early Childhood Care and Development services on Women's empowerment in Albania, UNICEF Albania, October 2013.

Campbell FA, Ramey CT. Effects of early intervention on intellectual and academic achievement: a follow-up study of children from low-income families. *Child Dev.*1994

Nonmaternal care and family factors in early development: an overview of the NICHD Study of Early Child Care. NICHD Early Child Care Research Network.*J Appl Dev Psychol.*2001;22 :457– 492

Fröbel, F. 1826. Die Menschenerziehung [On the education of man]. Keilhau; Leipzig, Wienbrack.

Statistical Indicators of Academic Year 2013-2014 for Pre-University Education in Albania, Ministry of Education and Sports, Tirana 2014.

Nelaj D., Kaciu E., Dundo J., Dervishi D., Factors that impact Roma Integration in Albania, a comparative Study. Open Society Foundation in Albania, Tirana 2012.

Analysis of Education Indicators, Albanian Parliament (available in Albanian only) (accessed on 15.11.2014 in the following link: http://www.parlament.al/web/pub/aneks_treguesit_arsimore_16988_1.pdf)

Laws and Policies

Albanian Constitution was aapproved by referendum on 22 November 1998, promulgated on 28 November 1998, amended in January 2007. Source:http://www.osce.org/albania/41888 (accessed on 10.12.2014)

Family Code of the Republic of Albania (2004) (An English translation of the Code can be accessed electronically in this address: http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/65148/89474/F1958881334/ALB65148%20(English).pdf).

Law on Measures against Discriination in Albania, link: http://kmd.al/skedaret/1306833181-Anti-discrimination%20law%20En_FZ.pdf(accessed on 10.12.2014)

Commissionerfor Protection from Discrimination, Decisions are available in Albanian at the following link: http://www.kmd.al/?fq=brenda&emri=Baza%20Ligjore&gj=gj1&kid=83&kidd=86(accessed on 10.12.2014)

Law No. 10347, 4 November 2010, For the Protection of the Rights of the Child in Albania.

Article 26 of the Law No. 9355 of 10.03.1995 "For Economical Aid and Social Services in the Republic of Albania"

Law No. 69/2012 "On pre-University Education in the Republic of Albania".

National Strategy for the improvement of living conditions of Roma minority in Albania 2003-2013, approved by the Council of Ministers Decision No. 633, date 18.09.2003.

Decision No. 323, of the Council of Ministers, date 14.06.1993 "On the administration of crèches".

Law 69/2012 “For Pre-univeristy education system in the Republic of Albania”. A translation of the law in English can be accessed in this link: http://www.phzh.ch/Documents/ipe.phzh.ch/Projekte/Laenderubergreifende%20Projekte/NEZI%20Netzwerk%20Albanischer%20Sprachraum/4_Nezi%20Konferenz%202/LAPU-NR.69-2012-english.pdf(last accessed on 16.11.2014)

Instruction of Ministry of Finances and Ministry of Education and Sports, No. 32, of 04.08.2011.

ANNEX 1

List of public officials and institutions that participated inthe Study

QARKU I ELBASANIT

EMËR / MBIEMËR	INSTITUCIONI	POZICIONI
Znj. Nurijana Paja	Kopshti Nr. 10	
Znj. Lindita Librazhdi	Kopshti Nr. 7	
Znj. Mirela Bordi	Kopshti Nr. 17	
Znj. Kadrije Gjevori	Kopshti Nr. 11	
Znj. Alda Shypea	Kopshti Nr. 12	
Znj. Nevila Zeqo	Kopshti Cerrik	
Znj. Anila Mishto	Shkolla 9-vjecare “Abdyl Paralloi”	
Znj. Enkela Sula	Shkolla 9-vjecare “Hamit Mullisi”	
Znj. Greta Bekteshi	Shkolla 9-vjecare “M. Haxhihasani 1.2”	
Znj. Teuta Tana	Shkolla 9-vjecare “M. Haxhihasani 1.2”	
Znj. Laureta Misiri	Shkolla 9-vjecare “Fadil Gurmani”	
Znj. Rudina Ferhati	Shkolla 9-vjecare “Ptoleme XHuvani”	
Z. Brahush Ramazani	Shkolla 9-vjecare “Adem Bedolli”	
Znj. Mirela Gjoci	Shkolla 9-vjecare “Aleks Buda”	
Znj. Aferdita Ballkoci	Shkolla 9-vjecare “7 Marsi”	
Znj. Hajrie Rapi	Qendra Shëndetësore Nr. 2	
Z. Ermal Kurmaku	Qendra Shëndetësore Nr. 4	
Znj. Nexhmie Griponi	Qendra Shëndetësore “Peqin”	

