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Information on the Activities of the Murialdo Social Center with Youth and the Roma Community in Fier

Albania is making significant strides in the development of social and economic policies, but it still faces major challenges in the socio-economic integration of vulnerable groups or marginalized communities. Emigration is one of the factors that has influenced the growing demand for skilled workers in fields such as construction, tourism, and services. As part of these changes, the Murialdo Social Center continues its mission to increase the number of youth in need of vocational training. This year, we have observed an increase in demand from young people for vocational education, marking a growth compared to previous years. A core part of this process is the inclusion of youth from vulnerable groups such as: low-income families, orphaned youth or those with a single parent, youth with moderate disabilities, and youth from the Roma community. For the 2024-2025 academic year, the Murialdo Center is supporting around 70 young people who are attending courses in fields such as: Electrician, Mechanic, Electro-Mechanic, Plumbing, Office Management, and Pastry.

Working with the Roma community continues to be a priority for the Murialdo Center. The significant social and economic challenges of this community are still present in their daily lives. These difficulties reflect not only their economic problems but also their integration into social and community life. Again this year, the Murialdo Center is helping integrate Roma children into the educational system by providing transport from their villages to school and back. Additionally, through its volunteers, the Center offers support for children with learning difficulties during the educational process, helping them overcome these challenges.

Home visits and continuous support in filling out applications for benefits from economic assistance schemes or their integration into the labor market are an inseparable part of our work. By encouraging school attendance, we aim to prevent school dropout, early marriages, and the exploitation of children for labor or begging, creating opportunities for their growth and development in an inclusive society with equal opportunities. The summer camp was another unforgettable experience this year, with around 260 children participating, 50 of whom were from the Roma community we work with. This year, we have seen an increase in the number of Roma children attending primary education from grades 1 to 9. The number of children benefiting from the Murialdo Social Center's transport service is 90 Roma children. We have formed a girls' football team to promote women's rights and gender equality through sports. Additionally, we have collaborated with local actors to create important documents at the municipal level related to the safety and protection of children.

Additionally, thanks to the support of various donors, we have reopened the after-school center in the Roma village, where 30 children have the opportunity to come and spend productive hours doing their homework. The Josephine community has always been close, supporting the needs of the most disadvantaged communities by providing equal opportunities for all.

Thanks to your support and the support of various donors, we are striving to cover these expenses to create a more integrated community and a more inclusive society. However, with the increase in the number of beneficiaries, these costs have risen significantly.

Attached, you will find some photos from the activities carried out during this year.





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