Honorable chairman,

Honorable participants

Kosovo is a country in transition. 13 years after the war, Kosovo faced many changes. Kosovo legislation is tailored to European standards. The issue is how the rights of communities, specifically the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian are respected and are the laws implemented.

Many international organizations, as ODIHR is, are supporting and engaging Kosovo the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities.

Kosovo has the Strategy for Integration of Roma Ashkali and Egyptian communities as well as the action plan for implementation of the strategy. While the Strategy has 12 components, among other the gender component, the action plan has 11 components, without gender component.

Knowing the importance of having separate gender component KRAEWG network is undertaking activities to change this.

 Action Plan for the implementation of the strategy has foreseen many activities and different benefits for these three communities, for which the government has allocated a very small budget. But even those activities planned to be realized supported by that budget, are not realized. This means that whatever is written in the strategy and action plan remains on paper.

At another side, members of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities need more information on the contents of the strategy as well as action plan for the implementation of the strategy and municipal plans of action.

RROGRAEK, is currently implementing a survey in 4 municipalities in Kosovo to see how informed are local institutions, and local NGO-s (regardless of which communiies they are) about activity plan for implementation of the strategy, and if they know about it what would they change on gender component, knowing that the activity plan doesn't have separate gender component. Proposals would then be presented at a roundtable with civil society and relevant central and local institutions and after the discussion the recommendations for possible changes would be sent to relevant and institutions and government.

Tank you!