QARKU I GJIROKASTRËS

EMËR / MBIEMËR	INSTITUCIONI	POZICIONI
Znj. Albana Vrenjo	Kopshti Nr. 3	
Znj. Fatbardha Aliko	Kopshti Nr. 6	
Znj. Anila Mico	Kopshti Nr. 5	
Znj. Loreta Lame	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Koto Hoxhi"	
Znj. Enkela Sino	Shkolla 9-vjecare "A. Z. Cajupi"	
Znj. Mirjeta Kufo	Shkolla 9-vjecare "A. Z. Cajupi"	
Znj. Alketa Sinanaj	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Së Bashku"	
Z. Mihal Shano	Zyra Arsimore Tepelenë	
Z. Demir Kore	Qendra Ekonomike e Arsimit	
Znj. Vitore Muco	Qendra Ekonomike e Arsimit	
Znj. Adelina Janollari	Bashkia Përmet	
Znj. Julinda Karteri	Bashkia Tepelenë	
Znj. Rita Jorgji	Qendra Shëndetësore "18 Shtatori"	
Znj. Olta Qurku	Qendra Shëndetësore "Manalat"	
Z. Xhelo Brahimi	Drejtori e Shëndetit Publik, Kujdesi i Shëndetit Parësor	
Znj. Mimoza Loce	Konsultore e Fëmijës	
Znj. Laura Meta	Konsultore e Fëmijës	
Znj. Valbona Ruka	Qendra Shëndetësore Poliklinika Tepelenë	
Z. Xhelo Zotaj	Qendra Shëndetësore Tepelenë	

QARKU I SHKODRËS

EMËR / MBIEMËR	INSTITUCIONI	POZICIONI
Znj. Gjyljana Peleniku	Kopshti “Salo Halili”	
Z. Lumturi Rajka	Kopshti “Liria”	
Z. Astrit Caku	Shkolla 9-vjecare “Salo Halili”	
Z. Gjovalin Curri	Shkolla 9-vjecare “Liria”	
Znj. Meleqe Kuqi	Qendra Shëndetësore Nr. 4	
Znj. Elsa Kopliku	Qendra Shëndetësore Nr. 4	

QYTETI I DURRËSIT

EMËR / MBIEMËR	INSTITUCIONI	POZICIONI
Z. Lefter Birbiu	Kopshti “Isuf Ferra”	
Znj. Shpresa Demiri	Kopshti “Migjeni”	
Znj. Elida Sulaj	Kopshti Shkolla e Mesme e Bashkuar “Kulie”	
Z. Selim Kurti	Shkolla e Mesme e Bashkuar “Kulie”	
Z. Lefter Birbiu	Shkolla “Isuf Ferra”	
Znj. Migena Hysi	Shkolla “St. Zoot. Xhafzotaj”	
Znj. Matilda Memaj	Shkolla “Bajram Curri”	
Znj. Dorina Binjaku	Shkolla “Hasan Koci”	
Znj. Thellenza Koza	Shkolla “Migjeni”	
Z. Xhelal Istrefi	Shkolla “Bishtëkamëz”	
Znj. Luce Gjinaj	Qendra Shëndetësore “Fushë-Krujë”	
Znj. Fëllëza Thurja	Qendra Shëndetësore “Shkozet”	
Znj. Engjellushe Spaho	Qendra Shëndetësore “Kulie”	
Znj. Farie Grucka	Qendra Shëndetësore “Xhafzotaj”	
Znj. Aldie Disha	Qendra Shendetësore “Bishtkamëz”	

QYTETI I TIRANËS (NJËSIA 1-11), KAVAJËS, RROGOZHINË

EMËR / MBIEMËR	INSTITUCIONI	POZICIONI
Znj. Hava Gjoni	Cerdhe	
Znj. Marjusa Cara	Cerdhe	
Znj. Lidona Malaj	Cerdhe	
Znj. Madalena Collaku	Kopsht	
Znj. Fiqirete Hoxhallari	Kopsht	
Znj. Engjellushe Bregu	Kopsht	
Znj. Armanda Hasa	Kopsht	
Znj. Eliona Kryemadhi	Kopsht	
Znj. Enada Shehu	Kopsht	
Znj. Dhurata Bisha	Kopsht	
Znj. Maja Brahimi	Kopsht	
Znj. Majlinda Boja	Kopsht	
Znj. Altina Brokaj	Kopsht	
Znj. Remzije Dobrovoda	Kopsht	

