

Media Advisory

UN and local authorities to provide better living conditions for Lovanja RAE community

What: On the occasion of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 17), **the representatives of the Municipalities of Tivat and Kotor and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT)¹ will sign a Memorandum of Understanding** to improve access to basic social security services for domicile and displaced Roma, Askaelia and Egyptians (RAE) living in the Lovanja settlement between Kotor and Tivat.

UNCT Montenegro is aware that not all of today's challenges for RAE population in Montenegro can be met at once. Therefore, planned activities in Lovanja mark a starting point for increased future cooperation and support to the Central and Local Governments to implement country's strategic documents² aimed at the full integration of RAE population in Montenegrin society.

The Memorandum of Understanding will officially be signed by:

Mr. Alexander Avanesov, UN Resident Coordinator in Montenegro

Mr. Dragan Kankaraš, Mayor of Tivat

Ms. Marija Čatović, Mayor of Kotor

When: 16 October 2008, 1 p.m.

Where: Kotor, Municipality building, Meeting Room, 2nd floor

Statements will be given after the signing ceremony.

Note: All the media representatives present at the conference will obtain a DVD copy containing TV editable video material on the Lovanja settlement as well as photographs, all made by professional camaramen and photographers.

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The Lovanja settlement is inhabited by domicile, displaced and refugee RAE families lacking personal documents, adequate accommodation, potable water and electricity supply, and access to education, transport and health services.

The Memorandum of Understanding aims at improving Lovanja RAE community's access to public social, health, education and employment services. Medium term objectives of the MOU are to identify an adequate location(s) for a new settlement to be built for RAE Lovanja residents and support fundraising activities in this regard; to ensure that all RAE displaced families who wish to return to their place of origin get support to do so in safety and dignity; to provide for the full registration of Lovanja RAE population; and

¹ The United Nations Country Team Montenegro (UNCT) is represented by the offices of International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

² The Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper adopted in 2003 and revised in 2007; the National Action Plan "Decade of Roma Inclusion 2005-2015" adopted in January 2005; the Strategy for Improvement of the situation of RAE population in Montenegro 2008-2012, adopted in October 2007; the National Strategy for Resolving the Issues of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in Montenegro adopted in April 2005; the National Plan of Actions for Children adopted in 2004; and in particular Local Action Plan adopted by the Municipality of Tivat and Local Action Plan for Youth adopted by the Municipality of Kotor


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to facilitate more intensive and effective cooperation between central and local governments aimed at the full integration of RAE population in Montenegro.

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The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is celebrated every year on October 17 throughout the world. It was officially recognised by the United Nations in 1992, but the first commemoration of the event took place in 1987, when people around the world came together to commemorate the signing of the International Declaration of Human Rights and proclaimed that poverty is a violation of human rights

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