Znj. Luljeta Shehu	Kopsht
Znj. Nashide Shehapi	Kopsht
Znj. Violeta Tabaku	Kopsht
Znj. Merita Bitri	Kopsht
Znj. Donika Fico	Kopsht
Znj. Mimoza Dobjani	Kopsht
Znj. Shqipe Baulja	Kopsht
Znj. Teuta Biba	Kopsht
Znj. Mimoza Sino	Kopsht
Znj. Besnike Cela	Kopsht
Znj. Ervete Bobjani	Kopsht
Znj. Flutura Hasani	Kopsht
Znj. Merita Dumani	Kopsht
Znj. Manushaqe Beqiri	Kopsht
Znj. Renilda Hoxha	Kopsht
Z. Muhamet Luzi	Shkollë
Znj. Laura Koro	Shkolle
Znj. Jakup Latifi	Shkollë
Z. Mehmet Abdullai	Shkollë
Znj. Miranda Xhaferi	Shkollë
Znj. Jezerca Llazemi	Shkollë
Znj. Suzana Hajdini	Shkollë
Znj. Anila Keçi	Shkollë
Znj. Besnik Ekmekçiu	Shkollë
Znj. Bardhyl Doke	Shkollë
Znj. Nertila Pashuka	Shkollë
Znj. Hysen Fusha	Shkollë
Znj. Rajmonda Myrtezaj	Shkollë
Znj. Irena Shkodra	Shkollë
Znj. Hamide Qarri	Shkollë
Znj. Fatbardha Musta	Shkollë
Z. Agim Merxhani	Shkollë
Znj. Hatixhe Koçi	Shkollë
Z. Ejup Hoxha	Shkollë
Znj. Irena Myftari	Shkollë, Kopsht
Znj. Marie Korriku	Shkollë
Znj. Marjusa Cara	Zyra Arsimore Kavajë, Shkollë
Znj. Elona Stafuka	Qendër Shëndetësore
Znj. Aulona Metaj	Qendër Shëndetësore
Znj. Tushe Damjani	Qendër Shëndetësore
Znj. Lumie Daku	Qender Shëndetësore
Znj. Dhurata Polisi	Qendër Shëndetësore
Znj. Anila Prifti	Qendër Shëndetësore
Znj. Irma Gjona	Qendër Shëndetësore
Znj. File Neçaj	Qendër Shëndetësore
Znj. Aneta Veizi	Qendër Shëndetësore
Z. Rabian Metalli	Qendër Shëndetësore
Znj. Feride Koni	Qendër Shëndetësore
Znj. Migena Gabi	Qendër Shëndetësore
Znj. Miranda Xhebrahimi	Qendër Shëndetësore
Znj. Mbaresa Qefalia	Qendër Shëndetësore
Znj. Marjusa Cara	Qendra Ekonomike / Kavajë
Znj. Marjusa Cara	Zyra Arsimore Kavajë, Kopsht
Z. Nexhat Shehu	Zyra Arsimore Kamëz

Znj. Hana Bega	Qendra Shëndetësore	
Znj. Adelina Kaja	Cerdhe Nr. 4	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Eljona Ceka	Cerdhe: Xixëllonja	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Silvana Stefa	Kopshti Nr. 34	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Anila Boiaxhia	Kopshti Nr. 45	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Eneida Sinani	Kopshti Nr. 38	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Ermelinda Duka	Kopshti nr. 6	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Anila Xhaferaj	Kopshti "Bregu i Lumit"	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Tereza Kola	Kopshti "Kodër Kamëz"	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Jonida Matohiti	Drejtoria Arsimore Rajonale Tiranë	Inspektore
Znj. Enkelejda Fezda	Shkolla 9-vjecare “Ahmet Gashi”	Drejtoreshë
Z. Shaban Demiri	Shkolla 9-vjecare “Kol Jakova”	Drejtor
Z. Bexhet Aga	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Isa Boletini"	Drejtor
Znj. Mira Brahimi	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Dhora Leka"	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Suzana Rexhepi	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Siri Kodra"	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Isare Musabelliu	Shkolla 9-vjecare "28 Nëntori"	N/Drejtoreshë
Z. Faik Maqellara	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Gjergj Fishta"	Drejtor
Znj. Lumturi Vladi	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Dora D'istria"	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Teuta Lazimi	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Shkolla e Kuqe"	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Eriona Shyti	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Shkolla e Kuqe"	N/Drejtoreshë
Z. Resmi Metaj	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Shyqyri Peza"	Drejtor
Znj. Anita Korbi	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Lasgush Poradeci"	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Sonila Lami	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Jeronim Derada"	N/Drejtoreshë
Znj. Rozina Kollcaku	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Jeronim Derada"	Drejtoreshë
Z. Albert Zhupa	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Pjetës Budi"	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Anila Spaho	Shkolla 9-vjecare "At Zef Pellumbi"	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Flutura Sheshi	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Dëshmorët e Lirisë"	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Irena Muho	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Dëshmorët e Lirisë"	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Majlinda Dervishaj	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Edith Durham"	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Irena Lapi	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Konferenca e Pezës"	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Adriana Maci	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Misto Mame"	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Mamica Cano	Shkolla 9-vjecare "4 Dëshmorët"	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Luiza Myrtaj	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Kongresi i Manastirit"	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Mimoza Hamza	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Vasil Shanto"	Drejtoreshë
Znj.Florentina Dyrmishi	Shkolla 9-vjecare "1 Qershori"	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Sherri Banushi	Shkolla 9-vjecare "26 Nëntori"	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Vasilika Demko	Shkolla 9-vjecare "N.SH.R.A.K"	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Ilira Xhaferaj	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Avni Rustemi"	Drejtoreshë
Z. Bilbil Isufaj	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Gustav Mayer”	Drejtor
Znj. Tatjana Nebiaj	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Naim Frasheri"	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Elsa Koleci	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Servete Maci"	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Kudrije Ajazi	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Qazim Turdiu"	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Ilda Sadikaj	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Hasan Vogli"	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Bjeshka Myrtaj	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Skënder Luarasi”	Drejtoreshë
Z. Haki Doku	Shkolla 9-vjecare "Lidhja e Prizrenit"	Drejtor
Z. Alfred Jani	Shkolla 9-vjecare "7 Marsi"	Drejtor
Z. Kujtim Stana	Qendra Ekonomike	Drejtor
Znj. Diana Gjylameti	Qendra Shëndetësore Nr. 7	Drejtoreshë
Znj. Izabela Mara	Qendra Shëndetësore Nr. 7	Inf. Patronazhi
Znj. Arlinda Sulejmani	Qendra Shëndetësore Nr. 6	Vaksinatore
Znj. Atixhe Sulejmani	Qendra Shëndetësore Nr. 6	Vaksinatore
Znj. Flora Krashi	Qendra Shëndetësore "Breg Lumi"	Inf.Patronazhi
Znj. Silvana Londo	Qendra Shëndetësore "Breg Lumi	Pediatre
Znj. Esmeralda Zaimi	Qendra Shëndetësore "Kodër Kamëz"	Vaksinatore

Znj. Rufije Gjetami	Qendra Shëndetësore Nr. 9	Vaksinatore
Znj. Barie Karasani	Qendra Shëndetësore Nr. 4	Drejtoreshë

QYTETI I LEZHËS, LACIT

EMËR / MBIEMËR	INSTITUCIONI	POZICIONI
Znj. Lana Pergega	Cerdhe Nr. 1 Beselidhja	
Znj. Eglantina Deda	Kopshti Nr. 1, Mamurras	
Znj. Milva Kacorri	Kopshti Nr. 1, Mamurras	
Znj. Majlinda Kurti	Kopshti Nr. 2, Mamurras	
Znj. Tereze Kola	Kopshti Nr. 2, Mamurras	
Znj. Bukurije Duka	Kopshti Nr. 2, Laç	
Znj. Anjeza Malaj	Kopshti Nr. 1, Laç	
Znj. Natale Marku	Kopshti Nr. 3, Laç	
Z. Pjetër Ndoci	Kopshti "Marash Gjoni" Rrile	
Znj. Gjokë Bici	Kopshti "Nikoll Miri" Gurez	
Znj. Fatmira Ndreka	Kopshti "Beselidhja"	
Znj. Fatmira Ndreka	Kopshti "Skenderbeg"	
Znj. Vollga Tahiri	Kopshti “At Zef Pllumi”	
Znj. Donika Bitraj	Kopshti “Milot”	
Znj. Vollga Tahiri	Shkolla 9-vjeçare "At Zef Pllumi"	
Znj. Mukadez Kodheli	Shkolla 9-vjeçare "Beselidhja"	
Z. Bardhok Lleshi	Shkolla 9-vjeçare "Gjergj Kastrioti"	
Z. Sjoka Kalaj	Shkolla 9-vjeçare "Kosova"	
Znj. Antoneta Suta	Shkolla 9-vjeçare "Gjergj Fishta"	
Z. Pjetër Ndoci	Shkolla 9-vjeçare "Marash Gjoni"	
Z. Gjokë Bici	Shkolla 9-vjeçare "Nikoll Miri"	
Z. Eduart Reci	Shkolla 9-vjeçare "Dan Bajrami"	
Znj. Aurora Suti	Shkolla 9-vjeçare " Nr. 1 Laç	
Z. Pashik Syziu	Shkolla 9-vjeçare " Nr. 3 Laç	
Znj. Adelina Lama	Shkolla “Shullaz” Lac	
Znj. Bardha Ndreca	Qendra Shëndetësore “Shengjin”	
Znj. Liljana Gjoni	Qendra Shëndetësore “Lezhe”	
Znj. Lirije Nerguti	Qendra Shëndetësore “Mamurras”	
Znj. Dave Qova	Qendra Shëndetësore “Lac”	
Znj. Dila Cupi	Qendra Shëndetësore “Rrile”	
Znj. Anila Shyti	Qendra Shëndetësore “Fushe-Kuqe”	

QYTETI I BERATIT

EMËR / MBIEMËR	INSTITUCIONI	POZICIONI
Znj. Majlinda Mema	Cerdhja Nr.7	
Znj. Klementina Salepi	Kopshti “D. Kastrioti”	
Znj. Valbona Deliu	Kopshti Nr.1/4	
Znj. Adriana Tase	Kopshti “Rreth Tapi”	
Znj. Natasha Qose	Kopshti “Moravë”	
Z. Stavri Zharra	Shkolla “Sh. Lakra”	

Z. Ruzhdi Orizaj	Shkolla “1 MAJ”
Z. Roland Lamaj	Shkolla “Sollaku”
Z. Ermal Sokoli	Shkolla “5 Maj”
Z. Ermal Sokoli	Shkolla “Pashalli”
Znj. Eriselda Raseni	Shkolla “D.e Kombit”
Znj. Eriselda Raseni	Shkolla “" 18 Tetori"”
Znj. Nadire Pema	Shkolla “K. Brisku”
Znj. Eriselda Raseni	Shkolla “G. Karrakashi”
Znj. Eriselda Raseni	Shkolla “Rreth Tapi”
Znj. Eriselda Raseni	Shkolla “K. Korcari”
Znj. Dhurata Gojka	Shkolla “Uznove”
Znj. Eriselda Raseni	Shkolla “28 Nëntori”
Znj. Xhuli Sala	Qendra Shëndetësore “Moravë”
Znj. Donika Shkurti	Qendra Shëndetësore “11 Janari”
Goni Dhana	Qendra Shëndetësore “Tafil Qëndro”
Znj. Andrisa Xhaxha	Qendra Shëndetësore “1 Maj”
Znj. Vjollca Qato	Qendra Shëndetësore “Llukan Prifti”
Z. Xhuli Sala	Qendra Shëndetësore “30 Vjetori”

QARKU I KORÇËS

EMËR / MBIEMËR	INSTITUCIONI	POZICIONI
Z. Kristaq Grabocka	Cerdhja “Lulet e Jetës”	
Z. Kristaq Trebicka	Drejtor i DAR-Korcë	
Znj. Shadie Xhaho	Kopshti “Bilisht”	
Z. Ilir Skendi	Njesia e Mbrojtjes se Femijeve, Erseke	
Z. Eduard Cabej	Shkolla 9 vjecare “Petro Nini Luarasi”, Erseke	
Znj. Merita Duro	Qendra Shendetesore Erseke	
Znj. Etleva Ropi	Kopshti Nr.8	
Znj. Eva Tole	Kopshti Nr. 13	
Znj. Etleva Ropi	Kopshti Nr. 20	
Znj. Donika Rrapush	Kopshti “Lulet e Vogla”	
Znj. Moza Rakimi	Shkolla 9-vjecare “Bilisht”	
Z. Eduard Cabej	Shkolla 9-vjecare “Petro Nini Luarasi”, Ersekë	
Znj. Afërdita Shori	Shkolla 9-vjecare “Asdreni”	
Z. Arif Kimeti	Shkolla 9-vjecare “Ismail Qemali”	
Z. Mihal Gora	Shkolla 9-vjecare “Naim Frashëri”	
Znj. Miranda Mema	Qendra Shëndetësore “Bilisht”	
Znj. Merita Duro	Qendra Shëndetësore “Ersekë”	
Znj. Ervehe Gjika	Qendra Shëndetësore Nr. 1	
Znj. Besa Brifti	Qendra Shëndetësore Nr. 2	
Znj. Xhensila Nisi	Qendra Shëndetësore Nr. 3	